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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Consumer Voice Announces Winners of the 2017 Consumer Voice Leadership Awards

Washington, DC, November 16 – The National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care (Consumer Voice) recognizes people who have demonstrated an exceptional commitment to improving the lives of long-term care consumers. Individual and group members of the Consumer Voice nominate people for the awards and the nominations are reviewed by the Leadership Award Selection Committee. The Leadership Awards were presented during the 41st Annual Consumer Voice Conference in Arlington, Virginia.

Consumer Voice executive director Lori Smetanka made the following statement about the awards:

"Consumer Voice is fortunate to honor this year's award winners, a tremendous group of advocates who have made an important difference in the lives of so many residents. The strength of their conviction and efforts to promote quality care, quality of life, and empowerment of residents is something we can all aspire to replicate."

This year's winners are:

Janet Tulloch Memorial Advocacy Award- This award was established in 2000 after the death of Janet Tulloch, a nursing home resident, author, committed advocate and long-time member of the Consumer Voice's Board of Directors. It honors a citizen advocate, family caregiver, or long-term care consumer who has worked directly with and for consumers to improve the lives of long-term care consumers.

Winners: Thomas Fonseca, Citizen Advocate, Chairman of Board of Directors of The Fenwick Foundation

Howard Hinds Memorial Award- The Howard Hinds Award was established in 2005 in memory of the late Howard Hinds, a Tennessee District Long-Term Care Ombudsman. Howard was a true champion for residents and for the ombudsman program as well as a passionate advocate on national issues. The award honors an individual who has effectively advocated for long-term consumers on the local level.

Winners: Elaine Wilson, Local Long-Term Care Ombudsman, SOWEGA Council on Aging

Cernoria Johnson Memorial Advocacy Award- Cernoria McGowan Johnson (1909-1990) set up the national program of Nursing Home Ombudsmen in 1974. The award in her honor is presented to someone whose work has had national impact or is a model for national excellence and who exemplifies accomplishment in his or her chosen field.

Winner: Nancy Shaffer, Connecticut State Long-Term Care Ombudsman

Toby S. Edelman Legal Justice Award- This award was created in 2009 to honor those who, working through or with the legal system, go to extraordinary lengths to achieve justice for long-term care consumers. It is named in honor of Toby Edelman of the Center for Medicare Advocacy, whose work for more than 30 years has influenced and shaped long-term care law, policy and enforcement.

Winner: Erica Wood, Assistant Director, ABA Commission on Law & Aging, American Bar Association

Janet Wells Public Policy Leadership Award- The Consumer Voice's Public Policy Leadership Award recognizes an individual who has provided exemplary leadership in the public policy field in advancing quality of care and quality of life for residents receiving long-term care services. It is named in honor of longtime advocate and former Consumer Voice/NCCNHR Policy Director, Janet Wells.

Winner: Justice in Aging

Public Service Award

The Consumer Voice Public Service Award recognizes an individual or organization whose work has profoundly expanded coverage and public understanding of long-term care issues.

Winner: Melanie Hicken & Blake Ellis, Senior Writers, CNN Investigations

Elma Holder Founder's Award- Established in 2002 as a lifetime achievement award to honor a person whose life work exemplifies leadership in the field of long-term care reform, the award is also a tribute to Elma Holder, the Consumer Voice's founder and friend. Elma's personal commitment, integrity and vision shaped the organization and quality of care and life in long-term care.

Winner: Diane Menio, Executive Director, Center for the Advocacy for the Rights & Interests of the Elderly (CARIE)

Special Lifetime Advocacy Award - This award recognizes a special individual who has dedicated his or her life to advocating for quality care and quality of life for long-term care consumers. Individuals who receive this award are recognized for going above and beyond in their advocacy efforts and effecting change over the course of years. These individuals have often advocated at the local, state, and federal level in the face of personal hardship.

Winner: Judith Mangum, Consumer Advocate

We are extremely grateful for the members of our Governing Board and Leadership Council that volunteered to serve on the Leadership Award Selection Committee to review the numerous qualified nominees and select the award recipients. We extend our thanks to Iris Gonzalez, Jonathan Evans, Anne Montgomery, Darcy McMaughan Moudouni, and Kezia Scales.

For more information on the awardees, review the [2017 Consumer Voice program](#).

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About the Consumer Voice

The National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care was formed as the National Citizens' Coalition for Nursing Home Reform in 1975 to address public concern about substandard care in nursing homes. Today, the Consumer Voice is the leading national voice representing consumers on issues related to long-term care, helping to ensure that consumers are empowered to advocate for themselves.