

People of Honor

This is National Nursing Home Week. It began on Sunday, May 9, and it will continue through Saturday, May 15. Its theme is "Embracing Our Heritage," and it is a good reminder to caregivers, families and volunteers of the national treasure we have the opportunity and privilege to serve in our facilities every day of the year, 24 hours a day. Sebrena Sawtell and her public relations staff have distributed posters featuring three of our outstanding residents, along with a kit with a wide variety of ideas designed to make the recognition of our residents and the celebration of their lives and achievements very meaningful this week.

But this week is more than a salute to our residents. It is also a tribute to our associates who...

- Occasionally bring a resident her favorite food from a pizza restaurant.
- Help a family member cope with the death of a loved one.
- Daily greet their "customers" with smiles and hugs.
- Use their own money to help a resident acquire hearing aids.
- On their own time, sit with a resident through the night at the hospital.
- Make calls from their homes, during personal evening hours, to reassure family members about their loved ones.
- Hold hands, pray and sing hymns with a dying resident.
- Come to the center on their days off to fix the hair of residents for special occasions, such as birthdays or anniversaries.
- Purchase items for residents with money from their own pockets.
- Prepare special foods, after seeking the request of residents, for their birthdays.
- Stay up until late in the evening to make new clothes for residents or repair old garments.
- Purchase Christmas decorations for resident rooms.

These are the exceptional people of Life Care. They serve God by serving His children. And we honor them.

--Beecher Hunter