

**Ceca Foundation Announces Mid-Atlantic Regional Caregiver Award Honorees**

*Nursing, Hospital and Hospice Caregivers Recognized*

**Washington, DC, February 06, 2018** -- Ceca Foundation is pleased to honor three extraordinary health caregivers with its annual Mid-Atlantic Regional Ceca Caregiver Award:

- **Sharon McCall** of Providence Hospital, an acute care facility located in Washington DC, which is the third oldest hospital in the US and now part of Ascension Health;
- **Chris Vannoy** of Capital Caring, a non-profit hospice organization operating in 11 locations in Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland and Washington DC;
- **Ronald Ferreira** of Stoddard Baptist Global Services at the Washington Center for Aging Services, a large faith-based skilled nursing and integrated care facility in Washington DC.

Each of these honorees receives a cash award of \$2,500 and all are celebrated by their fellow staff members, patients and families at their respective healthcare communities.

The annual regional awards are an extension of Ceca's monthly and quarterly awards granted to caregivers who exemplify qualities of empathy, humor, integrity, professionalism and teamwork in treating patients or residents. Over 125 caregivers honored in the Mid-Atlantic region during 2017 were eligible for the regional award, selected by a panel of Ceca's directors and advisors.

"These individuals are shining examples of the spirit of caring that takes place in healthcare communities every day," said Matt Lawlor, CEO of Ceca Foundation. "Some caregiver acts are truly heroic, but often it's the simple act of connecting with patients, residents and families that lifts all of our humanity".

Since Ceca's launch in metropolitan Washington DC in 2014, over 15,000 Ceca Award nominations have been submitted by staff members, patients and families. Ceca operates the program for its partners, and underwrites most costs for its innovative smartphone software and cash awards. The Foundation is expanding its program with selected healthcare communities across the mid-Atlantic.

**Ronald Ferreira** of Stoddard Baptist Global Services, worked as a certified nursing assistant (CNA) before moving to Engineering as a technician. He was honored his heroic actions during a crisis situation, while showing kindness and compassion to employees and family members. As his colleague noted in Ron's nomination:

"When an electrical fire broke out across from the nurse's station late one evening, Ron rushed into action. He knew the priority was resident safety, so he secured fire doors to contain the blaze, and closed patient's safety doors to minimize smoke and toxic fumes that seeped from the office. Nurses rushed to evacuate residents and Ron worked beside them - assisting those in wheelchairs and moving them to safety. Once the fire was under control, smoke had to be released from windows. Damp ceiling tiles broke and collapsed to the floor. Water-filled offices and hallways needed mopping. Ron stepped out of his assigned duty and helped where he was needed—as a housekeeper. He worked with the smoke, falling debris, and flooding, and made sure residents were not only safe but minimally affected by the emergency. There's no doubt this young man's efforts saved lives that day."

**Sharon McCall** of Providence Hospital, was honored for the “Spirit of Excellence” she practices day to day – the empathy, teamwork, and dedication to going above and beyond in caring for her patients. In the words of her nominator:

“Sharon was returning from discharging a patient and heard a "cry for help" coming from the bathroom. She rushed in to see who was calling—it was a very ill visitor who needed help. There were others present who weren't ready to respond, but Sharon went into action. She found a wheelchair and took her to the emergency room where she received immediate assistance. Sharon is selfless and always puts others before herself. Every manager or team member wants Sharon on their side. I am so very thankful and grateful for her, and her continued practice of our core values: the joy, care, and respect she feels everyone should receive. She truly brings laughter and “Sunshine” into our lives - a nickname given to her by our patients.”

**Chris Vannoy** of Capital Caring was recognized for exceptional compassion in his hospice services work and for the cared-for community at large. One of several nominations from family members read:

“My husband passed away in March of this year. His nurse, Chris, became such a good friend to us in the time we had with him. In the early stages, my husband was very depressed and was angry with everyone. Chris was like a feathery duck who let my husband's anger just slide right off. By the second visit, I walked in on them having a good conversation. My husband was a minister, but his illness had him asking some difficult questions. Chris, ever patient and kind, didn't just listen to the rantings of a dying man, but engaged him by asking more questions. I could see the light of life rekindling in my husband's eyes. With each visit, we began to look forward to spending time with a man who seemed to care for us as if we were his own parents. As the days and weeks went by, my husband, as was inevitable, got worse. He did less talking...but Chris didn't stop, picking up where their conversation had last left off—even though towards the end it was a one-sided conversation. I remember being afraid the day he passed. Chris and I both knew it was coming and I'll never forget the last thing Chris said to my husband: "You take care now, my friend. I'll be seeing you again real soon." He died not long after, and even though there was nothing else he could do for him, Chris came and sat with me. That meant everything.”

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### **About Ceca Foundation**

Ceca Foundation is a 501(c)3 private operating foundation, based in Washington DC, which partners with hospitals, nursing and other healthcare communities to recognize their exceptional caregivers. For more information, visit [www.cecafoundation.org](http://www.cecafoundation.org). Follow us on [Twitter](#) and on [Facebook](#).

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