



**AFRH-GULFPORT**

## Pearl Harbor's 74th Anniversary - A date that will live in infamy

Story & Photos by Becki Zschiedrich, AFRH-G Public Affairs

A crowd of veterans and employees gathered for a ceremony near the reflecting pool at AFRH-G to pay tribute to all who lost their lives in the attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, on December 7, seventy-four years ago.

The ceremony started with the Infamy Speech recording by President Roosevelt. After a moment of silence, Music Therapist Susan Bergman graciously played "Amazing Grace" on the bag pipes as she marched slowly around the Freedom Fountain, near the flag pole, where the flag was at half-staff.

Resident Services Chief Christopher Alexander was the Master of Ceremonies and he spoke about that fateful Sunday morning on December 7, 1941. He conversed on how America's naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii was attacked by aircraft and submarines of the Imperial Japanese Navy, killing 2,403 American military personnel and civilians and injuring 1,178 others. The attack sank four U.S. Navy battleships and damaged four more. It also damaged and sank three cruisers, three destroyers, and one minelayer. 188 aircraft were destroyed and 159 were damaged. The day after the attack, the United States declared war on Japan and entered World War II. President Franklin Roosevelt, in a speech to Congress, stated that the bombing of Pearl Harbor is "a date which will live in infamy." Following Mr. Alexander's welcome speech, Pastor Gibson presented the invocation.

Residents Harold McDaniel and Marvin Westcott, who are also Pearl Harbor survivors, placed the wreath at the Freedom Fountain. The Picayune High School ROTC posted the colors and the Keesler Honor Guard honored the fallen heroes with a 21-gun salute and taps.

Let us not forget National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day, which is observed annually on December 7, to remember and honor all those who died in the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941.

Thank you to all who contributed to keeping the memory of Pearl Harbor alive in true faith and to those who valiantly served and died in the defense of our great country.



Marvin Westcott and Harold McDaniel are escorted by the Picayune High School Honor Guard to lay the wreath at the Freedom Fountain.



Music Therapist Susan Bergman played Amazing Grace.



Residents Ron Ellis and Wendall Ward during the Pledge of Allegiance.



The Keesler Honor Guard honored the fallen heroes with a 21-gun salute.



The Picayune High School ROTC posted the colors.

**AFRH-WASHINGTON**

## AFRH-W remembers Pearl Harbor

Story and Photos by Rebecca Newton, AFRH-W Public Affairs

"Yesterday, December seventh, 1941, a date which will live in infamy, the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan. We will gain the inevitable triumph, so help us God."-Franklin D. Roosevelt

Residents of AFRH-W, family and guests began Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day with a concert in the Community Center. Our partners at the National Capital Area Command of the Salvation Army wanted to do something special to honor our Residents on this day. So, Fife and Drum performers, dressed in colonial garb, entertained the audience with familiar patriotic and holiday music.

Then, during lunch, diners listened to audio of the "Day of Infamy Speech," which FDR delivered to Congress on the day that the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. After the speech ended, the dining room fell silent as everyone paused in remembrance of that fateful day.

That afternoon, Residents Keith Van Doren, Norma Rambow, Terry Morrison, James Brown, Vere Hotchkiss, Sheldon Shorthouse, Harry Miller and Ed Davis visited the World War II Memorial on the National Mall in DC. The latter two, were representatives of their service at the commemorative wreath laying. Mr. Davis (a Pearl Harbor survivor) was escorted by Ombudsman Robb Webb, and Mr. Miller, by a volunteer.



Harry Miller, Resident, is escorted by a volunteer during the Pearl Harbor Remembrance ceremony at the WWII Memorial.



Resident James H. Brown is greeted by a guest at the Pearl Harbor Remembrance ceremony.



Residents enjoy a performance of patriotic and holiday music by the Fife and Drum Corps, courtesy of the National Capital Area Command Salvation Army.



During lunch, Residents and staff listened to audio of FDR's memorable "Infamy Speech" and paused for a moment of silence.



Resident Edward Davis, a Pearl Harbor survivor, seated next to oldest WWII veteran, Frank Livingston; who is 110 years old.

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# AFRH COMMUNICATOR

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*The AFRH Communicator* is an authorized publication of the Armed Forces Retirement Home. Residents and employees are encouraged to submit photos, art, news items, and features. Materials will be edited by the *AFRH Communicator* staff for journalistic style and length. The articles included in this publication do not necessarily reflect the opinions or views of the management, staff, or residents of the AFRH.

## Serving Washington, D.C. and Gulfport, Mississippi

AFRH is not just a place to live but a place to live more. Our model retirement communities are designed for residents to maintain an independent lifestyle in an environment designed for safety, comfort and personal enrichment.

**Eligibility:** Military veterans from each service branch can live at AFRH. The following persons who served as

members of the Armed Forces, at least one-half of whose service was not active commissioned service other than as a warrant officer or limited-duty officer, are eligible to become residents of the Retirement Home:

-who are 60 years of age or over; and were discharged or released from service in the Armed Forces under honorable conditions after 20 or more years of active service.

-who are determined under rules prescribed by the Chief Operating Officer to be incapable of earning a livelihood because of a service-connected disability incurred in the line of duty in the Armed Forces.

-who served in a war theater during a time of war declared by Congress or were eligible for hostile fire special pay were discharged or released from service in the Armed Forces under honorable conditions; and are determined under rules prescribed by the Chief Operating Officer to be incapable of earning a livelihood because of injuries, disease, or disability.

-who served in a women's component of the Armed Forces before June 12, 1948; and are determined under rules prescribed by the Chief Operating Officer to be eligible for admission because of compelling personal circumstances.

