2005 Award Winners

A Tennessee prison guard who was gunned down in the performance of his duty was presented posthumously Monday night the highest honor given by Life Care Centers of America. Wayne Thomas (Cotton) Morgan was the winner of the Carl W. Campbell Wind Beneath My Wings Award that goes annually to the Company-Wide Volunteer of the Year for his service to Life Care Center of Morgan County, where Daniel Rowe is executive director.

The award, a crystal eagle, was handed to Morgan's pastor, the Rev. Tim Ruppe, and other members of the Meadowview Baptist Church, where Morgan was a member, by Carl Campbell, a founder of Life Care for whom the award is named.

Morgan, 56, was shot and killed in August of this year as he and partner Larry Harris were escorting a prisoner from a court appearance in Kingston. Authorities said the inmate's wife fired her pistol at the officers and Morgan went down before he could draw his revolver.

A deacon, Sunday School teacher, treasurer and song leader at the Meadowview Baptist Church, Morgan was a regular volunteer at Life Care Center of Morgan County for six years, conducting church services and visiting residents to read the Bible and pray with them.

Accepting the award for the Morgan family, who could not be present, were Pastor Ruppe and his wife, Gail, Mr. and Mrs. Vennis Wilson, Mrs. Jerry Wilson and Mindy Potter.

The Chairman's Award – the highest honor that can be won by an associate of Life Care – went to Jeff Cleveland, regional vice president of the Citrus Region in Florida. Among other reasons cited, Cleveland was one of many key people who supported Florida facilities during the devastating effects of four hurricanes in 2004.

Facility of the Year awards were won by Life Care Center of Copper Basin, Tennessee, Doyle Love, executive director; Eastern Division; Garden Terrace of Houston, Texas, Carol Pritchett, executive director, Garden Terrace Associates; Life Care Center of Wichita, Kansas, Stacey Allen, senior executive director, Heartland Division; Hale Anuenue Restorative Care Center, Hilo, Hawaii, Ivan Yamamoto, executive director, Mountain States Division; Mayfair Subacute and Rehabilitation Center, Columbus, Ohio, Julie Klein, executive director, Northeast Division; Cascade Park Care Center, Vancouver, Washington, Nadine de Klerk, executive director, Northwest Division; Life Care Center of Orange Park, Florida, John Driggers, executive director, Southeast Division; Life Care Center of Sierra Vista, Arizona, Matt Ham, executive director, Southwest Division. The division support award was given to Richard Cannon, resource utilization specialist in the Mountain States Division.

President's Awards were presented to Karen Turner, executive director, Life Care Center of Elizabethton, Tennessee, and Jim Olson, financial controller, Appalachian Region, Eastern Division; Julie Warner, national clinical director, Garden Terrace Associates; Luana (Lou) Indelicato, executive director, Life Care Center of Sullivan, Missouri, and Lisa Kolman, executive director, Life Care Center of Osawatomie, Kansas, Heartland Division; Derek Schmidt, executive director, Life Care Center of Cheyenne, Wyoming, and Stacey Alexander, executive director, Villa Manor Care Center, Lakewood, Colorado, Mountain States Division; Kevin Heaney, division director of marketing, and James Nugent, executive director, Life Care Center of Auburn, Massachusetts, Northeast Division; Patrick Burke, executive director, Life Care Center of Coos Bay, Oregon, and Annette Crawford, executive director, Cottesmore of Life Care, Gig Harbor, Washington, Northwest Division; Ralph Jacobs, executive director, Life Care Center of Winter Haven, Florida, and Janet Sorel, executive director, Life Care Center of Citrus County, Florida, Southeast Division; Bina Hribik-Portello, senior executive director, Silver Region, Nevada, and Christina DeJesus, rehab service manager, Life Care Center of Las Vegas, Nevada, Southwest Division.

American Lifestyles honored The Bridge at Life Care Center of Orlando, Florida, Kris Munch, general manager, as its 2005 Assisted Living Community of the Year, and Remington Heights Retirement Community, Omaha, Nebraska, Amy Birkel, general manager, as its 2005 Independent Living Community of the Year.

American Lifestyles presented its General Manager of the Year award to Debbie Engen, general manager, Mountain View Retirement Village in Tucson, Arizona, and its Leadership Award to Jeff Nieberding, general manager, The AbbeWood Retirement Community, Elyria, Ohio.

Century Park honored Kevin Betts, general manager of College Walk Retirement Community, Brevard, North Carolina, with its Leadership Award. Park Place Retirement Community in Hendersonville, Tennessee, Nancy Jenkins, general manager, was named the Century Park Community of the Year.

Life Care at Home named Life Care at Home of Utah, Annette Gibbs, regional director of operations, as the winner of its Agency Recognition Program.

Superior performance awards for deficiency-free surveys went to The Bridge at San Gabriel, California, Eunice Fletcher, executive director; Cascade Park Care Center in Vancouver, Washington, Nadine de Klerk, executive director; Garden Terrace of Houston, Texas, Carol Pritchett, executive director; The Harbor Place

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at Port St. Lucie, Florida, Kathy Kalck, general manager; Heatherwood Retirement Community, Honey Brook, Pennsylvania, Ann Aberts, general manager; Life Care Center of Orange Park, Florida, John Driggers, executive director; Mayfair Subacute and Rehabilitation Center, Columbus, Ohio, Julie Klein, executive director; Mayfair Village Retirement Center, Columbus, Ohio, Jamie Foley, general manager; Mountain View Care Center, Tucson, Arizona, Maria Montion, executive director; Mountain View Health Care, Elkhorn, Kentucky, Sharon Hall, executive director; Mountain View Retirement Village, Tucson, Arizona, Debbie Engen, general manager; Pointe Frontier, Retirement Community, Cheyenne, Wyoming, Rich Pfeiffer, general manager; Remington Heights Retirement Community, Omaha, Nebraska, Amy Birkel, general manager; Life Care at Home, Chattanooga, Tennessee, Chris Dockery and Donna Burks, agency directors; Life Care at Home, Scottsdale, Arizona, Lori Bedford, agency director.

Jessica King, who volunteers at Hickory House Nursing Home in Pennsylvania, was named Company-Wide Youth Volunteer of the Year, and St. Francis Xavier Church, which sends volunteers to Evergreen House Health Care Center in East Providence, Rhode Island, was honored as Company-Wide Volunteer Group of the Year.

We congratulate all our winners for outstanding commitment and performance in service to our residents.

--Beecher Hunter