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For Immediate Release:

Ball Memorial Hospital says goodbye to historic leader

MUNCIE—Ball Memorial Hospital and the entire medical community lost one of its truest champions when John W. Fisher passed away. At 93 years old, John W. Fisher had a track record of more than 54 years with Ball Memorial Hospital.

“Despite the fact that I am new to Ball Memorial Hospital John W. Fisher’s legacy here is unmistakable,” Michael Haley, President and CEO, Ball Memorial Hospital. “He was an impressive individual whose drive and determination as well as his philanthropic and professional contributions to make BMH the best it could be will continue to be felt for years to come.”

The John W. Fisher Heart Center at Ball Memorial Hospital was dedicated in late January as a tribute to Fisher’s 55 years of service to the hospital board. The tribute is symbolic of Fisher’s contributions to the hospital and community, which during his years have changed from a small industrial town with a 142-bed hospital employing 70 physicians, to a sprawling hospital campus with additional off-campus facilities, 400 inpatient beds and more than 2,300 employees.

“I always say Muncie is a great place to live and John W. Fisher is a big reason why,” said Kelly N Stanley, Ball Memorial Hospital Foundation Board Chairman. “His service record with Ball Memorial Hospital will never be duplicated. Not just in the length of his time here, but in the true impact he made. I personally will miss his friendship, I will miss his leadership and I think the entire community will miss the advocate they had in John Fisher.”

Fisher’s vision shaped the local healthcare community into what it is today, others said.

“To say we will miss John Fisher just doesn’t seem to capture what he meant to Ball Memorial Hospital,” said Doreen Johnson, vice president and chief nursing officer, Ball Memorial Hospital. “Mr. Fisher played a key role in so many initiatives from nursing to the expansion of facilities. He had a vision for what Ball Memorial Hospital could become and without that vision and the drive he supplied, I think it’s fair to say Ball

Hospital would not be the regional healthcare provider it is today were it not for John Fisher.”

Fisher served on the BMH Board from 1954-1996 and chairman of the Cardinal Health System board from 1996-2008. He has served Ball Corporation in numerous capacities since 1941, including chairman of the corporation since 1943. His abundant directorships, chairmanships, civic and educational contributions include local and national businesses and banks, the New York Stock Exchange, the Indiana State Chamber of Commerce, the Muncie Chamber of Commerce and the Muncie Rotary Club, to name only a few.

“John Fisher was a leader in every sense of the word,” Stanley said. “Every decision he made and every question he asked was to make Ball Memorial Hospital better for the patients, and as was the case in most of John Fisher’s endeavors, he succeeded. His leadership and dedication to this community will be missed.”

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