



## Media Release

November 9, 2006

### HCHD honors Ginni and Richard Mithoff with dedication of Trauma Center at Ben Taub Hospital

**(Houston, TX)** The board of the Harris County Hospital District (HCHD) officially dedicates the internationally recognized trauma center at Ben Taub General Hospital for Ginni and Richard Mithoff. The prominent Houstonians have been recognized for their generous contributions of time, service and dollars to the Hospital District.

"The contributions of the Mithoffs to the Hospital District are second to none," said J. Evans Attwell, chairman of the HCHD Board of Managers. "The naming of the Ben Taub Trauma Center in their honor is richly deserved."

The center, now called the Ginni and Richard Mithoff Trauma Center at The Ben Taub Hospital, will be officially dedicated Monday, Nov. 13 at a ceremony and lighting of the sign outside the facility.

"The Hospital District is proud to name the trauma center for the Mithoffs," said Hospital District President and CEO David Lopez. "They are outstanding examples of Houstonians who are generous with their time, energy and funds to make Houston a better place."

Emergency staff in the Ginni and Richard Mithoff Trauma Center at The Ben Taub Hospital treat nearly 100,000 emergency cases each year, and serve patients from throughout greater Houston. The elite Level 1 Trauma Center is one of only two in the Houston area, and is renowned for its high quality emergency care in all the specialties and subspecialties of surgery, medicine, obstetrics and gynecology, pediatrics, and psychiatry.

Ginni and Richard were awarded the first Ben Taub Humanitarian Award by the Harris County Hospital District Foundation in 2000 in recognition of their philanthropic endeavors as exemplified by the "generosity, interest and advocacy for health care" of the late Ben Taub. They were selected as honorees at the Children at Risk Accolades Luncheon in 2002 for their "continuous commitment and service to the children of Houston." The couple was honored by County Judge Robert Eckels and the Harris County Commissioners Court with a Proclamation that Wednesday, October 2, 2002, be Ginni and Richard Mithoff and Children at Risk Day, in recognition of their efforts, "making a positive difference in the lives of the children of our community." In 2003, the Mithoffs were honored with the Samaritan Spirit Award in recognition of their "significant contributions to human health and growth."

“Under the umbrella of the world-famous Ben Taub General Hospital are a number of named units. I want to congratulate Ginni and Richard Mithoff for their names to be associated with the Emergency Center and its trauma program,” said Dr. Ken Mattox, Chief of Staff at Ben Taub General Hospital. “We look forward to working with the Mithoffs and others in our community.”

Mrs. Mithoff, who serves on the Board of Trustees for the Harris County Hospital District Foundation, is active in many community activities, including the Society for the Performing Arts, Houston Center for Contemporary Crafts, Houston Museum of Natural Science, Houston Children’s Museum, University of Texas Health Science Center Development Board, Houston Ballet, Planned Parenthood, and the Children’s Health Advisory Committee

In January, 2005, she was declared the ABC-Channel 13 2006 Women of Distinction Ambassador by the Crohn’s & Colitis Foundation of America. The organization cited her commitment to programs involving children’s healthcare and education.

Mr. Mithoff, one of the nation’s most respected lawyers, represented Harris County in 1998 in the tobacco litigation and helped secure a judgment in excess of \$2.2 billion in behalf of all Texas counties and hospital districts. He requested that \$10 million from the fee he earned in that case be retained by Harris County to fund children’s health programs. He is a member of the Board of Visitors for M.D. Anderson Cancer Center and on the board of the University of Texas Health Science Center Development Board.

He was awarded the Jurisprudence Award by the Anti-Defamation League in 1997 in recognition of his “immense talents, persuasive ability, and energy to fight for the principles enshrined in the Constitution and the League’s mission--justice and fair treatment for all.”

“Naming the emergency/trauma center of Ben Taub General Hospital, the District’s flagship hospital, after Ginni and Richard Mithoff is a wonderful way that our community can say ‘thank you’ to the Mithoffs for their generosity and support of the mission of the Harris County Hospital District,” said Harris County Judge Robert Eckels.

The Harris County Hospital District is the public healthcare system for the nation’s third most populous county. It provides healthcare to more than 300,000 residents of Harris County, Texas. In addition to Ben Taub General Hospital, HCHD operates Lyndon B. Johnson General Hospital, Quentin Mease Community Hospital, 12 community health centers, a dental center, seven school-based clinics, 13 homeless shelter clinics and four mobile health units.

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Attn Editors:

The official sign lighting will be held at the Ben Taub Hospital at 7 p.m. Tours of the trauma center will follow for those who wish to participate.

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