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U.S.: LPNs receive prestigious honor

Three LPNs have received 2006 Cherokee Inspired Comfort awards, annual honors given to healthcare professionals by Cherokee Uniforms, a manufacture of healthcare apparel.

Gerald Flint, LVN, earned the grand prize in the LPN/LVN category while Rosanne Cortese, LPN, was named the top national prizewinner in the LPN category and Shelia Gholston, LPN, won the grand prize in the student nurse category.

Flint, the founder and director of Volunteer Medics Worldwide, based in Kokomo, IN, has led volunteer operations to Florida and Louisiana since the aftermath of major hurricanes, and to Thailand and Sri Lanka after the tsunami, officials said.

Cortese has been an LPN at Rochester (NY) General Hospital for 15 years and is the lone LPN in the surgical intensive care unit. She has been instrumental in educating and mentoring staff, according to officials.

Gholston has battled cancer in reaching her goal of becoming a nurse, officials said.

Grand-prize winners each received an all-expense-paid Caribbean cruise for two. Additional prizewinners in each category received an all-expense-paid trip to a 2007 medical conference of their choice and an annual membership to a preferred clinical association. Additionally, top national winners will receive a donation of \$500 to the nonprofit organization of their choice.

All winners also received a trophy, medical wardrobe of Cherokee scrubs and Rockers footwear, and will be included in the nationally distributed Cherokee 2007 Inspired Comfort Award calendar.

According to the organization, this year's winners were selected by a panel of nurse leaders, former award recipients and Cherokee staff members. Nominees are chosen by their colleagues, friends and families for displaying exceptional service, sacrifice and innovation.

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