



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Sebring Nursing Home Resident Receives Statewide Honors**

*Florida Health Care Association Recognizes Mary Thornburg as the 2010 Resident of the Year*

**Tallahassee, FL** - Florida Health Care Association (FHCA) recently awarded 95-year old Mary Thornburg of the Palms of Sebring as the Association's *2010 Resident of the Year*. Ms. Thornburg was recognized in Orlando earlier this month during the Association's Annual Conference in front of over 600 long term care professionals who gathered from across the state of Florida. The Award is given annually to a long term care resident who shows outstanding service to seniors residing in Florida's long term care facilities. The Award was formally presented to Ms. Thornburg by FHCA President Nina Willingham.

Ms. Thornburg is a resident of the Palms of Sebring, a 120-bed long term care facility in Highlands County. Since becoming a resident in 2007, Ms. Thornburg has found her joy in serving others. She is the facility's Resident Council President, helps with greeting new residents upon arrival and facilitates the requests of her fellow residents to ensure their best needs are met. She encourages everyone to become involved in the facility's many activities and is always the first volunteer to sign up to ride on the Palms' Christmas float in the city parade. Last year, at the age of 94, she earned her honorary GED.

"Ms. Thornburg has made a wonderful life for herself at The Palms and has enriched the lives of everyone around her," said Palms of Sebring administrator Brent Montgomery.

"FHCA is pleased to honor Ms. Thornburg with this prestigious award," said FHCA Executive Director Emmett Reed. "Her enthusiasm and dedication to the residents of the Palms of Sebring makes her an excellent role model for other seniors across the state."

The 2010 Resident of the Year Award is part of Florida Health Care Association's Long Term Care Excellence Awards. These awards annually honor an FHCA and Florida Center for Assisted Living (FCAL) Administrator of the Year, the Willis J. Gregson Associate Member of the Year, a number of community volunteers for their service to long term care, as well as an outstanding facility for its community outreach. For more information about FHCA's Long Term Care Excellence Awards, visit the Quality Improvement section of the FHCA website at [www.fhca.org](http://www.fhca.org).

### **ABOUT THE FLORIDA HEALTH CARE ASSOCIATION**

The Florida Health Care Association (FHCA) is a federation which serves nearly 1,000 members and represents over 500 long term care facilities that provide skilled nursing, post-acute and sub-acute care, short-term rehab, assisted living and other services to the frail elderly and individuals with disabilities in Florida. FHCA was founded on the premise that its members have a moral obligation to the residents they serve, and since 1954 the Association has worked diligently to improve quality of care and quality of life for the state's growing elder care population. For more information about the Florida Health Care Association, visit [www.fhca.org](http://www.fhca.org).

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*Representing the Florida Long Term Care Community*

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