

Health/Feature News Release

**Media Contacts:**

Annette (843) 208-2808

Dan (913) 707-7428

**Starting Over: PLASTIC SURGEON OPENS NEW PRACTICE AFTER BREAST CANCER BATTLE**

(HARDEEVILLE, SC) As a board-certified plastic surgeon, Dr. Carol Ann Coolidge often worked with breast cancer survivors—women seeking reconstructive help after beating the disease. But in her busy, 60-hour workweek filled with long clinics and early-morning surgeries, she never imagined that *she* would face a fight against breast cancer.

“I thought I had total control over my life—and I learned I didn’t,” Coolidge says.

In Spring 2004, Dr. Coolidge (*formerly Dr. Carol Ann Clark*) found a small lump. Her oncologist reassured her that the cancer had been caught early. After beginning a regimen of radiation treatments that drained her energy, Dr. Coolidge took an 18-month leave of absence from work.

“I was always on the other side of the physician-patient relationship,” Coolidge says. “For the first time, I realized what it felt like to *not* be in control of the situation.”

In her time off, Dr. Coolidge enjoyed living the life that a busy surgeon often misses. She spent more time with her husband, Judge Hermann Coolidge. She learned how to cook. Took up piano. All the while, Dr. Coolidge planned her comeback. Working with patients was her calling, and opening a solo practice would allow her to set the standard for patient care.

“I can spend as much time as I want with each patient, answering questions and getting to know them as individuals. For me that means a lot. Providing a level of comfort and familiarity has always been my goal—and it will continue to be my guiding principle,” Coolidge says. “As a cancer survivor, I realize patients have to be 110% comfortable with the experts providing care.”

In August 2006, Dr. Coolidge opened her new office. Coolidge Plastic Surgery Center is located at New River Office Park in Hardeeville, South Carolina. Dr. Coolidge specializes in breast surgery (reconstructive & cosmetic) and body contouring (liposuction & tummy tucks). The practice also provides skin care treatments (including Botox & Obagi).

-30-

CAROL ANN COOLIDGE, M.D., F.A.C.S., IS BOARD-CERTIFIED IN PLASTIC SURGERY, WITH NEARLY 15 YEARS EXPERIENCE AS A SURGEON. PREVIOUSLY A PARTNER AT FINGER & ASSOCIATES (SAVANNAH, GA), DR. COOLIDGE IS NOW IN SOLO PRACTICE.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR MEDIA AVAILABILITY, CALL (843) 208-2808.