



Proclamation

Whereas, the citizens of the Empire State recognize the importance of providing proper care for all of our citizens, including the nearly 170,000 long term care residents currently living in more than 3,000 long term care facilities in New York State; and

Whereas, the New York State Long Term Care Ombudsman Program, encompassing more than 1,000 volunteers and paid staff, serves as an advocate for residents of long term care facilities and their families; and

Whereas, during 2003, Ombudsman staff and volunteers addressed more than 22,000 complaints and closed more than 18,000 cases; and

Whereas, the federal Nursing Home Reform Act of 1987 guarantees residents their individual rights in order to promote and maintain their dignity and autonomy; and

Whereas, all residents should be aware of their rights so they may be empowered to live with dignity and self-determination; and

Whereas, we wish to honor and celebrate these citizens, to recognize their individuality and to reaffirm their rights as community members and citizens; and

Whereas, individuals and groups across the country seek to emphasize the importance of affirming these rights through facility practices, public policy, and resident-centered decision-making that impacts quality of care and quality of life for many New Yorkers;

Now, Therefore, I, George E. Pataki, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim October 3-9, 2004 as

LONG TERM CARE RESIDENTS' RIGHTS WEEK

in the Empire State.



John P. Cahill
Secretary to the Governor

Witness under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State
at the Capitol in the City of Albany this fourth day
of October in the year two thousand four.

George E. Pataki
Governor