To receive an informational brochure please contact the AFRH Marketing Office at 1-800-422-9988, or write to AFRH, PAO/Marketing, #1305, 3700 N. Capitol St. NW, Washington DC 20011-8400. Visit us on the web at: <http://www.AFRH.gov>

ARMY NAVY AIR FORCE MARINE CORPS COAST GUARD

AFRH-Gulfport waiting time for residency is  
27-29 months from the date of application approval

AFRH-Washington has no waiting time for residency

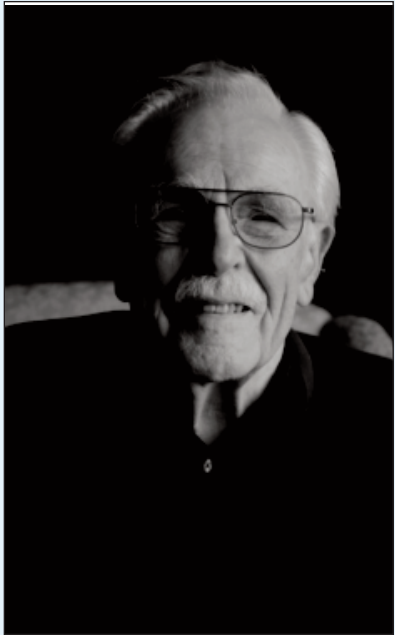


The Joint Commission  
[www.jointcommission.org](http://www.jointcommission.org)



A CARF-CCAC Five-Year Term of Accreditation was awarded to the Armed Forces Retirement Home. <http://www.carf.org>  
<http://www.carf.org/aging>

## AFRH-W Veteran Highlight



By Christine Baldwin, AFRH-W Librarian

William J. Opferman enlisted in the Army in 1948 at the age of 18. At that time they were looking for qualified people for the Army Security Agency (ASA), which called for Signal Corps training. He qualified, and was trained to be a radio operator at the Signal School at Ft. Monmouth, NJ. In 1949 Bill was sent to Japan to serve in the Occupation, in the 304th Signal Battalion in Yokohama. He soon discovered that his favorite duty in the Army was Guard Duty. So Bill decided that he would consider the Military Police as an MOS. He met a man wearing the crossed pistols of the Military Police Corps and asked about the possibility of joining his outfit. The man said, "We're the guards of General Walker, the Eighth Army commander. We're not going to be MP's much longer, because General Walker wants his

guards to be Cavalry." Bill was accepted by the 502d Armored Cavalry Reconnaissance Platoon and trained to be a machine gunner and assistant driver in an M-24 light tank. The main job, of course, was guarding the General, his office, his family and quarters, and the Eighth Army headquarters. The "502 Recon" remains in Bill's memory as the favorite of all the assignments he had.

In June 1950, the North Korean Communists, supported and accompanied by Russians, invaded the free part of the Republic of Korea. The Eighth US Army, with the support of the United Nations, was immediately committed to the defense of the ROK. The Eighth Army Headquarters was never fired upon except by airplanes and artillery, but some of them were once ambushed by Chinese Communist troops in North Korea. After they had beaten the North Koreans, and the Russians had turned over control of North Korea to the Chinese, the army was outnumbered and beaten, but not enough to surrender, and a stalemate developed. An effort was begun to communicate with the enemy to discuss a peace agreement. "Our delegates were to meet theirs at Kaesong, near the border" Bill said. Both sides were to approach the meeting place unarmed, under white flags. As Bill's unit was approached, their convoy was stopped by a road block, and Chinese soldiers with submachine guns stepped out of the brush on both sides of the road. Bill thought they were about to be killed or captured, but then he looked up and saw an enemy cameraman cranking a big movie camera with reels on top. (They later learned that this was a ruse to show the Communists and their sympathizers pictures of US troops surrendering to the Chinese). Naturally the officers were infuriated, and the meetings were postponed. When they commenced, Bill and fellow guards would wait in the garden outside the meeting place. Their North Korean counterparts acted as hosts. They were civilized, but not cordial. Their leader was a 19-year old girl master sergeant. She spoke English well, and engaged in conversation, but when she disagreed with anything she would get up and stomp off in her big Russian boots. One time Bill made a bet that he could get a smile out of this girl. He can't remember what he said, but she did produce a shy smile, and looked for a moment like a real 19-year-old girl.

Bill then went back to the States and returned to the Signal Corps, where he served at Fort Dix and Fort Monmouth, NJ. He thought he would try civilian life, but it didn't please him, so he re-enlisted. Bill was a corporal then. He tried to get back to Japan, but got "shanghaied" back to Korea, where he again served with the 304th Signal Battalion, but transferred to the 558 Military Police Company, where he was soon promoted to Staff Sergeant. Next, he went from Patrol Sergeant to Desk Sergeant to Operations Sergeant to Military Police Investigator. He got married in Korea, was promoted to Sergeant 1st Class, and returned home with his lovely bride. He was at Fort Dix for a while, as a Desk Sergeant and then was in the Armed Forces Police in New York City. It was composed of Military Police, Air Police, and permanent Shore Patrol, augmented by Shore Patrol detachments from ships in port. They came under command of the Navy, and had an administration office at Brooklyn Navy Yard and a police office at another location. Their police station was in the building of the 18th Precinct, NYPD and the main patrol area was the Times Square district, as well as Harlem, Greenwich Village, Coney Island, and some sections of Brooklyn frequented by sailors. It was an endlessly lively and interesting assignment.

During that period the Pentagon decided there were too many sergeants in the Military Police, and Bill was ordered to choose a "shortage branch" or be transferred to the Infantry. One of the "shortage branches" was Military Intelligence, so he thought that would be his choice as a last resort. It did become necessary, and in 1958 he was sent to the Army Language School at Monterey, CA, then to a Military Intelligence unit in Texas, where he worked part of the time translating Russian books and documents, but most of the time in training our own troops in matters of intelligence. The Army had a training vehicle called the Aggressor Forces, in which Bill was a Senior Lieutenant. He wore a green uniform with red trim and used an artificial language called Esperanto. In maneuvers, he would interrogate US Army POW's that had been captured and teach them what to expect if captured by a real enemy, and what not to do.

