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September 25, 2017

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Commissioners Proclaim Long-Term Care Residents' Rights Month in County

Cumberland County, PA – The Cumberland County Commissioners proclaimed October as Long-Term Care Residents' Rights Month during their public meeting today. Residents' Rights Month is an annual event sponsored by the National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care (The Consumer Voice).

The theme for Residents' Rights Month 2017 is, "**It's All About Me: My Life, My Care, My Choices,**" with the goal of emphasizing the respect and dignity of every resident.

"We want to recognize and bring to light that every resident has the right to choose their own schedule, be an active partner in their care and be treated as an individual who is valued by the community, regardless if they live at home or in a long-term care facility," said Bob Ritter, administrator of Claremont Nursing and Rehabilitation Center.

"Many residents of long term care are not aware of their rights especially in regard to individual choice and care issues. Residents' Rights Month is a time for staff, families, ombudsmen, residents and other advocates to focus on resident-directed care and emphasize the self-determination, choice and quality of life of each resident," said Sandy Gurreri, director of Cumberland County's Aging and Community Service.

The Nursing Home Reform Law, passed in 1987, guarantees nursing home residents their individual rights, including but not limited to: individualized care, respect, dignity, the right to visitation, the right to privacy, the right to complain and the right to make independent choices.

Residents' Rights Month raises awareness about these rights and pays tribute to the unique contributions of long-term residents.

For more information on the long-term services available to Cumberland County residents, visit our website at www.ccpa.net.

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