

INSPECTIONS & APPEALS

CHESTER J. CULVER
GOVERNOR

DEAN A. LERNER, DIRECTOR

PATTY JUDGE
LT. GOVERNOR

June 10, 2009

Jennifer Smith, Administrator
Garnett Place Retirement Community
202 35th Street Dr. SE
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52403-1353

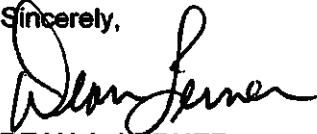
Dear Ms. Smith:

Let me take a moment to congratulate you and your program staff for the violation-free monitoring visit on June 2, 2009. Caring for the health, safety, and welfare of Iowa's senior citizens is a paramount concern to all of us, whether regulator or provider. We appreciate the efforts of you and your staff in meeting the requirements of established rules and regulations governing assisted living programs operating in the State of Iowa.

As part of our continuous improvement process, it is important to recognize those programs where the provision of care and service meets or exceeds expectations. We are hopeful that your program will continue to provide the same level of care and service in the years to come.

Please share this letter and the accompanying Certificate of Recognition with your staff and tenants as it represents quite an accomplishment for your program. Again, congratulations on your recent violation-free monitoring visit. Best wishes for continued success in serving the needs of our elderly citizens.

Sincerely,



DEAN A. LERNER
Director

Enclosure

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U.S. Navy veteran Steven Nielsen, 54, hugs his mother, Neva Nielsen, 86, during a surprise visit to Garnett Place Retirement Community in southeast Cedar Rapids this morning, Thursday, Oct. 16, 2008. Steven Nielsen had been stationed in Iraq and hadn't seen his parents for 14 months. (Jeff Raasch/The Gazette)

Eastern Iowa Woman gets Surprise Visitor...

By Mark Geary, Reporter

Story Created: Oct 16, 2008 at 3:21 PM CST

CEDAR RAPIDS - An eastern Iowa woman figured Thursday would be just like any other day at Garnett Place Retirement Community. But, an unexpected visitor changed everything.

Neva Nielsen thought she was just going to grab some lunch like she always does. Then she saw him. Her son, Steven Nielsen, had come home from serving in Iraq to surprise her.

"This is my favorite son. You know why? He's my only son," said Neva Nielsen.

Moments later, Neva's friends at Garnett Place sang a welcome home song to greet their guest.

"I'm not part of the family or anything, but it still hits you in the heart," said Rita Banke, friend.

Steven couldn't have been happier to be there. He's been overseas for a long time.

"Feels good. It's a lot less dusty and a lot cooler," said Steven Nielsen, Navy Petty Officer First Class.

"It's a shock. A wonderful shock," said Neva Nielsen.

Despite all the excitement, one person was missing: Steven's father. He left for the VA hospital to renew his driver's license earlier in the day and missed the big moment.

"He's going to be thrilled and very excited. Luckily, we have this on video, so he can experience this when he does come home," said Jen Smith, Garnett Place director.

Steven's dad's birthday is Friday, so he'll have another chance to celebrate soon, at least that's the plan.

"Hopefully, he'll be here for his birthday and he won't be at the VA or someplace else again. We'll have to let the air out of his tires tonight," said Steven Nielsen.

Steven Nielsen will spend the rest of the week here in Iowa with his parents. Then, he'll head to Utah to see the rest of his family.