Next, Bill was set to Germany, where he had to learn German in a hurry. His job was to talk to people who had come over from the Soviet Zone. He worked closely with the German police, border patrol, customs, prosecutors, intelligence agencies, and other officials. It was pleasant and stimulating work. Bill had to leave Germany when his wife was sent to Valley Forge General Hospital in Pennsylvania. At Valley Forge Bill was a Desk Sergeant and then a Provost Marshal Investigator (PMI). He then became an apprentice criminal investigator in the CID. While an apprentice, Bill had his first murder case, working with a Pennsylvania State Trooper. Bill attended the Criminal Investigations course and Military Police Officers' course at Ft Gordon, GA, and became an

accredited criminal investigator and warrant officer. Bill's first CID assignment was as chief of a CI unit attached to the office of the provost marshal, 4th Infantry Division, Vietnam. The provost marshal let him have a sergeant and a few patrolmen who he trained as Provost Marshal Investigators (PMI). They were good men, and the arrangement worked well. They worked 24-7 for a year, and solved many cases. Bill's last Army assignment was at Fort Ord, CA, in the CID. He retired in 1969, and became a Special Agent of the California Department of Justice, from which he retired in 1991.

Bill knew of the Soldiers' Home since he was a small boy. His great uncle, John J. O'Boy, SFC, QMC, was a veteran of the Pursuit of Pancho Villa, the Philippine Insurrection, and WWI. He died in the old Walter Reed Hospital around 1918 and is buried in Ft Meyer Cemetery. He is believed to have been a resident of this Home. In basic training at Ft Dix, Bill's drill instructor was Technical Sergeant George Mamula. He was dedicated to the Army, and wanted his trainees to be better than those of any other training company. He told Bill that if they retired, they could have a home at the Soldiers' Home. Bill kept that in mind and when his wife was dying, she became worried that he would be lonely. Bill told her, "No I won't. I'll go to the Old Soldier's Home." She didn't believe him, but after he called for the papers and showed them to her, she said, "Now I can rest", and she went to sleep. When Bill came here, he learned that Sgt. Mamula was a Resident, in Long Term Care. He had lost his memory completely, and could hardly talk. But over a period of time he recovered some of his faculties slightly, and, although disabled himself, he would wheel himself to exercise classes and try to encourage the other patients to participate. Bill read a letter on the internet from a major who knew Sgt Mamula, and had visited him here when he could still talk. The major had taken his basic training in the same unit as Bill had, at Ft. Dix, NJ. He wrote that Sgt Mamula was his inspiration for choosing an Army career.



## AFRH-G Veteran Highlight

By Lori Kerns, AFRH-G Librarian



Catherine Bernice Dailey, named after both her mother and grandmother, was born on September 29, 1919 in Manchester, CT. She was a middle child of three sisters and two brothers born to a repairman. Her mother was a stay-at-home mom who took care of Catherine's special needs brother. Their family lived in a house in the city. Until high school, Catherine attended St. James Catholic School where she was educated by nuns. She feels that her Catholic upbringing was very important in her life. She was a studious child who enjoyed giving an extra hand to the nuns whenever she could. As a child with long, curly hair, she remembers delight in her mother brushing and styling her hair. When it was time for high school, she attended the local public school, Manchester High School.

Growing up, Catherine had aspirations of either becoming a nun or joining the military. When the time came,

she made the decision to follow her sisters' footsteps and join the military. She enlisted in the Navy. Throughout her enlistment, she was given clerical responsibilities. An honor Catherine had during her time in the Navy was when she met First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt. She described Mrs. Roosevelt as very friendly and helpful to women.

After her departure from the military, Catherine attended George Washington University where she earned a bachelor's degree in Psychology. With her degree she went to work as a civil servant for the Social Security Administration. She also worked for a short period of time with Aetna Life Insurance. Her career led her to live in Washington for a stint and then back to the New England area.

After getting to know Catherine, it's easy to gather that she is very proud of her Irish heritage. She's even had the pleasure of visiting her family in Ireland. Although she loves children, Catherine never felt the urge to get married. An independent-minded woman, she has enjoyed her single life and appreciated the opportunities she has been given. She's one of the most positive people you will ever have the pleasure to meet.

Living at AFRH-G, Catherine takes part in Current Events and Music Time. She also enjoys

the frequent visits from her cousin. Catherine is an absolute delight to speak with and has a delightful personality. We're so glad to have her as part of the AFRH-G family!



Catherine Dailey today at the AFRH-G Christmas Cookout.



# Message from the Chief Operating Officer



Happy Holidays! This holiday season seemed to arrive very rapidly this year! December was a blur, but a good blur! We've had some special events occur this month; AFRH-W had its Ladies Tea, AFRH-G had a very special employee recognition, and our Lincoln Cottage at AFRH-W had a special day.

Friday, 4 Dec, AFRH-W had its traditional Ladies Tea, an annual event that is truly a joy to be a part of. This year's theme was "High Tea at Chateau Paris." The ladies enjoyed Parisian trivia games, music and a movie, "An American in Paris." Afterwards there was an appearance by Santa, and Mrs. Claus (aka Ron Kartz, Chief of Resident Services and his wife, Jenny). There was a special treat as two representatives (one of whom I am particularly fond of) from the South Harbor's Women's Knitting Group, Sharon Lungaro and Anna Robertson, my mother-in-law, gifted each of the ladies with afghan blankets that they had made by hand.

They collectively knitted over 45 Afghans and a number of booties. Each blanket was uniquely made and particularly special! There were enough Afghans for each lady that attended and a sizeable number remaining for Gulfport's annual Ladies Tea party. Their efforts are sincerely appreciated and will not be forgotten. They have touched the lives of many.

There was a wonderful time had by all; the staff and volunteers put in an exceptional effort, that I cannot say enough about, and this year's event will be extremely hard to top. It should be noted that the staff of President Lincoln's Cottage were significant contributors, which is always appreciated, but especially so when you consider they had an event of their own to manage.

Last Thursday, 10 December, President Lincoln's Cottage, had a special Signing Ceremony, effective 1 January 2016, they will transition to a new form of governance and administration, "co-stewardship," and will gain autonomy as President Lincoln's Cottage at the Soldiers' Home a new 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. While I was unable to attend because of travel, my Executive Officer, Charles Hollings, represented the COO's Office, presenting a coin to Erin Carlson Mast, Executive Director of President Lincoln's Cottage, to note the event and thank her for her exceptional partnership with the Home.

