



**The Rural Health Professional of the Year** recognizes healthcare professionals for their leadership in healthcare services throughout rural communities. Efforts taken into consideration include providing outstanding leadership, community involvement, and lasting contributions to the health care system, as well as their outreach efforts. The Louisiana Rural Health Association is honored to name **Evalyn Ormond**, Retired Chief Executive Officer of Union General Hospital, as the 2023 Rural Professional of the Year.

Prior to her retirement last year, Evalyn Ormond worked in healthcare for 45 years. Evalyn began her healthcare career at Sterlington Hospital and in 1992 she became Chief Executive Officer of both Union General Hospital and Sterlington Hospital, traveling every day between the two facilities.

As one of her earliest initiatives as Chief Executive Officer, Evalyn worked to get the first tax passed for support of Union General Hospital. In 1998 this tax passed with 74% approval of voter, collecting \$244,000, which went mostly to replace the hospital's leaking roof. The tax was approved for renewal in 2008 and 2018 and over 22 years, this tax has generated nearly \$9 million to help maintain the hospital buildings, property, and keep equipment updated.

In 2000, Evalyn successfully completed what she considered her greatest contribution to Union General Hospital – transitioning the hospital from an Acute Care Hospital to a Critical Access Hospital. This transition has allowed Union General Hospital to not only stay open, but to thrive in a time when other small hospitals across the nation were closing their doors. One year later, Evalyn established the Union General Rural Health Clinic, which has since grown to serving approximately 1,000 patients each month.

As a champion for Union General Hospital for 30 years, Evalyn has led, supported, and overseen the development, establishment, and growth of numerous programs and service lines at the facility. These programs include, physical therapy, occupational therapy, endoscopy, ultrasound, teleradiology, medical nutrition therapy, community mental health programs, outpatient psychiatric programs, suicide prevention programs, teen pregnancy reduction programs, telestroke, telepsychiatry, telecardiology, and a colorectal screening program.

She also served in numerous healthcare associations and organizations including: the Louisiana Hospital Association, Northeast Louisiana Hospital Association, Rural Hospital Coalition, National Rural Health Association, Louisiana Rural Health Association, National Association of Rural Health Clinics, and the National Critical Access Hospital Association.

As part of her dedication to the community outside of the walls of the hospital, Evalyn advocates for the United Way, the Susan Komen Cancer programs, and the American Heart Walk and participated in the local Chamber of Commerce and Lions Club.

Evalyn has been previously recognized by the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners for her avid support and leadership in promoting Nurse Practitioners. She was also named one of the top 60 Rural Hospital CEO's to know by Becker's Healthcare Review in 2022, and one of the top 80 Rural Hospital CEO's to know by Becker's Healthcare Review in 2023.

In grateful appreciation and distinguished recognition of her many years of hard work, devotion, and commitment to her rural community, the Louisiana Rural Health Association is honored to recognize Evalyn Ormond as the 2023 Rural Professional of the Year.

