

DANIEL DONALD K
 Form 5
 January 21, 2005

FORM 5

**UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
 Washington, D.C. 20549**

OMB APPROVAL

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Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).
 Form 3 Holdings Reported Form 4 Transactions Reported

ANNUAL STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *			2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol		5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer	
DANIEL DONALD K			NATIONAL HEALTHCARE CORP [NHC]		(Check all applicable)	
(Last)	(First)	(Middle)	3. Statement for Issuer's Fiscal Year Ended (Month/Day/Year)		<input type="checkbox"/> Director	<input type="checkbox"/> 10% Owner
			12/31/2004		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below)	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify below)
100 VINE ST., SUITE 1200			4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)		Sr. Vice President, Controller	
(Street)					6. Individual or Joint/Group Reporting	
MURFREESBORO, TN 37130					(check applicable line)	
(City)	(State)	(Zip)			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form Filed by One Reporting Person	
					<input type="checkbox"/> Form Filed by More than One Reporting Person	

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)	5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned at end of Issuer's Fiscal Year (Instr. 3 and 4)	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	7. Nature of Indirect Ownership (Instr. 4)
Shares of Common Stock	01/21/2005		J	1,073 A	\$ 19.64	161,937 D	

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

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Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

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1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3)	2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)	6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)		7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)	
						(A)	(D)		
Employee Stock Option - "Right to Buy"	\$ 20.9					02/22/2009	03/23/2009	Common Stock	50,000

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships				
	Director	10% Owner	Officer		Other
DANIEL DONALD K 100 VINE ST., SUITE 1200 MURFREESBORO, TN 37130				Sr. Vice President, Controller	

Signatures

Donald K.
Daniel

01/21/2005

**Signature of Reporting Person Date

Explanation of Responses:

- * If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 4(b)(v).
- ** Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. *See* 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).

Remarks:
 J: Rule 16b-3(c) acquisition for 2004 Plan Year, pursuant to the NHC Employee Stock Purchase

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space provided is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure. Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB number.