I missed the event at President Lincoln's Cottage because I was in Gulfport. While at AFRH-G, I held an "All Hands" where I had the distinct pleasure of presenting Ms. Ouida Evans, Certified Nursing Assistant, with a 25 year pin, noting her 25 years of Federal Service. While I enjoy each and every opportunity to recognize staff achievements, this

one was particularly sentimental for me. Ouida and I worked side-by-side during Hurricane Katrina to ensure our Residents' safety and security. Ouida was part of an Air Medevac operation moving 60 of our Assisted Living and Long-term Care residents from Gulfport, MS to the Washington, D.C. Home. Delores Martin, Ouida and one other certified nursing assistant moved these residents by bus to Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery, Alabama where they were air medevac'd to Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland; and then, transported by bus to the Washington, D.C. Home. What a great feat by a wonderful person who has proven over and over her love for our residents and the Armed Forces Retirement Home. As part of this trip Ouida stayed and continued her work at the D.C Home and servicing our heroes. She returned to AFRH-G upon its re-opening. We thank her for her service, dedication, and continued support over the years. Truly a Great American!

Finally, as you know I have announced my retirement, I was slated to retire 28 January 2016, but the Pentagon has asked that I remain on post until my successor can be named. Interviews are scheduled to begin next week and we hope to have someone on board by the end of February.

Again, Happy Holidays, enjoy your family and friends and please be safe.

**Steve McManus**



**Steve McManus presents Ouida Evans her 25 year pin and thanks her for her service throughout the years and before, during and after Hurricane Katrina.**

## Midshipmen visit AFRH-W

By Rebecca Newton, AFRH-W Public Affairs

Photos by Amanda Jensem, Recreation Therapist

Typically, during the Holidays, families get together, eat turkey, share stories, sing songs and celebrate life. However, the Midshipmen of the U.S. Naval Academy, in Annapolis, MD, spent part of their day with Residents of the Armed Forces Retirement Home, Washington. These men are not only in training for commission as an officer in the Navy and Marine Corps, but also football players for one of the most highly competitive and successful teams in Division I football. These young men possess great fortitude and character.

The Midshipmen played several games of bowling with Residents, courtesy of our sponsors at Northrop Grumman. They even gifted two autographed footballs that were used in play at the last Military Bowl, at the Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium in Annapolis. If that weren't enough, Residents were also gifted ten tickets to this year's Military Bowl.



**US Naval Academy cadets stand in the AFRH-W bowling alley with two autographed footballs they presented to Residents.**



**Residents Warren Pospisil and Patricia Kirchner score big with their Navy partners.**

## AFRH-G holds annual Nursing Skills Fair

By Diane Snyder, MSN, MSHS, RN-BC

Healthcare Educator/Infection Control

Photos by Becki Zschiedrich, AFRH-G Public Affairs

AFRH Gulfport held their Annual Nursing Skills Fair for the nursing & CNA staff in the Community Center in December. The project included eighteen different stations set up to provide staff education and skills training. The two-day event included the following topics: (1) National Patient Safety Goals, (2) Fall Risk Prevention, (3) Wound Care, (4) Infection Control/Isolation Precautions, (5) CAUTI Prevention, (6) Neurological Assessment, 7) Biohazard Waste Procedures, (8) Emergency Procedures/EKG Review, (9) Evacuation Equipment use, (10) Orthostatic Blood pressures, (11) Dietary Training, (12) Pain Assessment, (13) Glucometer use, (14) TST Tool/Hand Hygiene, (15) LIKO Lift/Resident Transfers, (16) Specimen Collection, (17) Look-Alike/Sound-Alike Medications, and (18) Respiratory Modalities/Oxygen Safety.

The Director of Nursing, Debora Joiner, all of the Clinical Nursing Supervisors, Nursing and CNA Staff, Safety Officer, & Dietician each assisted with providing the excellent training and educational materials at the skills stations. The Skills Fair allows the clinical nurses and staff specialists to impart a great deal of information by having participants come directly to them rather than conducting unit to unit in-services. Because everyone is required to attend, the chance of missing someone is reduced and the basis for compliance and competency is increased.

The purpose of the skills fair is to have the nursing staff review nursing skills and help to meet Joint Commission requirements. Reviewing skills helps the staff maintain competencies and improves nursing care.

Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College in Gulfport allowed the Home to borrow training mannequins (models) for the event. The nurses had a chance to role-play on the models to practice activities and to review their clinical skills.

At the end of the two-day training event, participants were given an opportunity to complete a "training critique" in an effort to improve future annual health care fairs.

The ultimate goal of the Nursing Skills Fair is to maintain high standards of nursing care and to provide excellent services to our Residents.



**Minh Nguyen performs training for isolation cart cleaning.**



**Tina Gauthe explains safe practices for oxygen therapy.**



**Nursing Educator Diane Snyder (right) talks to Tijuanna Hall (left) about catheter care.**



**Safety Officer Frank Bermudez (right) demonstrates the use of an evacuation chair with Nurse Savannah Ladner (in the chair) and Campus Ops Chief John Cage (left). Acting Administrator Shaun Servais (far left) observes the demonstration.**



## From the AFRH-W Administrator



As the holiday season and 2015 draws to an end, I am looking forward to the future but will never forget my time serving all Residents at the Armed Forces Retirement Home.

This has always been the time of year when all reflect on our past years and look forward to the coming year. At the Armed Forces Retirement Home-Washington we have been honored to host several dignitaries and events on our campus during 2015. Congressman G.K. Butterfield was an inspiring speaker during the Black History Month program held in February. The Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall greeted Residents and staff during their official visit to the United States in March. April was highlighted with the arrival of 25 Yoshino Cherry trees that were planted throughout the grounds. Senator Corey Booker took time out of his busy schedule to visit with Residents in the Hall of Honors. Senator Robert Dole stopped by to chat with not only WWII Residents but all Residents about his service to country, while bringing laughs and smiles to all Residents. Ruppert Landscaping brought a force of over 500 employees and completed beautiful landscaping projects around our campus. My point in mentioning a few of the key visits and

events is to let you know as Residents that you and your services to this country is not, nor will ever be forgotten. It is because of you that we will continue to have special guests enter our campus to thank you for your service to this great nation.

