

# Promoting excellence



**HCAM Legislative Update**  
**April 2010**

## **Thousands of positive actions and outcomes occur on a daily basis...today's nursing facility.**

Robert Plutchak served during WWII as a tail gunner in a B-25(Mitchell) Bomber flying out of Corsica off from Italy in the Mediterranean. On May 28, 1944 his plane sustained damages while on a bombing mission over Italy. All crew members bailed out and successfully landed in the mountains of Italy. He managed to join up with some other crew members while on the ground. Bob was behind enemy lines for four and one-half months prior to successfully crossing the front lines and joining back up with American forces. He served the rest of the war as an observer on other aircraft.

During 2009, Bob's daughter was successful in getting Senator John Kerry to have all of Bob's United States Army Air Corps awards and medals reissued to him as Bob had misplaced them over the years. Bob recently received an American Flag that Senator Kerry arranged to have flown over the White House on Feb. 15, in honor of Bob's 86th birthday celebration. Bob asked Roubal Care and Rehab Center if they would fly the flag on the facility flag pole which would give him a chance to see it blow in the wind.

Roubal had a gathering by the flag pole to raise Bob's flag. At a ceremony in front of numerous staff and residents, the administrator, William Rasner explained the reason everyone was there and about Bob's exploits. Rasner helped him attach the flag to the lanyard and hoisted it into a stiff breeze.

Bob gave an impromptu speech with some of the following dialogue, he said, "I am proud of this country, and feel honored to have fought for it," and went on, "I would like to thank all of those that stayed behind and kept up the homes, families, and took care of the financial problems," "and they even had to shovel the snow" which brought out a laugh. He went on to talk about what this country meant to him and the sacrifices that were made.

When he was done there was not a dry eye in the crowd. It was a very special day for all who attended.



*- Another story continued on back!*

**At Imperial Healthcare Centre two staff members made an enormous difference in the lives of one very special family.**

About two months ago, Imperial accepted a patient, Josephine Bourgeois, who has dementia, was living in a hotel for the past ten years, had a post office box as her address and had no family member, nor legal guardian. She lost all contact with her three children, all of whom assumed their mother had passed away. Prudence McKenzie-Major, Director of Social Work and Rita Taylor from the business office, just had "the feeling" that maybe they could find someone who was related to Josephine.

Prudence and Rita decided to investigate. After searching the Internet for more than a month, Prudence located a phone number for Josephine's ex-son-in-law, who gave her a phone number for Josephine's daughter, Darlene, in Massachusetts. She also learned Josephine has other family members living in California. After an exhausting and very long search for many years, including the efforts of a private detective, her children were unsuccessful in locating their mother. Therefore, her children lived with the belief their mother had passed away!

Prudence and Rita contacted them and informed them Josephine was alive and well. While Darlene spoke on the phone daily with her mother, the staff at Imperial recognized Josephine's renewed will to live and her sudden interest to participate in therapy on a daily basis. As a result, she began to build up her strength and she even began to make weekly hair appointments.

Eventually, Darlene made arrangements to reunite with her mother. The day she finally came to Michigan and made her way to her mother's bedside, was a moment neither one of them can express in words!

When Darlene left our facility and flew out of Michigan, she left with the greatest gift anyone could have ever given to her, she left with her mother!

**HCAM CONTACT**

Please contact Melissa Samuel, Vice President of Government Services, at (517) 627-1561 if you have questions about HCAM's position on pending legislation or would like to work together to help Michigan's senior population.