

Marquis Companies operates skilled nursing, assisted living, and home health care. We approach senior care differently, we believe a person shouldn't be defined by their age or medical condition. We believe you can still fulfill dreams.

## 5 STAR 1 ARTICLE CONTINUED

Following are a few elements of The Five-Star Rating System that are important for consumers to understand:

- The rating system provides an opportunity for facilities to dialogue and track the quality of care and documentation accuracy as it relates to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid's specified quality measures.
- It helps facilities measure themselves against other like facilities in its state.
- Lower stars on The Five-star Rating System does not equate to lower care. This system could appear to consumers as similar to the rating system for hotels and restaurants, however it is very different. The difference lies in the fact that these facilities are often serving critically ill individuals. The health of which will decline

**"This system serves as a great starting point for consumers making long-term care decisions."**

Phil Fogg, Jr., president and CEO  
of Marquis Companies

despite stellar care and services because of a disease or aging process, regardless of the amount of facility intervention provided.

- This system is only one of many tools that consumers can use when considering where to place a loved one. Though it is a starting place, it is not all inclusive and only touches on elements that are documented.

It does not reflect the heart and soul of countless caregivers who work tirelessly everyday to provide quality care to the individuals that they serve.

**For more information about The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid and the Five-Star Quality Rating System, visit <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/>.**



MEL  
SCHWASINGER

WWII  
TOP TURRET GUNNER

TOP GUN  
A HERO'S WELCOME



# 5 STAR

PATTI GARIBALDI, RN, BA, RAC-CT

DIRECTOR OF CLINICAL CONSULTING, CONSONUS HEALTHCARE

THE CENTERS FOR MEDICARE AND MEDICAID CREATED A RANKING SYSTEM, CALLED THE FIVE-STAR QUALITY RATING SYSTEM, TO HELP CONSUMERS MAKE THESE DIFFICULT DECISIONS. THE FIVE-STAR QUALITY RATING SYSTEM IS THE FIRST TOOL THAT MARQUIS HAS SEEN THAT ESTABLISHES A PLAYING FIELD AND SERVES AS A GREAT RESOURCE TO AIDE CONSUMERS DURING THEIR DECISION MAKING PROCESS.

"Most families are faced with this important decision with a very steep learning curve and very little time to research and make a decision that could impact their loved one's quality of life," said Phil Fogg, Jr., president and CEO of Marquis Companies. "This system serves as a great starting point for consumers making long-term care decisions."

The Five-Star Quality Rating System is one more resource for families, but it shouldn't be the only decision-making factor. As with any big decision, families should make this one based on a variety of criteria such as in-person visits to the facility, observing the quality of staff at the facility. They should ask questions such as what are the facility's qualifications, turnover rate, attitude, professionalism, customer service standards and resident family and friend feedback.

According to The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid, "The Five-Star Quality Rating System is not a substitute for visiting [a facility]. This system can give you important information, help you compare nursing homes by topics you consider most important, and help you think of questions to ask when you visit the [facility]."

The Five-Star Quality Rating System was created to help consumers, their families and caregivers navigate the long-term care industry by comparing nursing facilities. This rating system is based on continued efforts as a result of the Omnibus Reconciliation Act

of 1987 (OBRA '87), a nursing home reform law, and more recent quality improvement campaigns such as the Advancing Excellence in America's Nursing Homes, a coalition of consumers, health care providers, and nursing home professionals.

The ranking is a direct result of an evaluation conducted that takes three factors into account including State Health Inspections, Quality Measures and Staffing.

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Patti Garibaldi has been passionately involved in Long-Term Care for over thirty-five years. She has served on multiple committees to affect change in policy development in the Long Term Care industry. She has been a requested presenter for educational programs and organizations in multiple states and Internationally for many years. She has received numerous awards over the years for her contribution to the Long Term Care Industry and now Patti is available to bring her expertise to all your clinical needs. Patti is available to speak on the 5 Star System, give her a call at 503.702.2177 to find out more information.

**Patti Garibaldi,**  
RN, BA, RAC-CT  
Dir. of Clinical Consulting,  
Consonus Healthcare



VITAL LIFE FOUNDATION EVENT

## A HERO'S WELCOME

*Mel Schwasinger, was a top turret gunner on a B-17 during WWII.*

MEL SCHWASINGER | AGE 92

**M**EL LAST RODE IN A B-17 BOMBER ON JAN. 11TH, 1944. His plane, the "Luscious Duchess" was shot down, and Mel would spend the next 16 months as a POW.

While visiting the local Air Museum, Mel voiced his wish to go back up in a B-17. On May 16th, 2009, Mel once again climbed aboard a B-17. Of course, he was late getting to the airport because he had to stop and tell everyone at Marquis Care at Shaw Mountain, his home, that he was going flying! Mel was the first to board the plane and the look on his face was priceless. He took his seat across from the waist gunner position and readied himself for the flight. Other passengers on the plane that day remarked

how having Mel aboard was an emotional experience for them. At the end of the day, Mel ran into a man who was also on a B-17 crew, same airbase in England at the same time, and both were "Top Turret Gunners." It was a wonderful end to a wonderful day.