Over this past year we have honored every branch of service by hosting a military birthday ceremonies in the Hall of Honors. Each of these birthdays holds a special meaning for the men and women who have worn a uniform. I know that these ceremonies will continue to grow with more Residents and active duty service members attending. With each and every ceremony that I have had the opportunity to speak, I am always brought back to the thought that I wouldn't have this opportunity if it wasn't for each Resident's service to keep America free.

During the last Town Hall Meeting I spoke about Residents having a voice and a choice. All Residents have a single voice, but you also have a voice through your Resident Advisory Committee. Residents have come into my office several times regarding suggestions, concerns and issues important to them. It is important to me as the Interim Administrator to take time and listen to each of you and each of your suggestions, concerns and issues. Listening is the key to any successful leader in my opinion. Approximately 98 percent of the time my advice has been for the Resident to take it to their voice, which is the Resident Advisory Committee. Now each Resident also has a choice of which trips to go on, which events to attend, which

movie to watch, and what item of the menu to select for breakfast, lunch and dinner. If you want to have a bigger voice in movies, trips, and menu items then I suggest attending the committees and providing your input, just as several Residents do now. I understand that we have over 450 residents who have different likes and dislikes and not everyone will agree with each other. However, this doesn't mean just because you are not interested in a trip, movie, or menu item that no one else is either. Our community is made of Residents who served in different branches of service, have different home states, and different backgrounds, and in my opinion that is what makes AFRH a great place to live. Therefore, you have a choice to make a difference so let your voice be heard.

I would like to thank all of my staff for their continued services to the Residents and AFRH-W. I would also like to welcome our new Wellness Center Manager James Kyle to the AFRH-W team and family.

To all Residents in Gulfport, MS and Washington, DC it has been a pleasure serving all of you. I can honestly say I have a lifetime of memories that will only grow fonder in my heart as the years go by. I couldn't have asked for a better place to spend a career than with each and every one of you. My only hope is that I truly made a difference and AFRH a better place for you live and thrive.

*Sheila Abarr*



Interim Administrator Sheila Abarr visits with the Residents.



Marvin Archer is congratulated by Sheila Abarr.

## Wreaths across America

By Carolyn Haug, Volunteer Services and George Wellman, Resident

Volunteers with the Wreaths Across America Organization returned this year to the Soldiers' and Airmen's Home National Cemetery on Saturday, 12 December 2015. Nearly 4,000 wreaths were placed at headstones in Civil War sections C, D, F, G, and H, of the cemetery. The cemetery was one of over 1,100 locations nationwide participating in the annual tradition.

Prior to the volunteers from American Heritage Girls and Nam Knights Capital Chapter laying wreaths on the headstones, Veterans from the Armed Forces Retirement Home and honored guests laid commemorative wreaths from each branch of service, Merchant Marines, POW/MIA and Gold Star Mother wreaths. The Veterans participating in the ceremony included: Susan Chubb, Holsey Gillis, James Kidd, Frank Lawrence, Jeanne Beasley and Frank Zubko.

An Army Chaplain once stated, "One does not purchase a burial spot at the Soldiers' and Airmen's Home National Cemetery. You must earn it!" The next time you are in northwest Washington, DC, plan to visit the Soldiers' and Airmen's Home National Cemetery, the predecessor to Arlington National Cemetery.



Nearly 4,000 wreaths were placed at headstones.



Residents, from left to right, Frank Lawrence, James Kidd, Holsey Gillis and Susan Chubb volunteered to lay wreaths during the ceremony.

## Notes from the AFRH-W, Chairman, Resident Advisory Committee



goal is to ensure your voice is the one that is always heard and respected.

Many of you will be traveling to various areas to enjoy the company of your friends and family during this season. May your journey be

The Holiday Season is upon us, and I want to begin by telling you all just how grateful and honored I am to have been elected as the Resident Advisory Committee Chairman for AFRH-W. "You" are the most important asset of this Home, and my

a safe one. Just the thought of the various aromas that come from the kitchens where your Holiday dinner will be prepared, is heavenly. However, this is always the season where we take time out to stop to remember just how richly blessed we are.

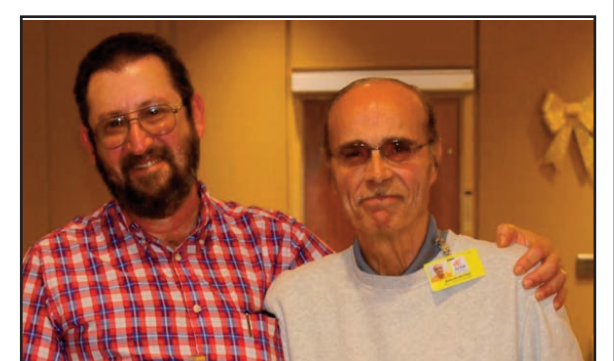
I wish all of my fellow Residents at AFRH-W a most blessed and joyful Holiday season and I want to also take this opportunity to send Season's Greetings to our fellow brothers and sisters who reside at AFRH-G. May your blessings be many.

In closing, I want us all to stop for a moment to pray for our brothers and sisters who presently serve our country. Many are in "harm's way." So, may our thoughts never fail to focus on them and their sacrifice.

*Marvin Archer*



Marvin Archer learns he won the election.



Outgoing RAC Chairman Phil Ford congratulates Marvin Archer on his new position.



# From the AFRH-G Administrator



What would you like to have happen in your life this year? As 2015 comes to a close and we start a New Year, it's a good time to set aspirations. When the holiday season comes to an end and all the celebrations are over, sometimes it becomes a

challenge to prepare for the New Year. Start by going on that trip that you've always wanted to go on, or meet up with friends that you haven't seen in a while. We are all here for a short time on this planet, so the time is now. Life is now. Live in the moment and enjoy every day. The New Year stands before us, like a chapter in a

book waiting to be written. You can write that story by setting goals.

