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**FORTY-TWO LOUISIANA FACILITIES NAMED AMERICA'S
"BEST NURSING HOMES" BY U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT**

Top-ranked skilled nursing facilities on the rise in Louisiana

(Baton Rouge – February 26, 2014) On Wednesday, February 26, the Louisiana Nursing Home Association (LNHA) praised a select group of local, long term and post-acute care providers for being named among the country's "Best Nursing Homes" by *U.S. News & World Report*. The annual announcement reflects a growth in "Best Nursing Homes," from 19 to 42 in Louisiana compared to 2013, a 121 percent increase.

"Louisiana is fortunate to have these 42 skilled nursing facilities which have demonstrated an exceptional commitment to their residents," said Joseph Donchess, Executive Director of LNHA. "Behind the increasing number of 'Best Nursing Homes' are improvements in clinical care and nurses spending more time with residents, all of which means a better quality of life for Louisiana's seniors and individuals with disabilities."

U.S. News determines its annual rankings through data collected from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). The federal agency assigns each nursing center certified by the government a rating of one to five stars through its Five-Star Rating System. *U.S. News* names all those with a five-star rating a "Best Nursing Home." For more information on how the rankings are determined, please visit: <http://health.usnews.com/best-nursing-homes>.

To view a list of the Louisiana facilities which achieved an exceptional five-star rating overall, please visit: <http://health.usnews.com/best-nursing-homes/area/la>.

While the "Best Nursing Homes" of 2014 celebrates those nursing facilities which have earned a five-star ranking by the federal government, LNHA reminds consumers that rankings are not a precise indicator of whether a center is right for an individual needing care.

"Our loved ones' care is too important to leave to a search on the internet," continued Donchess. "Nursing facilities across Louisiana are providing excellent care, and you can see it when you walk through the doors. Visiting a nursing facility is really the best way to decide the appropriate fit for each individual requiring long term or post-acute care."

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ABOUT LNHA

Louisiana Nursing Home Association is a non-profit federation representing more than 250 non-profit and for-profit nursing facilities and assisted living communities that care for approximately 30,000 elderly and disabled individuals each day. For more information on LNHA, visit our website at www.lnha.org.