

Woman named Unsung Hero

By Shannon Maynard

For the Citizen Patriot

Linda Stephens has worked for Chelsea Retirement Community for 18 years.

The Pleasant Lake resident enjoys her job, likes the residents and works hard. Those attributes are some of the reasons Stephens was recently honored with the 2007 Unsung Hero Award from the Michigan Association of Homes and Services for the Aging.

Co-worker Bev Burgett nominated Stephens.

“(Linda) does so much behind the scenes that people aren’t aware of,” Burgett said. “She does things on her own time, which helps her to stand out within the community. She’s always willing to go out

How to nominate

Wednesday Spotlight, which appears weekly, focuses on people who serve — their Jackson-area community as volunteers, their country in the military service (past or present) or their world for the greater good, such as current or former residents who are making a difference. To nominate someone, contact Assistant Metro Editor Sara Scott at 768-4983 or at sscott@citpat.com.

of her way to help people.”

Stephens, 58, started as an aide. After two years, a job became available in inventory control. The new role was a good fit and Stephens has worked there since.

“Every day you learn something new from (the residents),” she said. “If you want to get an everyday model on how to live, here you have liv-

ing examples.”

Through her position, Stephens has also had the opportunity to work with special-education students from Chelsea High School.

Working alongside Stephens and other employees, the students learn to interact with the staff and residents. Stephens says it is a special part of her job.

In addition to working with the students, Stephens’ main responsibilities include pricing, ordering, unloading and billing stock that comes into the community.

Throughout her time with the retirement community, Stephens says she has become a happier person.

“I’m contented because I get so much from work. It’s a job that gives so much back to you so you can feel good about yourself.”

Stephens is grateful to have the opportunity to serve those who live at Chelsea Retirement Community.

“It’s the greatest generation we’re caring for,” she said. “They don’t come here to age. They come here to live; it’s remarkable.”