



OSF HealthCare Children's Hospital of Illinois Physicians Honored with Congressional Recognition

(Peoria, IL |March 7, 2019) - Three OSF HealthCare Children's Hospital of Illinois physicians have been presented with a Congressional Record, honoring their careers dedicated to transforming the landscape of pediatric care in the Peoria community.

Dr. Stephen Bash, Dr. Richard Pearl, and Dr. Jitendra Shah were recognized by Rep. Darin LaHood (R-18th Dist.) and Rep. Cheri Bustos (D-17th Dist.) who presented them with an official Congressional Record, which recognize distinguished constituents for outstanding service. With over 75 years of service collectively, the physicians, who recently announced their retirements, cared for countless children and pioneered medical breakthroughs in central Illinois.

"An opportunity to recognize and congratulate these three exemplary physicians could not go overlooked, which is why I was more than happy to celebrate with Dr. Pearl, Dr. Bash, and Dr. Shah to wish them well into retirement. All three doctors have had a tremendous impact on the development of quality health care in central Illinois. Being able to highlight their work for the Congressional Record is simply a small token of appreciation for these physicians and I wish them all a happy retirement," said Rep. LaHood.

"Having worked for a decade in health care administration, I know firsthand how important it is to invest in medical research and education. Every day, Dr. Pearl, Dr. Shah and Dr. Bash worked to improve the lives of Peorians and our community. On behalf of Illinois' 17th Congressional District, recognizing them with these Congressional Records shows our gratitude for their many years of service to the people of Peoria and Illinois," added Rep. Bustos.

The three physicians transformed the face of OSF Children's Hospital, patient care, and the community by advocating for the expansion of services for children and, later, the JUMP Simulation and Education Center. Their efforts were instrumental in the construction of the new OSF Children's Hospital building, which opened in 2010, and was largest construction project in the history of Peoria. In 2013, the \$51 million JUMP Center opened, redefining clinical training and revolutionizing patient care.

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OSF HealthCare is an integrated health system owned and operated by The Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis, headquartered in Peoria, Illinois. OSF HealthCare employs nearly 21,000 Mission Partners (employees) in 126 locations, including 13 hospitals - 9 acute care, 4 critical access - and two colleges of nursing throughout Illinois and Michigan. Its physician network employs more than 1,200 primary care, specialist physicians, and advanced practice providers. OSF HealthCare operates an extensive network of home health services; owns OSF Saint Francis, Inc., comprised of healthcare-related businesses; and the OSF HealthCare Foundation, the philanthropic arm for the organization. More at www.osfhealthcare.org.