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**CONTACT:**

**KAREN MILLER**

**225.927.5642**

### **LOUISIANA NURSING HOME ASSOCIATION DIRECTOR TO RETIRE IN DECEMBER**

(Baton Rouge – June 28, 2016) The Louisiana Nursing Home Association (LNHA) announced today that the organization’s executive director, Joe Donchess, will retire effective December 31, 2016. Donchess’ decision to retire will bring to a close a remarkable career of more than 30 years of continuous service to the association and its membership. He will continue through December 2016 to ensure a smooth and successful transition for his successor.

“Joe Donchess has been a very strong leader and one who has managed the association through challenging times and tremendous successes,” said Ron Goux, president of the LNHA board of directors. “His guidance, leadership and expertise have been instrumental to the association’s success throughout the past 30 years.”

“I’ve been privileged and am grateful to have served one of the greatest associations for more than three decades,” Donchess said. “Our accomplishments are founded on a commitment to excellence to those we serve, the frail elderly and disabled. I have been honored to work with an incredibly dedicated and talented group of professionals and am very proud of what we have accomplished together. I believe 2016 is the right time for me to retire as the association is operationally very sound and positioned for continued success.”

Joe Donchess joined the Louisiana Nursing Home Association in March 1986 as executive director. He began his legal career in 1976. He started working as an attorney for the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals in 1978. He represented the Department in matters pertaining to health planning, licensure and civil service appeals, and successfully defended departmental cases twice before the Louisiana Supreme Court.

Mr. Donchess is a member of several professional and community organizations including the Louisiana State Bar Association, Baton Rouge Bar Association, American Health Lawyers Association, American Society of Health Care Association Executives, Baton Rouge Ancient Athlete Society and Sunrise Rotary Club of Baton Rouge. He also serves on the Patients’ Compensation Fund Oversight Board and is the president of his Rotary Club’s Foundation.

The LNHA board of directors will conduct the process to choose Donchess’ successor.

The Louisiana Nursing Home Association is a nonprofit organization representing more than 250 nursing facilities and assisted living communities that care for approximately 30,000 elderly and disabled individuals each day. On behalf of its members, LNHA advocates for providing quality care and nurturing environments to Louisiana’s frail and elderly. For more information on LNHA, visit our website at [www.lnha.org](http://www.lnha.org).