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*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:*

**First Fisher House in Illinois Opens; DMS Pharmaceutical Receives  
“Patriot Award” for Raising Funds to Build New Facility**

Veterans, dignitaries and families of military patients gathered May 28 for the official dedication of the first Fisher House in Illinois. The new facility is located on the campus of the Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital, in the town of Hines, west of downtown Chicago. Families of veterans and active-duty soldiers being treated at the Hines VA, and medically stable patients, can stay for free at the new Fisher House, relieving them from the burden of lodging costs.

“Fisher House taught me how to live again,” said Tammy Duckworth, Assistant Secretary of Public Affairs and Intergovernmental Affairs for the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs. Duckworth, a former helicopter pilot who lost the lower halves of both her legs and suffered a severe injury to her right arm from a rocket-propelled grenade attack in Iraq, stayed at a Fisher House while being treated at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C. She now receives treatments at the Hines VA and was among the speakers at the May 28 dedication event.

Other speakers included Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn, and Illinois Sen. Dick Durbin. Jay Levine, a reporter with Chicago’s CBS-2 News, was the event’s emcee. President Barack Obama, who had donated the largest share of his 2009 Nobel Peace Prize money to the Fisher House Foundation, visited the new facility at the Hines VA three days after the official dedication, on Memorial Day.

DMS Pharmaceutical, a Park Ridge, Ill.-based wholesale pharmaceutical distributor, received a Patriot Award from the Fisher House Foundation for raising funds to build the new facility. The company personally financed all of its own fundraising events in addition to being responsible for the overall contribution of more than \$1.7 million. It also gave more than \$125,000 directly to the Fisher House Foundation, which matched all of the donations on a dollar-per-dollar basis, said Bill Anderson, Executive Vice President of DMS Pharmaceutical.

“The grand opening of the first Fisher House in Illinois was a deeply gratifying day for all of us at DMS Pharmaceutical,” Anderson said. Sam Lazich, president of DMS Pharmaceutical, added that “Our mission was to give back to these heroes who have given so much to us. The grand opening of the first Fisher House in Illinois was the culmination of our efforts, and the efforts of all our supporters. And for that we are very proud.”

The Patriot Award was presented to DMS Pharmaceutical in recognition of “extraordinary efforts supporting the quality of life of our greatest national treasure... our military service men and women and their families,” as its inscription reads.

Handsomely appointed yet homey, the facility has 20 bedrooms with private baths, a large, community kitchen and adjoining dining room, laundry facilities, an entertainment room with a large-screen TV and children’s toys, and a patio with a gas grill for barbequing. Family members must live at least 50 miles or a two-hour drive away to stay at Fisher House.

Since its inception in 1990, the Fisher House program has made nearly three million days of lodging available to military family members, and it serves more than 10,000 families every year. Forty-five Fisher Houses are located on 18 military installations and 15 VA medical centers, and 12 more houses are under construction or being designed.

Now in its fifteenth year in business, DMS Pharmaceutical offers a reliable, price-competitive and service-oriented alternative to larger pharmaceutical wholesalers. DMS

Pharmaceutical works with its customers to supply the medications they need, at the best discount levels their volumes can support, and on the payment and delivery terms that work best for each customer, Anderson said.

To learn more about DMS Pharmaceutical, call 1-(877) 788-1100, or visit the company's Web site at [www.dmspharma.com](http://www.dmspharma.com).

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