

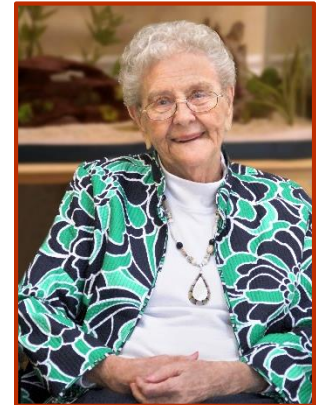
# BRING ON THE FIESTA!

National Nursing Home Week began Sunday, May 10, the traditional Mother's Day, and continues through May 16 – which means it's party time in our centers!

And the American Health Care Association understands the celebratory nature of this special week by ascribing *Bring on the Fiesta* as the theme. So the banners are up, the balloons are dancing, the posters are positioned, and we are ready to kick up our heels! Invite relatives, friends, fellow church members and community leaders to celebrate with residents and associates during this special time.

As is tradition, Life Care selects representatives of our resident population to highlight the observance. This year's honorees are:

- **Ruby Simpson**, 101, of Life Care Center of Brookfield, Missouri. As a child, she took care of her sick mother, along with daily farm chores. When her husband of 70 years passed away, she began writing letters to her granddaughter that would later become a book, *That's My Grandma*, sharing her memories, stories and pictures of her life. At the facility, Simpson attends all the activities, including weekly card games and most of the outings. On past birthdays, she even rode a motorcycle and took a ride in a hot air balloon.
- **Cindy Bottomley**, 62, of Life Care Center of Reno, Nevada. After going to school part-time and raising her daughter, Jenna, Bottomley's thirst for knowledge and children's literature led her to a successful 26-year career as a teacher and librarian. Despite her difficult recovery after suffering from a heart attack and stroke, she's now found her place befriending new residents.
- **Masaru "Mamo" Hamakawa**, 83, of Life Care Center of Hilo, Hawaii, learned to play the ukulele in the Air Force while stationed in Japan, performing publicly for the first time in front of 1,000 people. He now is known for getting up on stage at facility events to perform a collection of songs. With an engineering degree from the University of Hawaii, Hamakawa worked in Japan as a civil engineer before retiring to Hawaii at age 57.



**Ruby Simpson**



**Cindy Bottomley**



**Mamo Hamakawa**

(more)

- **Theresa Texler**, 87, of Life Care Center of Elyria, Ohio, was one of 14 children and learned early the value of close relationships and fun. “We’d go to Polish dances all over Cleveland,” Texler said, “and we really liked to roller skate.” She and her husband, Jim, traveled and cruised frequently with their daughter, Marilyn, and her husband, John Pleichner. The four of them and Texler’s sister, Helen, even shared a home for several years. Though Jim, Marilyn and Helen have passed away, Texler extends that same love to her facility family.



*Theresa Texler*

It is obvious that we have cause to celebrate – especially the lives of these and all our residents who have made our country what it is. They have much knowledge to share with us.

*Wisdom is with the aged, and understanding in length of days (Job 12:12 ESV).*

– Beecher Hunter

