



"Quality Care Close to Home"

800 East Highway 71
Smithville, Texas 78957

SMITHVILLE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY NEWS

January 6, 2003

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Henrietta Gray celebrates 30 years of service with Smithville Regional Hospital

Henrietta Gray recently celebrated 30 years of service with Smithville Regional Hospital at a surprise party thrown in her honor. In front of a large gathering of hospital employees, Dennis Jack, Hospital CEO, congratulated Gray on a successful career. Jack honored her with a plaque, a 30-year pin, gift basket, fresh bouquet of flowers, balloons and a check for \$250.

Gray joined the Hospital's staff in 1972 and has seen many changes both inside and out over the years. "Each department has grown, a lot more people work here now," said Gray. "I remember when the emergency room use to be a one-bed facility in the old hospital and no nurses or doctors stayed in the ER, now it is staffed 24 hours a day." She also noted how the Laboratory and X-ray departments only worked eight hour shifts and today they provide around the clock care.

Gray has also noticed changes within the pharmacy. "I used to work in here by myself and now there are five technicians to assist in the daily pharmaceutical duties," said Gray. "And all billing was written by hand at one time and prescription orders had to be made over the phone. Now computers aid in all of the work."

When Gray first came aboard the hospital staff, she started as a nurse's aide. Later she transferred to a ward clerk position where she transcribed doctor's orders, wrote lab slips and answered phones. Next Gray moved into the ER department as an ER clerk and ER technical assistant and decided this is what she loved the most. But at one point the hospital needed to cut employee's hours and due to her seniority, she was given the chance to help out in the pharmacy.

Gray trained under a pharmacist for one year and in 1993, when the State of Texas began offering classes in San Antonio she became board certified. In 2001, Texas made it required for all techs to be certified pharmaceutical health technicians undergoing 20 hours of continued education every two years by attending seminars, on-the-job training or taking internet classes.

Today, Gray is lead technician in the hospital pharmacy, and if given the chance to do it all over again, she would. "I like helping people. It makes you realize you've done something good when you've helped others," said Gray. "I definitely love my job."

Gray resides five miles outside of Smithville and spends most of her free time helping to raise her three grandchildren, ages junior high to two years old, while her daughter and son-in-law are at work.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:
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