

A Passion for People

Cleo Allen has a passion for the people she serves. And it shows in everything she does.

At Life Care Center of Orange Park in Florida, she has been “caught” bringing in treats or small gifts she knows residents will enjoy. When one resident, a quadriplegic, was sent to the emergency room, Allen followed as soon as her shift was over and sat with him the entire night so he would not feel alone or afraid. She also took his jewelry so it would not be misplaced during his stay at the hospital, and returned it to him cleaned and sparkling.

She does it all with a humble attitude, never seeking attention or praise. But people notice. Because of her quiet devotion to the residents under her care, many individuals who have stayed at the facility previously, and who need to return, call ahead to ask if they can be placed on Allen’s hall.



“She is warm and caring toward her residents and their families and is a role model for our staff in all departments,” said John Driggers, executive director. “Our nurses know they can put her in charge, and the work will be done without fail and with the highest quality.”

Cleo Allen is a certified nursing assistant. It is a position for which I have the greatest admiration. And she is the poster person for thousands of Life Care CNAs across the country.

This is their appointed time on the national calendar – National Nursing Assistant Week – and they deserve all the tributes and applause coming their way. They are the direct, hands-on caregivers to God’s precious children, the frail and infirm residents entrusted to us.

Our facilities find many creative ways to honor our certified nursing assistants, this week and beyond, including the Rewarding Excellence Awards bestowed in facility and regional recognition events.

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Certified nursing assistants:

- Their minds remain on purpose.
- Their hands reach out to care.
- Their hearts are filled with love.

God bless them, one and all.

--Beecher Hunter