

NEWS FROM _____

HEALTHSOUTH®

For Immediate Release

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AMPUTEE TRANSCONTINENTAL BIKE RIDE ARRIVES AT HEALTHSOUTH EMERALD COAST

PANAMA CITY, Fla. – Amputees Across America, a group of amputees making a transcontinental bike ride, will arrive at **HealthSouth Emerald Coast Rehabilitation Hospital at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, July 14**. A welcome reception will be held in honor of the cyclists who are riding in relays across the United States and visiting hospitals to increase public awareness of amputees as people with active lifestyles.

While in Panama City, Amputees Across America members, Dick Fate, John Cool and Joe Sapere and Doc Milligan, will visit HealthSouth Emerald Coast patients to share stories of overcoming their amputation to live healthy, fulfilling lives. A welcome reception with an address from hospital CEO Tony Bennet and the Amputees Across America riders will be held at 10 a.m. followed by a barbeque luncheon from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The event is open to the community. Please contact Sharon Shepherd at (850) 914-8632 for tickets. A \$5 donation is recommended to attend the luncheon.

“We are delighted to host Amputees Across America at our hospital,” says Tony Bennett, HealthSouth Emerald Coast Rehabilitation Hospital chief executive officer. “This visit provides an excellent opportunity for our patients as well as our community to see first hand that no physical disability should keep anyone from living an active lifestyle.”

This is the ninth year AAA has made a cross-country journey. The riders departed on June 2, 2010, from HealthSouth Tustin Rehabilitation Hospital in California. To reach their final destination at HealthSouth Treasure Coast Rehabilitation Hospital in Vero Beach, Fla., on July 26, 2010, the group will travel 3,500 miles and stop at 20 HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospitals in less than 60 days. For more information about this year’s journey and the riders who make it possible, visit www.healthsouthpanamacity.com.

HealthSouth Emerald Coast Rehabilitation Hospital is a 75-bed inpatient hospital that provides a higher level of rehabilitative care to patients who are recovering from stroke and other neurological disorders, brain and spinal cord injury, amputations and orthopedic, cardiac and pulmonary conditions. Accredited by The Joint Commission, the hospital is located at 1847 Florida Ave.

HealthSouth is the nation’s largest provider of inpatient rehabilitative healthcare services. Operating in 26 states across the country and in Puerto Rico, HealthSouth serves patients through its network of inpatient rehabilitation hospitals, long-term acute care hospitals, outpatient rehabilitation satellite clinics and home health agencies. HealthSouth strives to be the nation’s preeminent provider of inpatient rehabilitative services and can be found on the Web at www.healthsouth.com.

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For more information, please contact Cindy Carpenter at (850) 914-8633.