

Sample Ombudsman Newsletter Article

**Long-Term Care Residents Honored During Residents' Rights Week,
October 3-9, 2010**



Across the country, residents of nursing homes and other long-term care facilities along with family members, ombudsmen, citizen advocates, facility staff and others will honor the individual rights of long-term care residents by celebrating Residents' Rights Week October 3-9, 2010. Designated by the National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care* (Consumer Voice), the week highlights the importance of listening to residents who live in our country's nursing homes, assisted living and board and care facilities.

Residents' Rights Week originated in 1981 at a Consumer Voice annual meeting. Several nursing home residents in attendance (from NY, MN, WA, IN and DC) decided that it would be special for all residents across the country if time were set aside to celebrate residents and their rights, separate from annual National Nursing Home Week events always held in May. The Consumer Voice organized a successful petition drive to persuade Congress to designate a "Residents' Rights Day." Senator Claude Pepper (D-FL) and Senator David Pryor (D-AR) responded by introducing a Congressional Resolution for that purpose.

As an ombudsman, you are encouraged to promote Residents' Rights Week celebrations and events in your facilities. Every year, the Consumer Voice develops a packet relating to the theme for the year. This packet is for long-term care facilities, ombudsmen, citizen advocacy groups, family councils and others interested. Previous years' packets are still available from the Consumer Voice as well. The packets' promotional materials and event ideas, stories of resident empowerment from across the country, materials for ombudsmen, social workers and others involved in the care at nursing homes, assisted living and board and care facilities, activity ideas for residents to take part in Residents' Rights Week, training programs/ideas for facility staff, fact sheets for residents and families and more.

<INSERT DETAILS ABOUT STATE OR LOCAL OMBUDSMAN PROGRAM HERE.>

"Residents' Rights Week is an excellent opportunity to re-affirm our collective commitment to residents' rights and to honor long-term care residents. We strongly encourage the community to participate in Residents' Rights Week activities and to visit residents who continue to be important to our communities and society," said Sarah F. Wells, Consumer Voice executive director.

Thank you for working to make Residents' Rights Week special and meaningful for all involved. Please remember to share information about your successes so that we can include them in next year's packet. Every resident appreciates each step you take to help promote and maintain dignity and humanity in long-term care services. If you have questions, please call the Consumer Voice at (202) 332-2275, ext. 222.

*formerly NCCNHR