December has been a very busy month with all the Christmas activities going on and I would like to personally thank our Recreation Department, Dining Crew, and Ability Works for all the extra effort they have put in to make this holiday season special for the Residents.

January 2016 will be bitter sweet for me because I will be going back to Washington and your new Administrator, Jeff Eads, will be reporting to AFRH-G January 13th. I will be here to provide him support in his transition as your Administrator. We will hold a Town Hall Meeting on January 13th to introduce him. Our Chief Operating Officer Steve Mcmanus will also be in town that week.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my stay in Gulfport and I cannot express enough how proud I am to be working for you, the

Veterans. Thank you to the Residents who have been so welcoming and supportive during my time here. This has been very educational for me and I have enjoyed the conversations and interactions with the Residents and staff. A big Thank You goes out to the staff who have worked so hard to accomplish the mission of a truly wonderful Home. I have discovered that both of the Armed Forces Retirement Homes in Washington and in Gulfport are the two best retirement communities because of the people living, working and thriving within. I am so proud to be a part of it with you!

Thank you again to the Residents and employees for welcoming me to the Gulfport campus and for making my time here unforgettable and remarkable. I will cherish the memories I have made here.

*"I hope that in this year to come, you make mistakes. Because if you are making mistakes, then you are making new things,*

*trying new things, learning, living, pushing yourself, changing yourself, changing your world. You're doing things you've never done before, and more importantly, you're doing something."*—Neil Gaiman

Best wishes to you all for a Happy New Year 2016!

**Shaun Servais**



**Shaun Servais observes while Mac McDaniels is interviewed by WLOX News on Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day.**

## A special tree and special ornaments

**By Milt Williams, Art Specialist**

During the month of November and December, several Residents had fun making Christmas ornaments on Craft Days. Doris Jones, Fredi Van Pelt, Corena Wash, Eva Downs, Marion Wolke, Clifford (Smitty) Smith and Bill Sanders, using their imagination and a few resources, made some delightful Christmas tree ornaments. The next step was to hang them on a tree. Well, being imaginative, we put three branches together, bound at the top and strung wire around them so we could hang the unique decorations. The final touch that brought it together was when Corena Wash wrapped red pipe cleaners around each wooden branch. The red spiraled branches turned ordinary "sticks" into a very special tree for all to hang their handiwork. Thanks all.

I also want to thank each Resident for their contribution and sacrifice they have made to provide the peace and freedom we enjoy in our country. As for the special tree and ornaments, for me personally, the three branches bound together as one remind me of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The "Christmas" tree reminds me of Gods' gift to the world, His son Jesus Christ and the unique ornaments are each one of us, the reason why He came. May, His Peace and Goodwill be yours in this coming year. Shalom Adonai.



**Corena Wash stands next to the very artistic Christmas tree.**

## Army wins, Army wins!

**By Rob Miller, Fitness Specialist (Fictional Sports Writer)**

**Photo by Resident Photographer Ron Persing**

Did I get your attention? Is there something incorrect about the Headline? Remember, I am a fictional writer, and much to the disappointment of many AFRH-Gulfport fans Navy came from behind to win their 14th consecutive game against their rivals, 21-17. But it is a win for Army because, as many of you know, Navy was ranked as high as 13th in College Football Rankings during this year, have a Heisman Candidate Quarterback, Keenan Reynolds and were expected to beat the beloved Black Knights severely. This was not the case, as both teams came out with great intensity and discipline, with Army leading at several points of the game.

As for the event here in Gulfport, Residents, friends and family gathered in the Community Center of the Home to celebrate possibly the best rivalry game year-in and year-out. The fans watching were able to participate in some games that went along with the event, there were gift cards handed out as prizes, as well as door prizes, shirts and hats. Most important of all was the food! Plenty of chips, popcorn and dip were placed strategically around the venue. Along with several hundred Hooter's Chicken Wings and 4 very nice Hooter's girls, the first half went by rather quickly. So the second course of the football menu was 40 pizzas topped differently which arrived at halftime. We were also visited by several Air Force Volunteers who mixed in well with our Residents; we can all thank Ms. Briley for that! In conclusion, a great time was had by all. I will be keeping the above headline for next year. It will be different next year and for the next 2 years. The reason, Army's Quarterback looks a lot like a younger version of Navy's Quarterback, Keenan Reynolds who will be graduating this year. Well, that is just what my fictional sports writing colleagues and I predict; score Army wins 24-7.



**Charlie Jenkins, Bill Jossendal, a Hooter's employee, and Marion Wolke gathered with other Residents in the Community Center to view the Army Navy game.**

## Notes from the AFRH-G, Chairman, Resident Advisory Committee



Now that this year is just about over and Christmas is over, it's time to reflect just a little on the past present and future. This year saw many challenges that we, as Residents, had to face. For one we saw the retirement of Mr.

Dickerson, a most beloved, admired and devoted administrator. When the new administrator takes over he will have some big shoes to fill. We also saw an increase in our resident fees and learned that our trust fund is running very low. But, we also learned that DoD does not want to see this Home flounder and they will do whatever is necessary to keep the Home's trust fund solvent. This coming year will have more challenges and I, as your RAC Chairman, will

endeavor to work with the administration in Gulfport and DC to make sure that the Home runs smoothly and in the best interest of the Residents.

As you already know some time in January or February Mr. McManus will be retiring and moving on to other pursuits and I wish him well. I have had the great pleasure of knowing and working with "Steve" for over eight years and never met a more devoted "SOLDIER". I call him a soldier because he was and is a great commander. He, like a good commander, always led from the head of the column, took all the flack and saw that his troops were well fed, housed and cared for, and I was glad to follow. Now it's his turn to follow us, and I mean follow us into retirement. I wish you well Steve in all you do. I salute you.

