

April 18, 2019

Acts of kindness, compassion and generosity happen every day in the 400 skilled nursing facilities that serve our frail elderly and disabled residents in Massachusetts, but we take time every year to celebrate our residents and staff for one week during National Skilled Nursing Care Week that begins on Mother's Day, May 12.

We celebrate the lives that our residents live, their history and their future. We celebrate the time spent by our staff with our residents, the nurses and aides who don't rush out after their shift is done because they are taking their personal time to finish a conversation or just listen to a resident who has had a tough day.

We honor our volunteers who have spent days and weeks and even years singing to our residents or reading to them, even though they are not their mother or their family. We honor those who honor our residents because they are living out their twilight years with purpose and dignity despite illnesses and frailty.

"We celebrate our residents and staff every day," said Massachusetts Senior Care Association President Tara Gregorio. "But we set aside one week every year when we can focus our attention on these extraordinary people who have lived these extraordinary lives and share their wisdom and strength with us."

The "Live Soulfully" theme for National Skilled Nursing Care Week also celebrates the diversity in nursing home care with more than a dozen different languages and cultures represented in our residents and staff. Massachusetts providers are encouraged to celebrate that diversity through music and dance and storytelling.

"We come from all corners of the world, but what we have in common is our humanity and the will to live meaningful lives," said Gregorio.

For more about National Skilled Nursing Care Week, go to "[https://www.ahcancal.org/events/national\\_skilled\\_nursing\\_care\\_week/Pages/default.aspx](https://www.ahcancal.org/events/national_skilled_nursing_care_week/Pages/default.aspx)