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Newark, New Jersey

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University Hospital Rededicates the Eric Munoz Trauma Center and Celebrates the Trauma Center Team

Family, former colleagues at the hospital and in the New Jersey Legislature unveil new signage for the Trauma Center

Newark, NJ – Today, University Hospital marked the ten-year anniversary of the death of Assemblyman and trauma surgeon Eric Munoz with the rededication of the hospital's Trauma Center in his name. At the event, Dr. Munoz's family, former colleagues in the New Jersey Legislature, University Hospital leadership, Trauma Center staff, and members of the Newark community shared words of remembrance and unveiled new signage bearing his name that will hang throughout the Trauma Center.

Dr. Eric Munoz was a trauma surgeon who also served the 21st District in the New Jersey General Assembly, which includes parts of Morris, Somerset, and Union counties, for nearly a decade. New Jersey enacted legislation in 2010 to officially designate the Trauma Center as the Eric Munoz Trauma Center.

The nationally-recognized Eric Munoz Trauma Center is the only Level I Trauma Center in New Jersey's Northern Region. The Trauma Center serves the most serious and complex emergency medical needs in all surrounding New Jersey counties, including Newark Liberty International Airport and the Port of New York and New Jersey.

At the event, speakers shared memories of Dr. Munoz's passion for serving his patients and the State of New Jersey, including:

"I am honored to be here today at the rededication of the Eric Munoz Trauma Center at University Hospital," said **Assemblywoman Nancy F. Munoz**, wife of the late Eric Munoz. "The tenth anniversary of my husband's passing is of course a difficult time for our friends and family. But the hard work of the doctors and medical team at the Eric Munoz Trauma Center provide a daily testament to my husband's legacy. The countless lives that have been saved here is truly humbling."

"I cannot think of a more fitting way to remember Dr. Eric Munoz than to rededicate the Trauma Center in his name. Serving the people of New Jersey was Dr. Munoz's greatest passion and he brought that passion to the work he did in the Legislature and the work he did as one of New Jersey's premiere trauma surgeons. It would be my hope that all who work at the Center continue to embrace Eric's spirit of public service so that every patient recognizes Dr. Munoz's legacy of

professionalism and compassion in the care they receive in the Trauma Center,” said **Senator Thomas H. Kean, Jr.**

“Dr. Munoz was loved by all,” said **Assemblyman Jon Bramnick**. “It is an honor to be here today in recognition of his memory, and to witness the future of the Eric Munoz Trauma Center at University Hospital.”

“Dr. Munoz was an example to us all. He dedicated himself to saving lives and serving the people of our community and New Jersey,” said **Judith Pershichilli, Acting President and CEO of University Hospital**. “We are so proud to rededicate the trauma center in Dr. Munoz’s name as we work to expand and enhance the hospital’s physical space and emergency services. His legacy is a reminder of the incredible work of our trauma-center team, who are committed to providing life-saving care around the clock.”

“I am honored to be here today to honor Eric Munoz and to celebrate the amazing work and achievements of the entire University Hospital and trauma center family,” said **Dr. David Livingston, Professor, and Chief of Trauma and Surgical Critical Care, Rutgers New Jersey Medical School**. “I worked with Eric for nearly fifteen years, and know he would have been incredibly proud of the way trauma care has evolved here at University Hospital, in the Greater Newark Community, and in New Jersey.”

“As we celebrate National Trauma Awareness Month, it is fitting that we spend some time recognizing the Eric Munoz Trauma Center and the outstanding people who make it function on a day-to-day basis,” said **Dr. Adam Fox, Interim Trauma Medical Director and Section Chief of Trauma, Rutgers New Jersey Medical School**. “We are extremely proud of each and every member of our team. Their tireless work to provide care and education to our community saves lives on a daily basis.”

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About University Hospital

University Hospital is one of the nation's leading academic medical centers and is the Level 1 Trauma Center for Northern New Jersey. Located at University Heights in Newark, University Hospital is a principal teaching hospital of Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences and a regional resource for advanced services across many medical specialties. For more information about University Hospital, please visit www.uhnj.org.