This is going to be a short column but before signing off I want to leave you with this. This was forwarded to me so I am going to forward it on to you and it goes like this: "A group of students were asked to list what they thought were the present "Seven Wonders of the World".

Though there were some disagreements the following received the most votes. 1. Egypt's Great Pyramids 2. Taj Mahal 3. The Grand Canyon 4. Panama Canal 5. Empire State Building 6. St. Peter's Basilica and 7. China's Great Wall. While gathering the votes the teacher noted that one student had not finished her paper yet. So she asked the girl if she was having trouble with her list. The girl replied, "Yes, a little. I couldn't quite make up my mind because there were so many." The teacher said, "Well tell us what you have and maybe we can help". The girl hesitated, then read "I think the Seven Wonders of the World are: 1. To See 2. To hear 3. To Touch 4. To Taste 5. To Feel 6. To laugh 7. And to Love". The room was so quiet you could hear a pin drop. The things we overlook as simple and ordinary and that we take for granted are truly wondrous!!! With that I will

leave you.  
MERRY CHRISTMAS, HAPPY HANUKKAH, HAPPY KWANZAA, AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!

**Henri D. Gibson**



**At December's Town Hall Meeting Henri announced the Contract Employees of the Quarter. Congratulations to Eddie Osborne with Gulf Coast Enterprises, Levar Williams with Gulf Coast Enterprises and Jefroy Grizzle with Ability Works.**



# AFRH-W Activities

## High Tea at Chateau Paris!

By Rebecca Newton, AFRH-W Public Affairs



Continuing with our holiday festivities, AFRH-W staff and guests treated the female Residents to a Ladies' Tea. This year's theme was "High Tea at Chateau Paris," [pa-ree].

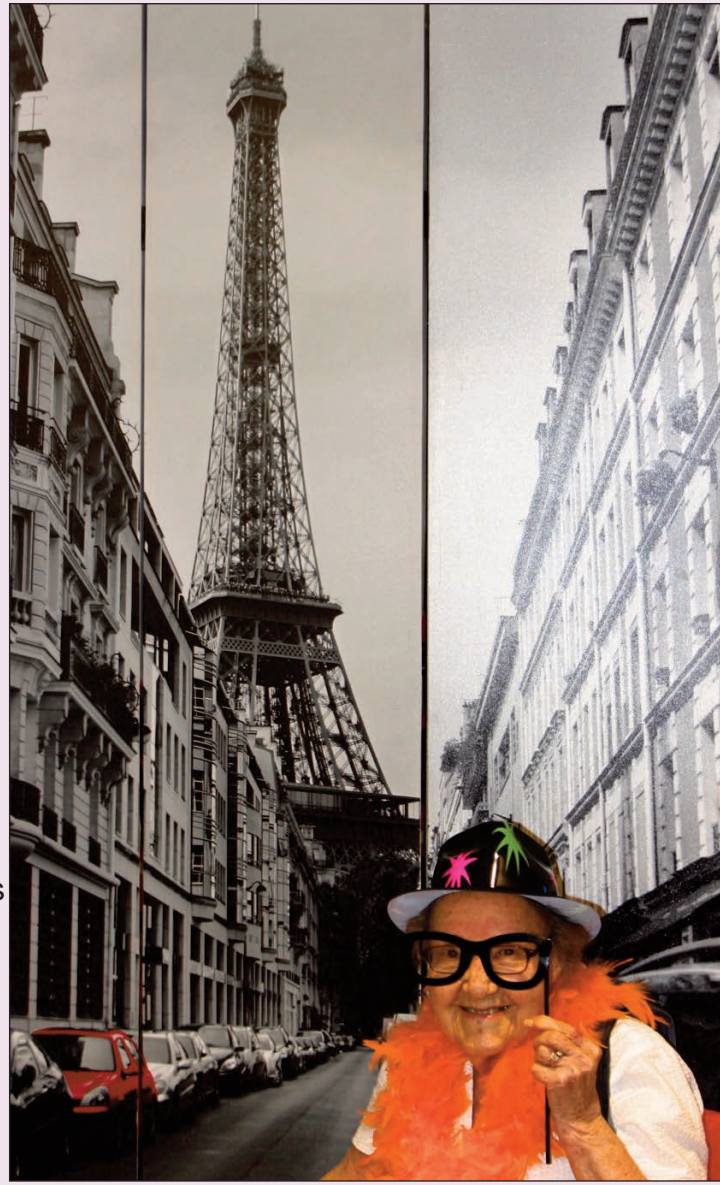
Our ladies enjoyed the Parisian trivia games, music and movie: "An American in Paris." Acting Administrator, Sheila Abar, delivered an astounding welcome. Next, our Chief Operating Officer, Steve McManus, offered warm and enlightening remarks. Staff served tea, and escorted the ladies to the "Crazy Photo Booth," where they had fun, posing with big sunglasses and boas.

The Bon Appétit Cuisine featured fruit and cheese plate, lobster salad croissant, holiday ham roll, hot crab dip, sweet and sour chicken, mignon beef tenderloin, fried shrimp, dessert, assortment punch, and of course, tea!

After the delicious meal and games, there was an appearance by Santa, and Mrs. Claus (aka Ron Kartz, Chief of Resident Services and his wife, Jenny). Then came the drawing for some special prizes. But, before the event could end, there was a special treat! Mrs. Anna Robertson, mother of Mrs. McManus; and her friend Sharon Lungaro of South Harbor Woman's Knitting Group, gifted all of the ladies with afghan blankets they made, by hand. Each one was uniquely made, making them extra-special.

Mr. McManus gifted a coin on behalf of the Agency, to both ladies who knitted each one of the blankets for our Residents. Additionally, he thanked the staff of AFRH and President Lincoln's Cottage, and gave high regard to the food service staff, which prepared the French menu, and decorated the entire Community Center with the Paris theme.

All of the ladies in attendance expressed what a wonderful time it was, laughing and enjoying each other's company. It will be hard to top next year!



Ruby Bloomer had plenty of fun in the "Crazy Photo Booth."



Residents Norma Rambo and Mimi Rivkin loved their gifts.



