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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Presentation of the The C. Colburn Hardy Older Advocate Award:

Recognizing Volunteers Making a Difference in the Lives of Older Americans

On April 22, Mrs. Linda Rubens, RN of Mt. Carmel Gardens, Jacksonville, will be presented the 11th C. Colburn Hardy Older Advocate Award at a Department of Elder Affairs Volunteer Recognition event to be held at the Sarasota Hyatt.

The C. Colburn Hardy Older Advocate Award is presented to an individual who has consistently made significant contributions statewide to policies, programs and services for older Americans. For the past ten years, an outstanding senior citizen residing year-round in the state of Florida has received The C. Colburn Hardy Older Advocate Award for volunteer efforts demonstrating vision, advocacy and leadership regarding the future of the growing aging population in the state of Florida. The award recognizes an individual who practices the values articulated by C. Colburn Hardy, a former professional community and statewide advocate for seniors, when he wrote: “Hopefully, some of the projects in which I was involved helped to make the world a better place in which to work, to live, to love and to have our being.”

Mrs. Rubens, Executive Director of Mt. Carmel Gardens, is currently Vice Chair of the Florida Statewide Advocacy Council, where she focuses on persons with disabilities, is also well known in the Jacksonville area for her efforts to expand affordable assisted living communities, promote blending of housing and services for lower-income seniors, and work with business and community leaders to ensure safe neighborhoods and quality health care facilities.

The C. Colburn Hardy Older Advocate Award

April 19, 2010

Page 2 of 2

The award is presented by Dorcas R. Hardy, Colburn's daughter, and former U.S. Commissioner of Social Security. The Selection Committee is comprised of Ms. Hardy, Carole Green, former Secretary of Florida Department of Elder Affairs, John Stokesberry, former awardee and CEO of Alliance for Aging, Miami; Cathy deHeron formerly CEO of Palm Beach/Treasure Coast Area Agency on Aging.

For more information about C. Colburn Hardy, award criteria, nomination forms, contact information, and award presentation, please visit www.ccolburnhardyolderadvocateaward.com or www.CCHOAA.com

Past winners include: Bill Humphrey, leader of the IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (2007); Austin Curry, Senate President of the Florida Silver Haired Legislature (2006); John Stokesberry, former Executive Director, Alliance for Aging, Miami (2005); Norman Bungard, Florida Silver Haired Legislator (2004); Stanley P. Godleski, Ed.D., Trustee Emeritus, Hospice of Southwest Florida (2003); Willis N. Murray, Advocacy and Education Specialist at the Alliance for Aging (2002); Jose Colon, SHINE Area Coordinator for Central Florida (2001); William E. Hale, M.D., Director Emeritus of the Florida Geriatric Research Program of Morton Plant Mease Health Care (2000); and E. Bentley Lipscomb, Executive Director, Florida AARP (1999).