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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Nine Nursing Homes Recognized for Excellence in Long-Term Care**

**Tallahassee, FL** – The Agency for Health Care Administration (Agency) today acknowledged nine Florida nursing homes for earning the Governor’s Gold Seal Award, which recognizes Florida nursing homes that display excellence in the quality of long-term care delivered to their residents.

Governor Scott said, “Florida families can know that their loved ones are getting the quality care they deserve thanks to the hard work of these nursing homes and their staff members. Florida is dedicated to providing our elder population with the best possible care which is why this year’s ‘KEEP FLORIDA WORKING’ budget recommends \$2.7 million to enroll 400 additional individuals into the Community Care for the Elderly Program. Through this investment and the work at the Agency of Health Care Administration, we are ensuring Florida’s elder population and their families have the resources they need.”

“These nursing homes and their staff have shown tremendous dedication in making sure their residents consistently receive a high standard of care in comfortable surroundings, and we commend them for their exceptional service,” said AHCA Secretary Liz Dudek. “Florida nursing homes employ approximately 96,000 people and this award demonstrates the commitment of staff to those they serve.”

Award recipients include five new recipients and four renewal recipients. They are as follows:

- Alpine Health and Rehabilitation Center, Saint Petersburg\*
- Delaney Park Health and Rehabilitation Center, Orlando\*
- Joseph L Morse Geriatric Center Inc., West Palm Beach
- Lakeview Terrace Skilled Nursing Facility, Altoona\*
- Macclenny Nursing and Rehab Center, Macclenny\*
- Royal Oaks Nursing and Rehab Center, Titusville\*
- The Pavilion for Health Care, Penney Farms
- Tierra Pines Center, Largo
- Tuskawilla Nursing and Rehab Center, Winter Springs

*\*Denotes the five new nursing homes receiving the award at this time.*

“The mission of the Florida Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program is to improve the quality of life for all Florida long-term care residents. The facilities that have been awarded the Nursing Home Gold Seal Award demonstrate our program's mission in their commitment to the health, safety, and welfare of Florida’s nursing home residents. Congratulations on your achievement,” said Leigh Davis, State Ombudsman.



“Nursing homes are so important in ensuring our seniors receive the quality, ongoing healthcare they deserve. We congratulate these award winning nursing homes for leading the way in advancing the quality of care and life for seniors in our state,” said Florida Department of Elder Affairs Secretary Samuel P. Verghese.

Nursing homes that wish to be considered for the Gold Seal Award must first be recommended for the award, then submit an application with supporting documentation to the Agency, which is reviewed by the Governor’s Panel on Excellence in Long Term Care. The Panel considers the criteria below and makes recommendations to the Governor. Gold Seal recipients must be in operation a minimum of 30 months prior to the date of application and the facility must:

- Meet a quality of care scoring and ranking that places them in the top 15 percent of facilities in their region or top 10 percent of facilities in the state and be a 5-star facility overall in the Nursing Home Guide
- Have no Class I or II deficiencies within 30 months preceding application
- Provide evidence of financial soundness and stability
- Participate in a consumer satisfaction process involving residents, family members and guardians
- Involve families and members of the community in the facility on a regular basis
- Have a stable workforce
- Have an outstanding record with the State Long Term Care Ombudsman Council within the 30 months preceding application
- Provide targeted in-service training to meet training needs identified.

The Gold Seal Award program is implemented by the Governor's Panel on Excellence in Long Term Care, which is composed of persons appointed by the Governor’s Office, Agency for Health Care Administration, Department of Health, Department of Elder Affairs, LeadingAge Florida, Florida Health Care Association, Florida Life Care Residents Association and the State Long Term Care Ombudsman.

Of the 682 licensed nursing homes in Florida, 21 nursing homes currently hold the distinction of a Gold Seal Award. [Click Here](#) for a complete listing of Gold Seal facilities.

*The Agency for Health Care Administration is committed to better health care for all Floridians. The Agency administers Florida’s Medicaid program, licenses and regulates more than 45,000 health care facilities and 34 health maintenance organizations, and publishes health care data and statistics at [www.FloridaHealthFinder.gov](http://www.FloridaHealthFinder.gov). Additional information about Agency initiatives is available via Facebook (AHCAFlorida), Twitter (@AHCA\_FL) and YouTube (/AHCAFlorida).*

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