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**JAMES MERRITT, CO-FOUNDER OF MERRITT HAWKINS,
RETURNS TO COMPANY IN NEW ROLE**

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IRVING, TX -- James Merritt, co-founder of Merritt Hawkins, the largest physician search and consulting firm in the United States, has returned to the company in a new role, Merritt Hawkins' executives announced today.

Mr. Merritt, one of the leading figures in the health care staffing industry, co-founded Merritt Hawkins in 1987 in Newport Beach, California with partner Joseph Hawkins. The company later relocated its corporate headquarters to Irving, Texas, and evolved into The MHA Group, a \$300 million health care staffing company specializing in the permanent and temporary recruitment of physicians and allied health care professionals. In 2005, The MHA Group merged with AMN Healthcare (NYSE: AHS), now the largest healthcare staffing organization in the nation. Mr. Merritt left the company shortly thereafter to pursue outside business interests.

In his new role, Mr. Merritt will focus on strategic planning and will assist Merritt Hawkins and AMN Healthcare in managing large corporate relationships during a time of hospital, medical group and health system consolidation. Operating under the title "Founder," Mr. Merritt also will explore new business avenues for Merritt Hawkins in emerging market sectors.

"I am proud of the leadership position Merritt Hawkins has maintained during my absence and look forward to advancing that position further with my return," Mr. Merritt observed. "Health care is my first passion, and the industry is so dynamic today that I was not content observing from the sidelines. I look forward to both the steep challenges and the outstanding opportunities today's market presents."

According to Merritt Hawkins' president Mark Smith, Mr. Merritt's return will significantly enhance the firm's continually expanding resources and capabilities.

"Mr. Merritt has been a force in the health care staffing industry for 30 years, and his experience, knowledge of the players, and insights will only make us stronger," Mr. Smith noted. "We look forward to the unparalleled vision, contacts, and expertise that an industry founder like Mr. Merritt can provide."

Additional information about Mr. Merritt's background and new role can be accessed at www.merrithawkins.com.

