

»»» QUARTERLY ISSUE «««

THE COMMUNICATOR

ARMED FORCES RETIREMENT HOME



A PREMIER RETIREMENT COMMUNITY FOR OUR NATION'S VETERANS

AGENCY NEWS

»»» SHERIDAN RENOVATION

Mr. John RisCassi, Chief Operating Officer, signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the General Services Agency (GSA) this week for the Washington Campus' Sheridan building renovation. The MOU begins the bidding process for construction services procurement and we estimate 6 months to completion of this contracting phase. Assuming no major delays, the renovation will break ground in early May.

ALL ABOARD «««

ADMISSIONS UPDATES

Thanks to a joint effort between both campus and the Public Affairs office, both campuses are reaching occupancy. The Washington campus is officially on a waitlist pending the finalization of the Sheridan renovation project. The Gulfport campus is on a waitlist for couples only, but may move to a waitlist for individuals by the end of the calendar year. Amazing turnaround by our Admissions teams!

DC CAMPUS

»»» FROM THE RAC, HILARY ROSADO

“Hurry up and wait” is a phrase with which many veterans are familiar. The Admissions Officer, with the RAC’s support, worked diligently to devise an effective plan to assign and move Residents to temporary rooms on the southern two wings of the Sheridan Building in preparation for the start of next year’s major renovation project. The initial pressure to prepare has subsided somewhat and now we are waiting while rooms are prepared for occupancy and a moving company contracted to move our older Residents. We’re currently waiting for the final group of new admissions to arrive, and become part of our unique community. While we will be living beside a construction zone for the next few years, I am confident that we, Residents, can wait this one out together.

»»» MEET THE NEW OMBUDSMAN

Dion Dupree is a retired Navy Command Master Chief and native Washingtonian, growing up in SE DC. He was introduced to the AFRH while he was stationed in Mississippi and volunteered at the Gulfport campus prior to Hurricane Katrina. He loves the outdoors and riding his motorcycle when weather permits. Honored to be a part of our care team, Dion stated he “genuinely believes there isn’t anything we can’t figure out together.” Please provide him a warm welcome to the AFRH!



»»» COMMITMENT TO QUALITY

We’re excited to announce the start of a new dietary program, MenuCalc, which will allow residents to calculate the nutritional content of the food items served in the Dining Hall. Many residents asked for a program that would help with self-monitoring special diets and making wholesome food choices. Campus dietitians and the dining staff are now working together to upload information on all food options offered to Residents throughout the day.

GP CAMPUS

FROM THE RAC, DIANA DOPP <<<

I hope this finds everyone happy, healthy, and wise! Many changes are going on; the format of the Communicator is looking forward as more informational to residents and respective residents. Our administrator, Mr. Eads, has retired and we all wish him Fair Winds and Following Seas. Ms. Debra Joiner is our interim Administrator; let us give her our support!

Looking forward, our open house on 9 November is a go. We have not had a full open house since before COVID, so it should be a blast! We have so many talented residents and this is a great way to show them off, as well as show off our home.

The best part of my position is meeting more residents that have not crossed my path. So please, stop by and say hi. You are my very large family and I love it! Let us keep working together to make this a friendlier, happier home!



