



May 22, 2015

## **Celebrating Our History and Honoring Our Gems**

*As Consumer Voice celebrates our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary we want to take this opportunity to reflect on our past and recognize the individuals who shaped our organization. In honor of the 40-year ruby anniversary we will highlight Consumer Voice's Gems which include key leaders, organizations, and special moments that have made a significant impact on our organization's development, mission, and advocacy.*

### **For this month's gem we celebrate long-term care consumers**

Advocating with, and for, long-term care consumers to ensure all consumers are treated with respect and dignity, have a high quality of life, and receive quality care regardless of where they receive long-term care services is the mission of Consumer Voice. As the leading national advocacy organization representing consumers in issues related to long-term care, the voice of consumers and their involvement is vital to our work.

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For the last 40 years, residents living in nursing homes and assisted living as well as other long-term care consumers have been instrumental in supporting, promoting, and advancing Consumer Voice advocacy, both at the federal and state levels. Examples of consumer participation in Consumer Voice advocacy include: *A Consumer Perspective on Quality Care: The Residents' Point of View (NCCNHR/CV) 1985*, providing a foundation for advocacy for provisions in the Federal Nursing Home Reform Act (OBRA 1987), supporting the passage of the OBRA 1987, fighting repeals of OBRA, increasing nursing home staffing and staff training, and improving the consumer's experience transitioning from nursing homes to the community.



*Curmet Forte, former member of the Consumer Voice Board of Directors, President of the DC coalition of nursing home resident councils, and a founding board member of WINH (Washingtonians for Improvement of Nursing Homes), leading a demonstration with fellow DC Village residents.*

The Administration for Community Living celebrates Older Americans Month each May in order to recognize older Americans and their contributions to our country. This year's theme is "Get into the Act" in acknowledgement of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Older Americans Act (OAA). Consumers engaged in advocacy to improve the quality of long-term care embody the theme of getting "into the Act" in order to "make a positive impact in the lives of others and [take] charge of their health."



*Janet Tulloch, former member of Consumer Voice's Board of Directors, nursing home resident, author and advocate receiving the Consumer Voice Advocacy Memorial Award. The award was named after her, posthumously, in 2000 in honor of her advocacy and long-time support of Consumer Voice.*

Consumers have been and continue to be part of the leadership of Consumer Voice, by serving on the Governing Board, Leadership Council, and other workgroups and committees that guide and support the advocacy agenda and efforts of our organization. All contributions from consumers including direct, individual advocacy, participation in Resident Councils, and sharing their experience receiving long-term care services are invaluable and at the core of our mission, vision, and advocacy efforts.



*Yvette Green, Consumer Voice Governing Board Member*

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*Brian Capshaw, Chairman of Consumer Voice Leadership Council, discussing his experience living in a nursing home during the White House Conference on Aging (WHCoA) listening session during the 2014 Consumer Voice Annual Conference seated with Kathy Greenlee, Administrator of the Administration for Community Living (ACL)/ Assistant Secretary for Aging (middle) and Nora Super, Executive Director of the WHCoA (right).*

Review some of the submissions we have received for the [2015 Resident's Voice Challenge](#) to hear consumers share why quality care matters to them in their own words. Visit our website for advocacy resources and information for long-term care [consumers](#), how to get involved by joining the [Action Network](#), and Consumer Voice [history](#).

You are invited to join us in celebrating 40 years of making quality care matter by signing this [e-card](#), sending a congratulatory message to [info@theconsumervoice.org](mailto:info@theconsumervoice.org), becoming a member, and/or supporting our current and future work with a contribution.

Like us on [Facebook](#), follow us on [Twitter](#) and visit our [40th Anniversary](#) webpage for additional information and opportunities to celebrate with us.

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The National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care - 1001 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Suite 425 - Washington, DC 20036 - telephone: (202) 332-2275 - fax: (202) 403-3473 - [info@theconsumervoice.org](mailto:info@theconsumervoice.org)