

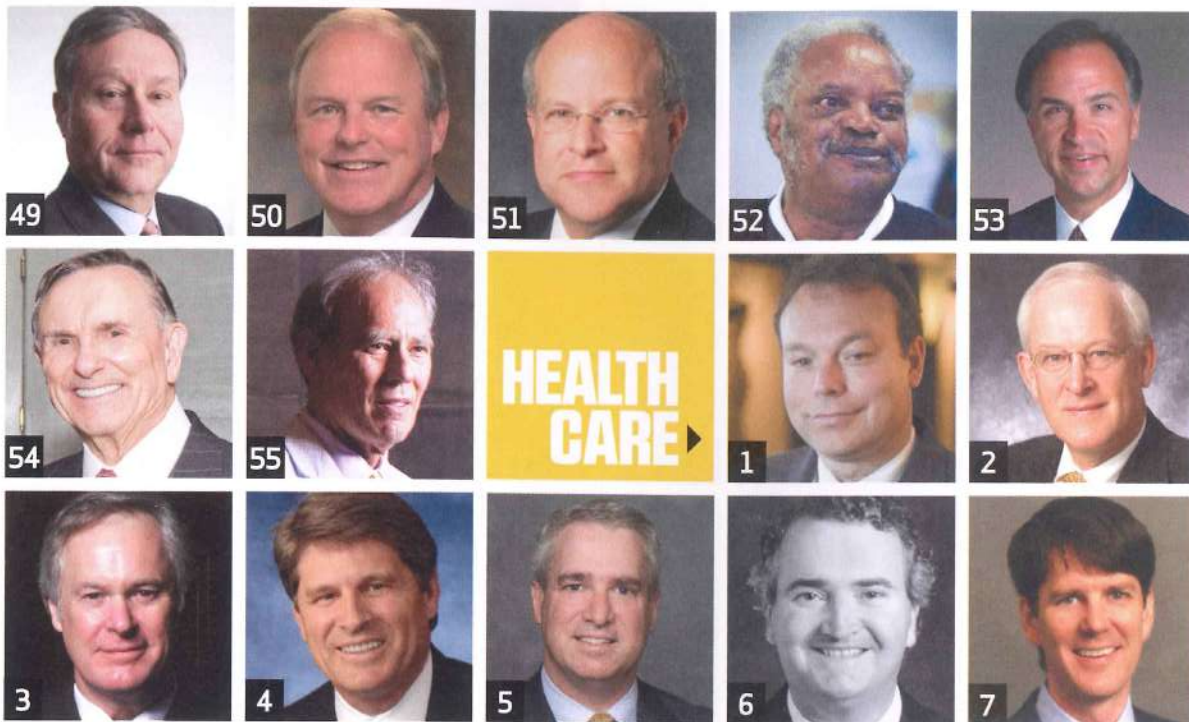
[NASHVILLEPOST]

# IN CHARGE

As has become an annual tradition, we present IN CHARGE, our compendium of Middle Tennessee's business, political and civic leaders. These are the women and men who have positively exerted their influence on Nashville and its surrounding communities. To craft the list, our fourth annual, during the past 12 months the *Post* reached out to industry sector movers and shakers and to political powerbrokers to gauge their take regarding Nashville's business and political elite. As is our standard, IN CHARGE is neither a popularity contest nor a typical "who's who" listing. With great discussion, the *Nashville Post* team has included among the 413 individuals listed here at least 50 folks who do their work with minimal notice or fanfare. Compared to the 2012 IN CHARGE, we have 87 "newcomers." Of note, we dropped 72 individuals.

Our decision as to whom made the final cut came down not only to those people's local (and sometimes national) prominence but also to their ability — and connections — to create opportunities for others and for the city. The individuals on the pages that follow have such ability and influence. They are "in charge" of leading Nashville deep into a bright future.

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49. **Richard Riebeling** — Finance Director, Metro Nashville: Mayor Karl Dean's only finance director to date. Was a key to approval for Music City Center convention facility. Has also served as commissioner of the state Department of Economic and Community Development. 50. **Ralph Schulz** — President, Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce: Leads coalition with diverse business interests in stated goal of "facilitating community leadership to create economic prosperity." Launched "Business is Good" marketing initiative in February 2012. 51. **Ronnie Steine** — At-Large Member, Metro Council: Former vice mayor of Nashville who has resurrected what was once seen as a permanently derailed political career and seen as voice of reason on Metro Council. Leader on issues ranging from economic growth and education to public health. 52. **James 'Tex' Thomas** — Pastor, Jefferson Street Missionary Baptist Church: Leading community activist and respected pastor for approximately 40 years of one of Nashville's oldest and most active African-American churches. Church is unofficial meeting place for discussions on civil rights-related issues. 53. **Gif Thornton** — Chairman, Executive Committee, Adams and Reese: Attorney/lobbyist very active in Tennessee Republican politics. Formerly served as special assistant to the late Ambassador Joe M. Rogers at the U.S. embassy in Paris, as well as assistant to the Republican leader of the Tennessee House of Representatives. 54. **Ted Welch** — Investor/GOP Fundraiser: Perennial top national GOP fundraiser. For this reason, power base rooted in GOP affiliation more so than in multimillion-dollar commercial real estate portfolio he controls. Senior fellow for public policy and politics at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. 55. **Justin P. Wilson** — Comptroller of the Treasury: Tennessee's 34th comptroller who previously served as partner in the Nashville law firm of Waller Lansden Dortch & Davis. Scion of one of state's most influential political families. **HEALTH CARE**

1. **Jeff Balsler** — Vice Chancellor of Health Affairs, Vanderbilt University Medical Center: Consistently sees VUMC rank in the top 10 of hospitals receiving National Institute of Health funding. Oversees all "health related programs" having in 2008 been named the medical school's 11th dean. 2. **Craig Becker** — President, Tennessee Hospital Association: Since 1993, has led the state hospital association. With the implementation of the Affordability Care Act, is leading his group's gargantuan effort to deduce the law's financial impact on hospitals statewide. 3. **Richard Bracken** — Chairman and CEO, HCA: The former CEO of Centennial Medical, in 2009, became the CEO of HCA and then chairman the following year. Is a member of the American Society of Corporate Executives and a Fellow in the American College of Healthcare Executives. 4. **Bill Carpenter** — Chairman and CEO, LifePoint Hospitals: Since 2006, the former Waller Lansden lawyer has led the Nashville-based hospital owner from the CEO suite, advancing through the legal and compliance ranks. Prior to LifePoint, worked as chief counsel for HCA's Americas Group. 5. **Stephen Corbeil** — President, TriStar Health System: Since 2007, led the company's MidWest Division but in November 2011 was picked to oversee TriStar's 18 hospitals and 10 surgery centers. Has strong knowledge of and background in Midwest health care industry. 6. **Dick Cowart** — Shareholder, Baker Donelson Bearman Caldwell & Berkowitz: Member of the firm's board of directors and also leads its Health and Public Policy Section. Well-known authority on the legal, regulatory and business issues related to the myriad aspects of health care services. 7. **Bobby Frist** — Chairman, President and CEO, HealthStream: In October, his company paid about \$8 million in cash and stock to buy SyMed Development. HealthStream is now a leader in health care education, a status it achieved through organic growth and a number of other acquisitions. *Continued on 57*