



CHARLIE CRIST
GOVERNOR

LONG-TERM CARE RESIDENTS' RIGHTS MONTH

WHEREAS, elders contribute invaluable resources, wisdom and experience to Florida's communities; and

WHEREAS, more than 160,000 older adults reside in Florida's long-term care facilities; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative to recognize the importance of federal and state mandated residents' rights, which protect the safety, dignity and independence of Florida's frailest elders and remind them that they have not been forgotten; and

WHEREAS, recognition is due to individuals who seek to improve the culture of aging through a commitment to education and empowerment, building upon the cornerstone of long-term care residents' rights; and

WHEREAS, we wish to honor the volunteer advocates known as "ombudsmen," who protect the health, safety, welfare and rights of long-term care residents and act as the voice of those who often cannot speak for themselves;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Charlie Crist, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend greetings and best wishes to all observing October 2009 as Long-Term Care Residents' Rights Month.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee, the Capitol, this 30th day of September, in the year two thousand nine.

Handwritten signature of Charlie Crist in blue ink.

Governor