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**November 12, 2012**

**Beaumont Neurosurgeon Receives AMA's Distinguished Service Award**

CHICAGO – The American Medical Association (AMA) presented Texas neurosurgeon Mark J. Kubala, M.D. with its 2012 Distinguished Service Award today at its semi-annual policy-making meeting. Dr. Kubala has been a practicing physician for more than 50 years and has been involved in numerous medical societies.

“It is an honor to present Dr. Kubala with this award for outstanding commitment to his community and the practice of medicine,” said AMA Board Chair Steven J. Stack, M.D. “His long-standing commitment to the practice of medicine – and to patients – is an inspiration to his fellow physicians.”

Dr. Kubala currently works for a private practice of neurological surgery at Saint Elizabeth Hospital in Beaumont, Texas, where he has previously served as the chairman of the neurosurgery section and chief of surgery. Dr. Kubala has also been the president of the St. Elizabeth medical staff and chairman of the governing board of St. Elizabeth Hospital.

He has held several leadership positions within the Texas Medical Association (TMA) and has also been a delegate or alternate delegate since 1994 to the AMA House of Delegates, where he also served as chair of the neurological section.

Dr. Kubala was one of the founders of the Texas Medical Association Foundation, the philanthropic arm of the TMA, serving as its first and fourth President and continues to serve within the organization. The Texas Medical Association Foundation sponsors the “Hard Hats for Little Heads” program, which has given out over 130,000 bicycle helmets to Texas children.

Dr. Kubala received the Julie Roger's Distinguished Service Award from the Beaumont Health Association, and the Texas Medical Association honored him with their Distinguished Service Award. He has also received awards from the American Heart Association, University of Texas Medical Branch and the American Association of Neurological Surgeons.

Dr. Kubala received his undergraduate degree from the University of Texas and his medical degree from the University of Texas Medical Branch of Galveston. His residency years were spent at Baylor University College of Medicine and the Mayo Clinic. Following his residency, he served in the U.S. Air Force in the department of neurosurgery at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas.

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