

**Advocacy Takes Center Stage at AHCA/NCAL Congressional Briefing
Profession honors four for their selfless commitment to senior care**

AHCAPressOffice@ahca.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

6/2/2013

Washington, DC – The American Health Care Association and National Center for Assisted Living (AHCA/NCAL) this week proudly announced the 2013 Joe Warner Patient Advocacy Award recipients at its annual Congressional Briefing event. The following individuals were named this year's award recipients: Doug Burr of Health Care Navigator, LLC; Phil Fogg, Jr., of Marquis Companies; Kelley Rice-Schild of Floridean Healthcare; and Craig Souza of the North Carolina Health Facilities Association.

AHCA/NCAL gives this award to association members who have worked directly to educate Members of Congress about the needs of long term care patients and residents and to advance quality long term care. The annual award recognizes caregivers who possess the same compassion for, and commitment to, the country's elderly and individuals with disabilities that exemplified the work of former president and CEO of Illinois-based Heritage Enterprises, Joe Warner.

"It takes passion and conviction to be an advocate," said Mark Parkinson, President and CEO of AHCA/NCAL. "This year's award recipients not only stand up for these individuals who cannot advocate for themselves, but they have done so graciously and generously through their lifelong commitment to the long term care profession."

This year's recipients run the gamut from fourth-generation long term care provider to business executives. Doug Burr is the vice president of finance, reimbursement, and government relations for Health Care Navigator, LLC. Mr. Burr also serves in several leadership committees for health care associations. Phil Fogg, Jr., is continuing his family's tradition of operating long term care facilities as president and CEO of Marquis Companies - a long term care company with 26 facilities across Oregon and the Northwest. Kelley Rice-Schild is executive director of Floridean Healthcare, which operates the oldest nursing home in Miami, Florida. She is also owner and partner of Partner Care Pharmacy. Craig Souza has led long term care advocacy in North Carolina for 36 years, serving as president of the North Carolina Health Care Facilities Association since 1977.

Each of this year's award recipients has demonstrated dedication to protecting the rights of seniors and advocating for long term and post-acute care.

"These individuals spend each day exploring ways that this profession can continue to improve and push for even higher quality care," said Neil Pruitt, Jr., AHCA Chair. "Long term care and this Association would not be where it is today without the perseverance of this year's Joe Warner award recipients."

Source: http://www.ahcanal.org/News/news_releases/Pages/Advocacy-Takes-Center-Stage-at--AHCANAL-Congressional-Briefing.aspx