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### West Jefferson nurse wins national award for Katrina service

[New Orleans CityBusiness](#), [Sep 27, 2006](#) by [N.O. CityBusiness Staff](#)

Kerry Jeanice, a registered nurse at West Jefferson Medical Center, was named a 2006 National Winner for the Registered Nurse Category of the Cherokee Inspired Comfort Award, one of the nation's premier nurse and healthcare honors, for his service and commitment in the days following Hurricane Katrina.

Cherokee Uniforms received nearly 900 nominations from across the country. The winners were chosen by a panel of nurse leaders and Cherokee Uniforms professionals.

Cherokee Uniforms created the award to honor nurses and non-physician healthcare professionals who have impacted the lives of others through exceptional service, sacrifice and innovation. Jeanice was one of the key point nurses that coordinated West Jefferson Medical Center activities with the Federal DMAT (Disaster Medical Assistance Team) unit that was housed outside of the hospital facility. He organized and ran vaccination clinics on the street in tents and worked closely with the 82nd Airborne and commanders of DMAT from around the nation. Jeanice aided in 40,000 vaccines that were administered in New Orleans in the days following Katrina.

Jeanice remained on duty for 15 days assisting with coordinating the activities of the federal and state vaccine program as well as assisting with DMAT activities. Due to these efforts he received a personal visit from the Director of CDC (Dr. Julie Geberdeen). Jeanice also made sure that 60 elderly residents in a nearby nursing home had enough food and water in the days following Katrina. He visited and coordinated the effort to have these individuals receive the needed care. He was able to have food, water, medications supplied to them until other resources arrived.

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In 2005, Jeanice was the Governor's appointee to the Emergency Medical Services for Children Council for Louisiana. He worked closely with the various institutions, EMS services and programs to better serve the children of our community.

"We are very proud of Kerry Jeanice and the West Jeff Nursing Department for their work during and since Hurricane Katrina," said A. Gary Muller, FACHE, President and Chief Executive Officer of West Jefferson Medical Center. "Mr. Jeanice is a valuable member of the hospital family. We are grateful for the national recognition being bestowed upon him by Cherokee Uniforms."

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