To whom it may concern at the Des Moines Business Record:

 I would like to nominate Dr. Susan Beck as a 2015 Woman of Influence.

Dr. Beck and I first met and started working together in the fall of 2006. I was starting at Katzmann Breast Center as the Clinical Director and Dr. Beck was a surgeon at Katzmann, transitioning into the Medical Director position. At this time Dr. Beck had decided to leave her general surgery practice to focus her skills and knowledge solely on breast patients. Although this decision was a leap of faith for her from a business standpoint, it wasn’t from a heart’s desire stand point.

Dr Beck has the ideal abilities to take care of the unique patients that we see at Katzmann. She has the surgical skill and artistry as well as the medical knowledge and an abundance of compassion for people. But her compassion for people is not limited to the walls of Katzmann, nor the walls of Mercy Medical Center, nor the walls of her own home as she is celebrating 35 years of marriage to her husband Alan this year, has raised two children, has welcomed her daughter in law and son in law and is a proud grandparent. She has not even limited this compassion to the walls of her immediate community or state. Dr. Beck has made at least 6 trips to India to share that compassion and her medical expertise to the much needed individuals and clinics there, and her local accomplishments and achievements speak for themselves.

She might be petite in stature but her heart, desire to serve and highly accurate surgical skills are not at all limited to her physical size.

I would like to close with a personal story. Dr. Beck, because clearly she is not busy enough, in her spare time…knits. She enjoys keeping her hands busy and her mind sharp. A few years ago I was going through an incredibly difficult personal struggle. During that time, I walked into my office one day to find a gift wrapped box and in that box was a beautiful hand knitted vest for me made by Sue. But that wasn’t the best part of the gift. The best part of the gift was the enclosed card that read, “I said a prayer for you with every stitch of this vest.” There are no limits to her compassion and energy.

After these last 9 years, I am not only proud to consider Sue my professional colleague but I am blessed to call her my friend.

Sincerely,

Kara Urlis, RN

Director, Katzmann Breast Center and Gynecologic Oncology at Mercy