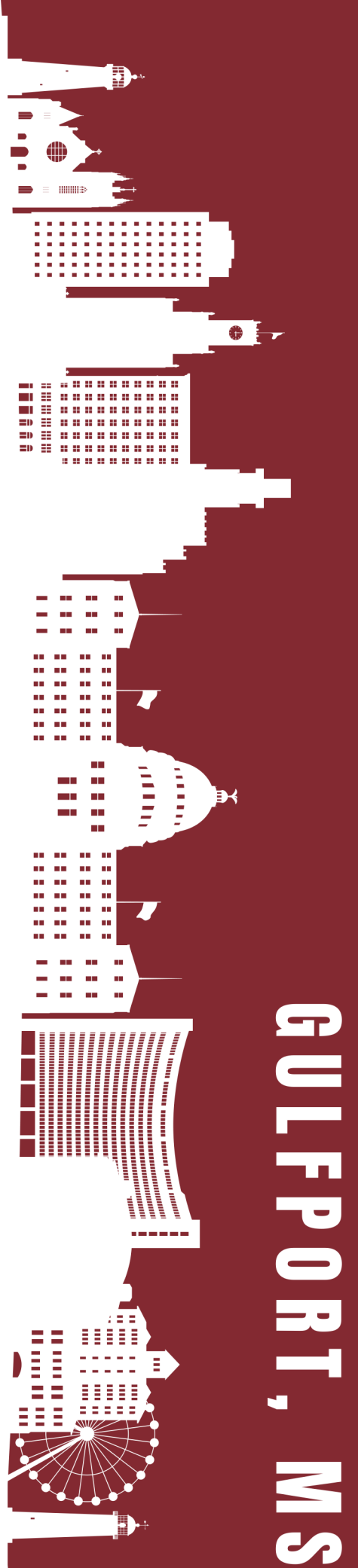
POLICE CHIEF VISIT <<<

July 6, 2023, Gulfport Chief of Police Adam Cooper, along with some of the department's leadership team and patrol officers met with the AFRH-G leaders and had lunch with the residents in the dining hall. Our campus actively works to maintain the relationships with our local responders and warmly welcome their assistance throughout the year. We appreciate the partnership we have with the Gulfport Police Department and we really enjoyed their visit.

VETTES FOR VETS <<<

Gulf Coast Corvettes cranked up the gratitude by honoring veterans in a special way on Independence Day: they brought 24 Corvettes to the Armed Forces Retirement Home for a joy ride.

Corvette enthusiast Tom Bocek explained: "We talk to a veteran. We tell stories, war stories or corvette stories, then we go to lunch together in their beautiful dining facility and after that we're going to give rides to the veterans." We're not only blessed to live on the beautiful Gulf Coast, but we benefit from the charm and hospitality of our neighbors all year long!



OUR LEGACY

HARRY F. MILLER

By PK Knor

EARLY YEARS

Born in 1928, in Columbus, OH, Harry Miller's childhood was marked by the loss of his father when he was only 13. Driven by his desire to support his family, he worked in a mailroom and delivered newspapers. An enthusiast of history, roller skating, and dancing, he harbored a dream of becoming a soldier. Enlisting in the Army during WWII at just 15 years old, he concealed his true age, embarking on a journey that would shape his life.



Harry's dedication didn't wane after military service. He pursued careers as a Private Investigator, Director of Security, and Safety Inspector. A marriage to Elva Hegsted brought forth two sons.

MILITARY CAREER

Harry embarked on a remarkable military odyssey, becoming a tank crewman at 16, battling through WWII's European Theater. Assigned to the 740th Tank Battalion "The Daredevils," he confronted German forces, including the fierce SS Panzer Division. Amid the Battle of the Bulge, he witnessed the horrors of concentration camps, leaving an indelible mark on him. Transitioning to the Air Force during the Cold War, he safeguarded communication security, facing the Cuban Missile Crisis and aiding B-52 strikes in the Vietnam War.

Later, he found love again with Helen Marie Carreon, forming the musical trio "The Three M's." In the face of personal loss, Harry shared his WWII experiences widely. Settling at AFRH-W, he continued recounting history at ceremonies and reunions, ensuring his legacy as a true patriot and storyteller endured.

Honor Flight visit at the National World War II Memorial in Washington D.C., April 30, 2016. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Bryan Franks)

OUR LEGACY

DAVID A. HURLBERT

By Dan Ellis

EARLY YEARS <<<

Born on July 30, 1959, in Vicksburg, MS, David Hurlbert's educational journey began at Port Gibson Elementary. After relocating to Gulfport, he attended Bayou View Jr. High and graduated from Gulfport High School in 1978. He dabbled in various jobs, from being a Disk Jockey to working at Hancock Bank and Ingalls Shipbuilding, before enrolling at Phillips Jr. College to study Electronics.

MILITARY CAREER <<<

In April 1980, David joined the Air Force, receiving Basic Training at Lackland AFB. Specializing in Military Intelligence, he underwent training in signals intelligence production at Keesler AFB. As a Morse Systems Operator, he served at Misawa Air Base in Japan and Goodfellow AB in Texas. Later, he supervised voice analysis teams at Iraklion Air Station in Greece and trained bomber units in South Dakota. He furthered his intelligence work at Fort Meade and NSA, retiring honorably in 1995.



Following retirement, David worked in security and established his own marketing company, Pulsar Marketing, Inc. Health issues led to a shift in his pursuits. From 2007 to 2023, he enjoyed a serene life in Lizana, MS, indulging in hunting and fishing. On June 29, 2023, he became a resident of AFRH-Gulfport, embracing a new chapter surrounded by fellow veterans.

