



Phoebe Putney kicks off centennial celebration

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Amidst recent updates regarding an investigation by the Federal Trade Commission, Phoebe Putney celebrated the kickoff to their centennial anniversary

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ALBANY, GA -- In the wake of the Federal Trade Commission and Georgia Attorney General's Office's joint complaint about the Phoebe-Palmyra merger, Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital found reason to celebrate: The kickoff of their centennial anniversary.

Thursday's kickoff event brought the past and the present together with a special appearance by Phoebe's Founder "Judge Francis Putney."

"It has been an honor to appear today to be a part of this glorious occasion of celebrating 100 years of healthcare service to Southwest Georgia. I am proud of Phoebe and all that it represents," says "Putney."

According to the Georgia Historical Society, Putney made the founding donation of \$25,000 to establish Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital. His stipulations: the hospital be built with brick to withstand fire, be named for his mother and that it serve all citizens no matter race or economic standing.

"Phoebe's 100 year mission has been uninterrupted and we look forward to the second 100 years," says Phoebe's CEO Joel Wernick.

To commemorate Phoebe's 100 year history, a historical marker from the Georgia Historical Society was placed on the hospital's campus.

"I wasn't aware of all of the research that went into it and how unique it is to get a historical marker which makes it that much more special," says Wernick.

At the centennial celebration, Phoebe also unveiled pen and ink drawings of the original hospital and the current campus. Dougherty County Commission Chairman also read a proclamation in honor of the hospital's milestone.

Hospital officials say it took tremendous work over the last 100 years to earn the historical marker. As for the next 100 years, they say only time will tell.

"I've been here for about 22 years and I just marvel at all of the changes and all of the wonderful things that have happened in the hospital in just that short amount of time so I could not even begin to tell you what would happen in the next 100 years," says Tina Phipps, Co-Chair for Phoebe's Centennial Committee.

"I'm sure with new technology and updates in medical care is going to continue to grow and we need leadership in this community at the hospital that will not hold back but rather reach out and engage in this new technology," says Albany Mayor Dr. Willie Adams.

Wernick says the community can expect continued growth and specialized service at Phoebe Putney in the second 100 years.

"The one thing that's been consistent throughout all of those years have been tremendous caregivers who come to work every day wanting to help people most who you'll never really know outside of the hospital setting. That's really been the hallmark of Phoebe Putney," says Wernick.

In his opening remarks at the ceremony, Albany's Mayor gave Wernick some advice to keep in mind for the future.

"The measure of a man is not getting knocked down but whether he gets up," says Adams.

Over the next year, Phoebe Putney has a variety of events planned to help celebrate their centennial:

June 18: Men's Health Fair featuring CBS sports broadcaster and former NFL player Spencer Tillman

August 19: Centennial Celebration with entertainer Bill Cosby (Tickets go on sale to the public on July 18)

September 8: An Evening with Temple Grandin, world famous animal scientist and autism self-advocate

October 13 through December 31: The Art of Health and Healing Exhibit at The Albany Museum of Art

October 22: Women's Health Fair featuring Zonya Foco, author, TV host and national nutritionist who will present "Fighting Cancer with a Fork"

November 9: Centennial Museum and Gallery Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and Burial of the Centennial Time Capsule at the Wetherbee Lobby and Phoebe's Medical Tower I

November 9: Opening of Medicine throughout Albany's History at the Thronateeska Heritage Center

November 17: 100 Years of Broadway featuring Broadway hit songs by Neil Berg's musical show