COLORADO RURAL HEALTH CENTER

The State Office of Rural Health

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Colorado Rural Health Center Celebrates National Rural Health Day with Memorial Regional Health

The Colorado Rural Health Center celebrated with a luncheon in Craig, CO, honoring an exemplary community leader

Craig, CO – November 19, 2026– The Colorado Rural Health Center (CRHC), The State Office of Rural Health and State Rural Health Association, celebrated National Rural Health Day today alongside Memorial Regional Health in Craig, Colorado. 2026 marked the 15th anniversary of National Rural Health Day, which has celebrated the vital work of rural healthcare every third Thursday of November since 2011.

"National Rural Health Day is a day to celebrate the work done across our rural communities to ensure access to quality care," said CRHC CEO Michelle Mills. "Each year on National Rural Health Day, we take some time to call out the hard work of our rural facilities across the state and country!"

This year, CRHC celebrated by visiting Craig, Colorado's Memorial Regional Health. Thursday's celebration consisted of a hosted luncheon, remarks from CRHC, hospital leadership, and State Senator Dylan Roberts, as well as a recorded message from Governor-elect Phil Weiser. CRHC and Memorial Regional Health also presented on the health outcomes and future outlook for healthcare in Moffat County and the surrounding region.

Memorial Regional Health was founded in 1950 thanks to the generous funds raised by residents of Craig and through the Hill-Burton grant. In 1952, the hospital became a county-owned facility. In 2007, the county residents voted to build a new hospital which opened in 2009. The Memorial Regional Health healthcare system serves the community with modern facilities and has a broad range of services that allow rural individuals to receive a wide variety of different medical services within their home community.

"The health of a community isn't just about the physical," said Memorial Regional Health CEO Jennifer Riley. "We provide access to physical health services but also, we are an economic

driver in the community. We are the largest employer locally and about 80% of our workforce lives in Moffat County. We estimate that Memorial Regional Health generates upwards of $70 million of economic activity for the region annually."

The celebration was also marked by virtual remarks from Governor-elect Phil Weiser and in person comments from State Senator Dylan Roberts.

"Communities like this cannot exist without rural healthcare access. Now, more than ever, it is important for us to support our rural healthcare providers." said Senator Roberts.

The Colorado Rural Health Center serves as Colorado's State Office of Rural Health (SORH) and State Rural Health Association, partnering in its latter capacity with NRHA to maintain strong relationships with a robust coalition of rural members across Colorado.

"We could not provide the services we do without the resources provided by partners like CRHC," said Riley.

Likewise, CRHC CEO Michelle Mills expressed appreciation for the work of Memorial Regional.

"The work being done in Craig and Moffat County is truly a shining example for the rest of the state. We are proud to count Memorial Regional Health amongst our members as we work to ensure that all rural Coloradans have access to high quality, affordable healthcare," said Mills.

CRHC also celebrated with a social media campaign and a rural photo contest with submissions from members across the state. You can view the winning photos at https://coruralhealth.org/events/national-rural-health-day

About The Colorado Rural Health Center

The Colorado Rural Health Center was established in 1991 as Colorado's State Office of Rural Health. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation, CRHC serves dual roles as the State Office of Rural Health and the State Rural Health Association. The organization's mission is to enhance healthcare services in the state by providing information, education, linkages, tools, and energy toward addressing rural health issues. CRHC's vision is to improve healthcare services available in rural communities to ensure that all rural Coloradans have access to comprehensive, affordable, high-quality healthcare. For more information visit www.coruralhealth.org, call 303-832-7493, or call toll free 800-851-6782 from rural Colorado.