



**Remarks of Gregory W. Powell
Harold Alfond Foundation**

**MaineGeneral Health Dedication of the Alfond Center for Health
Augusta, Maine
September 28, 2013**

On behalf of the Harold Alfond Foundation, Peter Alfond, Larry Pugh, Bob Marden and I are delighted to be here this afternoon to celebrate the dedication of this magnificent building.

Just days ago, a MaineGeneral physician perfectly described the feelings we share at this moment. Here is what he said:

... I walked out of the Center for Cancer Care at about 6 pm, after seeing a new patient there. The encounter had been a good one; we had connected, and I felt I could help her.

Out in the parking lot, I was the only one there; all cars were gone now. Across the expanse, the construction site was quiet as well. The new hospital seemed massive, ready, poised and I felt—not that I was 30 years younger—but that I would live forever. All was right in the world.

This afternoon, as we reflect on the enormity of what we have accomplished and the great promise of our future, all is right in the world.

Bibby and Harold Alfond would be so very proud to have their family's name on this building, but they would also be among the first to recognize the great team effort that has brought us to this day. On behalf of the Harold Alfond foundation and Harold and Bibby, who are with us in spirit today, thank you, partners; thank you, teammates—for all you have done.

Being the last of a long line of distinguished speakers is a compelling invitation to be brief. As your closing speaker, then, let me take just a brief moment to reflect on the special gratitude we owe to the fine men and women of Maine General, and also to make an announcement on behalf of the Foundation.

First, our announcement.

“Magnificent building”
“under budget”
“ahead of schedule”
“\$12 million community dollars raised”
“great teamwork”

Such words would be music to Harold Alford’s ears. And we know that if he were here, he would want to reward such fabulous accomplishment. So it is my pleasure to announce that when, at year’s end, the November move has been successfully completed and our new beautiful hospital is up and running, the Harold Alford Foundation will make a bonus payment to MaineGeneral of \$2,000,000. Congratulations!

As inscripted nearby in the lobby and as said at our groundbreaking:

“Bibby and Harold Alford envisioned that one day the patients of MaineGeneral would enjoy a setting for care surpassed only by the quality of its professionals.”

Today, we have that setting. We have our beautiful new hospital—“massive, ready, and poised”. But, just as importantly, we have our very fine health care team, a team in whom we have the greatest of confidence and for whom we have the deepest of gratitude.

In the days ahead, you—the men and women of MaineGeneral—will continue your dedicated efforts to service and excellence in health care. But you will also face the extraordinary, once-in-a-lifetime challenge of moving this coming November and converging multiple hospitals into this new center for health. This move will be huge. It will test all of you.

But we know you have been preparing and are up to the task. And we take this opportunity to wish you good luck.

As the November date draws near, we can feel the weather changing. The leaves are turning, the sun receding, and the sunsets are early, brilliant and dark in hues. Soon, cold will mean snow and the holidays will be upon us. On Christmas Eve, like so many before, you will

be doing your job; or at home with family and friends, knowing you will be back at work soon enough. But this holiday season will be like no other.

This holiday, you will have met a challenge never again to be experienced in your lifetime: you will have completed the move, unified our region, and renewed your commitment to excellence in health care.

Some may be wondering what will become of the Foundation's \$2,000,000 year-end bonus. To help us answer that question, could I ask every MaineGeneral employee here this afternoon to please stand.

Harold Alfond loved to say, "don't tell me, show me". With Harold's favorite saying in mind, our Foundation trustees asked Chuck and Scott what should be done with our \$2 million end-of-the-year bonus. Without hesitation, they knew just the right thing.

On behalf of Harold Alfond's foundation, I am pleased to announce that this holiday season, when you have crossed the finish line and our new hospital is up and running, we will show you our thanks and appreciation.

With our \$2,000,000, every member of the MaineGeneral team—every employee in the MaineGeneral system—will receive a holiday bonus of \$500 for full-time employees and \$250 for part-time employees.

Congratulations! Thank you—and good luck in the days ahead.