

Martha Deaver began her work as an advocate for the rights of nursing home residents in the late 1980's when her grandmother was a resident of an Arkansas nursing home. She joined The Arkansas Advocates for Nursing Home Residents in 1998 and became a member of the board of directors in 2001. In January of 2008 Martha was elected President of The Arkansas Advocates for Nursing Home Residents. Martha's mother and mother-in-law were victims of nursing home abuse.

In 2005 Martha Deaver was honored by National Citizens Coalition for Nursing Home Reform (NCCNHR) for her long-term commitment to protect the rights of nursing home residents. She was presented with the Janet Tulloch Memorial Award in Washington, DC. Governor Mike Beebe wrote a letter of recommendation for the award.

In June, 2000, Martha Deaver's nursing home abuse story was the first story to appear on the consumer website, [www.safetyforum.com](http://www.safetyforum.com), where it remains today as the lead story.

In June, 2006, Martha Deaver's tragic experiences with two Arkansas nursing homes was featured in "Ladies Home Journal" in a report titled, "It Broke My Heart That I Couldn't Protect My Mom." The journalist of this report, Michael J. Weiss, won a journalism award in Washington, DC from "The National Coalition for Nursing Home Reform" after the report was published.

Martha Deaver has worked with the Government Accountability Office by providing information and data to assist in the production of several GAO reports. After supplying numerous complaint surveys to the GAO, Martha was asked to be the spokes person for the announcement of complaint survey data being added to the government nursing home compare web-sight.

Martha Deaver worked for three years supplying information and data to Trudy Leiberman, the director of the Consumer Union dealing with health issues for Consumer Reports. After the three years, Martha hosted Trudy in Arkansas for one week while traveling the state to meet with nursing home owners, nursing home residents and their families, reporters, long-term care agency directors, and the Arkansas Attorney General. This culminated in one of Consumer Reports most in-depth outlooks on America's Nursing homes that was released in 2006. The article was titled, "The Crisis in America's Nursing Homes."

Martha Deaver was recognized by the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, the state's largest newspaper as, "a vocal crusader for the state's nursing home residents."

Martha Deaver has worked with numerous newspapers, radio and television stations, specifically dealing in television news stories about abuse and neglect in nursing homes all across the state of Arkansas.

Martha Deaver worked at the state capitol in Little Rock testifying against the nursing home industry's attempt to pass a tort reform bill specific to nursing homes and continues to speak for the rights of nursing home residents in every Arkansas legislative session.

Martha Deaver has received numerous awards for outstanding support of the Arkansas Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program.

Martha Deaver represents AANHR as a strong member of the Advancing Excellence Coalition and serves with many other coalitions in dealing with long-term care issues in Arkansas.

Martha Deaver created the first program in recognition of National Residents Rights Week in Arkansas, and has chaired each of the events for the past five years. It is held at the State Capitol every October. The governor signs a special proclamation recognizing this event.

Martha Deaver created AANHR's first National Nursing Assistant Recognition Awards Banquet recognizing CNA's from across the state. Martha has chaired each of the events for the past five years. The governor signs a special proclamation recognizing this event.

Martha Deaver has been publically recognized by the Arkansas Governor, The Honorable Mike Beebe. Governor Beebe states, "I have long been impressed with her determination to speak for those who, too often, have no voice to speak for themselves. She is an advocate in the best sense of the word, tirelessly supporting and defending others. Martha Deaver is devoted to making a lasting contribution through countless hours to educate the public and residents so they may be empowered to live with dignity and self-determination. Her high standards will make Arkansas better for future generations."

Martha Deaver works to file complaints on behalf of family members and residents by supplying data and information to the state regulatory agency and the attorney general's office pertaining to nursing home abuse.

Martha Deaver has spoken at, and helped form, numerous Family Counsels across the state of Arkansas.

Martha Deaver was honored to be reappointed by Governor Mike Beebe, to a second three year term on the Governor's Long Term Care Facility Advisory Board.

Martha Deaver is the recipient of the FBI 2010 Community Leadership Award.

**WWW.AANHR.ORG**