



**Florida
Health Care
Association**

Telephone: (850) 224-3907 • Fax: (850) 681-2075
www.fhca.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 28, 2009

Contact: Kristen Knapp, APR

(850) 224-3907 or kknapp@fhca.org

Tampa Nursing Home Resident Receives Statewide Honor

Florida Health Care Association Recognizes Estella Bryant as the 2009 Resident of the Year

Tallahassee, FL - Florida Health Care Association (FHCA) recently awarded Estella Bryant as the Association's 2009 Resident of the Year. Bryant was recognized in Hollywood 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 Bryant by FHCA Senior Vice President Nina Willingham.

Bryant is a resident of Palm Garden of Tampa, a 120-bed long term care facility. She entered the facility without the ability to walk or talk, but her courage and conviction helped her overcome adversity and regain these abilities. Today, Bryant is one of Palm Garden's most active residents, volunteering her time for a number of causes, including Breast Cancer and Black History Awareness, the Masons and other community activities. She serves as the facility's Resident Council President, makes the morning announcements and shares inspirational messages as she keeps everyone informed about the day-to-day events. Bryant plays a vital role in assisting Palm Garden with its culture change movement, including the development of its butterfly garden in 2008.

"Estella has a positive attitude that inspires and encourages our residents, as well as our staff, on a daily basis," said Scott Allen, administrator of Palm Garden of Tampa. "She is known by everyone for her wonderful sense of humor and her unselfish acts of kindness."

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

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 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.

#

Representing the Florida Long Term Care Community

Street Address: 307 West Park Avenue, Tallahassee, Florida 32301-1427