

Pelican Valley Senior Living Names Caregiver of the Year

February 16, 2018

Pelican Valley Senior Living is recognizing one of its employees for being the Caregiver of the Year. As part of Pelican Valley's annual employee appreciation party, employees submit nominations on their coworkers who go above and beyond to provide outstanding care for residents and tenants. In all, 13 staff members were nominated by their coworkers.

This year's recipient was Resident Assistant David Perez. Perez has worked at Riverfront Manor's memory care community since 2015. "David was such an obvious choice for us, I get phone calls from people I've never met before that just wanted me to know what a great job David does," said Executive Director Barbara Axness. "I hear things all the time about how caring he is, what a great job he does and how much they appreciate having him as a caregiver." David is one of only a few men who work at Pelican Valley but he has made a lasting impression with those who cross paths with him. "David is quiet, soft-spoken, gentle and kind, yet, his presence is always known," said Director of Nursing Services Jessie Chenze. "He makes people smile anywhere he goes. He takes time every day to ensure that every resident in memory care feels special and important."

The Caregiver of the Year award is in its third year. The award came about as a way to honor and remember a coworker, Jamie Fox. Jamie had worked as a CNA at Pelican Valley for a number of years and was known for her bright, outgoing personality and unwavering dedication to providing great care to her residents. Jamie passed away a few weeks before Christmas in 2014 after a tragic accident where she froze to death outside some storage sheds off Highway 59. "It just seemed like the perfect way for us to keep her memory alive and honor our staff who go above and beyond for our residents and tenants," said Axness. "Jamie is unforgettable and this award really captures her spirit and spunk. Picking a winner each year is getting harder and harder because we truly have the best team of caregivers in the business."



Pictured: Director of Nursing Services for Assisted Living Jessie Chenze, David Perez, and Board Chairman Rich Bratlien

Nominees for this year's award were:

- 🌸 Chelsey Aasness, RN
- 🌸 BreeAnna Anderson, CNA
- 🌸 Carlie Burton, RA
- 🌸 Leah Deschene, CNA
- 🌸 Olga Diaz, CNA
- 🌸 Renee Evenson, Housing Coordinator
- 🌸 Michelle Falk, RN
- 🌸 Angie Getz, Community Life Coordinator
- 🌸 Karin Haugrud, Activities Coordinator
- 🌸 Kaija Hockett, CNA
- 🌸 Anna Ostermann, RN
- 🌸 Aldina Saljevic, Dietary Aide

Past recipients are:

2015: Sydney Marty, CNA

2016: Rae Holte, Resident Assistant

2017: David Perez, Resident Assistant

Pelican Valley also recognized milestone years of service awards. This year's employees are:

35 YEARS

Ellen Haugrud, Laundry

30 YEARS

Mary Soland, LPN

10 YEARS

Wanda Dempsey, Dietary Aide

Alene Kenny, Lead Housekeeper

Roger Stephenson, Maintenance Assistant

5 YEARS

Barbara Axness, Executive Director

Claudia Rodriguez, RA

3 YEARS

Sandy Anderson, Dietary Aide, Cook

Kyle Cox, RA

Beth Davis, LPN

Chandra Eaton, Director of Nursing

Vicki Emery, Cook

Renee Evenson, Housing Coordinator

Sahro Hassan, CNA

Natalie Hilber, RN

Alexis Marty, CNA

Kara Oakes, Dietitian, Dining Services Director

Karen Saba, RN