



For Immediate Release
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Maryruth Butler Named 2017 Champion of Quality Award Recipient

*Kindred Executive Director honored for outstanding contributions to quality
improvement*

Washington, D.C. — The American Health Care Association and National Center for Assisted Living (AHCA/NCAL) announced Maryruth Butler, MBA, NHA, RCA, as the 2017 recipient of the Mary K. Ousley Champion of Quality Award for her national impact on quality in long term and post-acute care.

Since 2001, Butler has served as the Executive Director of Kindred Nursing and Rehabilitation-Mountain Valley in Kellogg, Idaho, which provides skilled nursing and rehabilitation care for patients and residents. Under Butler's leadership, Mountain Valley has been recognized with numerous achievements. Through AHCA/NCAL's National Quality Award Program, the center achieved three progressive levels of awards – Bronze, Silver, and Gold – in 2005, 2007, and 2011, respectively. In 2016, Mountain Valley was the first nursing center to receive the prestigious [Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award](#), the nation's highest Presidential honor for sustainable excellence. For eight consecutive years, the center has also achieved an overall five-star rating, the highest possible rating through CMS' Five-Star Quality Rating System.

“Maryruth's unwavering commitment to quality is unparalleled,” said Mary Ousley, AHCA/NCAL Quality Cabinet Co-Chair and namesake of the award. “Her sustained efforts have consistently resulted in delivery of outstanding care for those in her center and surrounding community. I am proud to recognize her this year as a trailblazer and champion of quality.”

“Now more than ever we need leaders who are as innovative and visionary as Maryruth,” said Dr. David Gifford, AHCA Senior Vice President of Quality & Regulatory Affairs. “The results she has achieved over the years are examples of what can be possible for everyone inside and outside of our profession nationwide.”

As a licensed Residential Care Administrator, Butler currently teaches a Residential Care/Assisted Living Administrator course through the Idaho Health Care Association, and conducts presentations across the country on topics such as the Baldrige Performance Excellence Framework and quality improvement.

AHCA/NCAL presents the Mary K. Ousley Champion of Quality Award to an individual or organization that has made a significant national contribution to advancing quality performance in the long term care field. Recipients must consistently advocate for quality approaches and demonstrate the ability to educate and advocate for a system's approach to quality improvement. Recipients also display leadership in the development, promotion, and implementation of quality improvement initiatives that have resulted in measurable improvements in the quality of care and quality of life for individuals in long term care.

In 2011, the Friend of Quality Award was renamed the Mary K. Ousley Champion of Quality Award to honor the ongoing legacy and commitment to quality care demonstrated by its namesake, Mary Ousley, a licensed nursing center administrator and nurse who has dedicated her life to quality improvement programs in long term care.

Butler will be presented with the award at AHCA/NCAL's 68th Annual Convention and Expo in Las Vegas, Nevada, October 15-18, 2017.

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ABOUT AHCA/NCAL

The American Health Care Association and National Center for Assisted Living (AHCA/NCAL) represents more than 13,000 non-profit and proprietary skilled nursing centers, assisted living communities, sub-acute centers and homes for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. By delivering solutions for quality care, AHCA/NCAL aims to improve the lives of the millions of frail, elderly and individuals with disabilities who receive long term or post-acute care in our member facilities each day. For more information, please visit www.ahca.org or www.ncal.org.