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## **Hoffman SummerWood Community is Forever Proud**

**West Hartford, CT - September 14, 2011** – Hoffman SummerWood Community observed *National Assisted Living Week* in a big way. This year's theme of "*Forever Proud*," was poignant as the week began on September 11<sup>th</sup>. According to the National Center for Assisted Living (NCAL) the "*Forever Proud*" theme was meant to "address the pride one has in work well done, family, friends, community and especially the pride we feel as American citizens." SummerWood also decided to observe the community's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary and incorporate all three occasions into one event.

The day began with musical entertainment by Robert J. McArthur, a well known celebrity impersonator from New York. Mr. McArthur appeared as "Elvis" and performed his famous patriotic trilogy as well as other tunes. Bonnie Gauthier, President and CEO of Hebrew Health Care welcomed residents and guests. The "*Decade of Pride*" portion of the program was presented by Joan Carney, Executive Director of SummerWood. Ten residents, each representing a year from 2001 to 2010, accompanied by an employee from the same year, stepped to the podium to share their thoughts of what they were most proud.

In commemoration of the events of September 11, 2001, the poem, "*We Remember Them*," was recited as a somber bell was sounded. Among the attending dignitaries and honored guests was West Hartford Mayor, Scott Slifka who spoke and led in the singing of "*God Bless America*." Brad M. Hutensky, Chairman of Hebrew Life Choices Board of Trustees ended the program with words of patriotism, pride and community.

Ten "*Decade of Pride*" exhibits, showcasing various SummerWood occasions, with photographs of residents, past and present, along with sentimental items depicting the community's rich ten year history, were placed in the lobby for viewing. After a barbeque feast, "Elvis" returned for a final set of music to which residents, family members, guests and staff danced and sang along in the spirit of patriotism and pride.

Hoffman SummerWood Community is a national award-winning assisted living community located at 160 Simsbury Road in West Hartford, CT, and is an affiliate of Hebrew Health Care. For more information about SummerWood please call 860-523-3808 or visit their website at [www.hoffmansummerwood.org](http://www.hoffmansummerwood.org).