Eleanor Price claims her raffle prize.

## 2015 Holiday Dance

By Nicole Chappell, Recreation Specialist

Photos by Rebecca Newton, AFRH-W Public Affairs

The Recreation Department has done it again! On Friday, December 11th AFRH-W celebrated our Holiday Dance in the Scott Community Center. As guests arrived, they were greeted by volunteers and able to take a picture in a silly photo booth with props. Guests were able to choose from props such as, hats, eyeglasses, and boas. "Dancing is like dreaming with your feet!" Well on this particular night Residents, staff and guests all wanted to be recognized on the dance floor including the band. There were plenty of delicious food and dessert choices such as fruit & yogurt dip, BBQ meatballs, chicken wings, Christmas shrimp, wine, beer and so much more. The Army Pershing Own Blues Band and Billy White aka (Music Man) played wonderful Holiday music. For those who preferred to relax their feet, they enjoyed the site of watching live dancers take center stage, as well as the line and hand dances.

Special thanks to Steve McManus and Ron Kartz for their attendance. In addition to, Fred Hornsby, Liz Garris, Cleophus Snow and the Dining Hall staff, KHC Recreation, and nursing staff for all of their hard work and participation. Lastly, to our wonderful volunteers; One Brick DC, U.S. Navy and FOSH for making this year's event successful. By summarizing this year's event, I must add that the Recreation Department sure does know how to throw a party. Therefore, until next year, Happy Holidays to all!



Members of the Army Band put on a show full of smooth holiday grooves.



Residents Sheldon Shorthouse and Pat Roberts Cha-Cha Slide with guests.



Resident Bernard Roberts and Karla Norris, Food Service, ballroom dance as the Army Band plays.

## Army Navy showdown

By Jerry Carter, Fitness Specialist

On Saturday, December 12th 2015 the Army-Navy football game was shown on the 2 split giant screens in the Scott Community Center. Residents and guests were treated to a very exciting, competitive, and close football game. Navy pulled out a victory in the closing seconds of the game. This was the 13th straight victory for the Navy over Army. The Army Black Knights and Navy Midshipmen first met in 1890! The Army-Navy game is one of the most traditional and enduring rivalries in college football. This game was sponsored by the IT Company, Buchanan & Edwards. They provided cold beer, beverages, chicken wings and pizza for all residents in attendance. Recreation Services would like to thank Buchanan & Edwards and all residents who attended for making this event very successful.

## Recreation Therapy Holiday Party

By Carol Mitchell, Recreational Therapist

On Friday, December 18th the Recreation Therapy Department hosted the Annual RT Holiday Party in the Scott Community Center. It was a wonderful event with over 85 residents in attendance and over 30 volunteers!

The "Daughters of The American Revolution" have been a big part of this event for over 20 years. The DAR provide heartfelt Christmas gifts for all attending residents and also for those that are unable to attend. The gifts also help supplement a variety of other events such as bingo throughout the New Year. DAR also donate delicious desserts for the Party. During the event the DAR mix, mingle, and spread good cheer.

We also had the "First Class Petty Officers Association" greeting residents with a cheerful Merry Christmas and a Happy Holidays along with providing gifts of gloves, scarfs, and hats.

The band "Rick & Melanie" have been playing for this event for over ten years.... they are awesome! The music had the residents up and dancing, singing, and tapping their toes.

Special thanks also go out to the Food Service department who provide great appetizers and beverages.

Recreation Therapy would like to wish everyone a Happy Holiday and a terrific New Year!



Anita Edwards gives Faye Steele (The Man of Steel and oldest male resident at 99 years old) a holiday hug.



# AFRH-G Activities

## Gulfport Residents meet Mickey & Minnie

*Photos & Story by Becki Zschiedrich, AFRH-G Public Affairs*

Disney on Ice/Feld Entertainment donated 50 tickets to AFRH-G Residents to show their appreciation to our veterans. Before the Disney on Ice show, Residents were treated to a meet and greet with Mickey and Minnie where they had photos taken. Local vendors provided cake and cupcakes and two of the performers also attended the party and met with the Residents to thank them for their service.

Disney on Ice is a series of touring ice shows produced by Feld Entertainment under agreement with The Walt Disney Company. Aimed primarily at children, the show features figure skaters dressed as Disney cartoon characters in performances that each derive their music and plot from elements collected from various Disney films and properties; the "stars" of the show are credited as the Disney characters themselves, performing their parts in mock cameos, while the skaters performing remain anonymous.



Raymond McGinty wore his Christmas colors for the meet and greet.



Doris Jones was happy to meet Mickey and Minnie.



Rita and Jim Ball were excited to meet Mickey and Minnie before the show.



Paul Taylor appreciated Mickey and Minnie taking the time out of their busy schedule to take photos.

## Windward Brass concert

*By Becki Zschiedrich, AFRH-G Public Affairs*

Special thanks to Navy Band Southeast for performing a Christmas concert for the Residents of Gulfport. The Brass Quintet, Windward Brass, played many classic holiday tunes and also accepted requests from the Residents. The show had a little something for everyone, from holiday standards to more contemporary offerings.



The Windward Brass Band got everyone in the holiday spirit.

## The Valorettes special appearance

*By Jen Biernacki, Recreation Therapy Assistant*

"The Valorettes," made a special appearance during the Recreation Holiday Cookout and Party on Wednesday December 9, 2015 to work together with Recreation to share in the festivities with the Residents. "The Valorettes" are made up of the nursing staff from the RNs, LPNs to the CNAs. Collectively they shared their talents by singing a song called "Valor Hall" to the sounds of Jingle Bells during the cookout holiday lunch in the Valor Hall dining room. The last line of the song's melody was: We are here to care for you.. as you are our Heroes... Oh...which lead right in to chorus of the song that went like this:

*Valor Hall, Valor Hall.. It's the place to be  
With great nurses and great staff  
It just can't be beat... OH..*

*Valor Hall, Valor Hall.. It's the place to be  
So come on by and check us out for it's the place to be.*



A special thank you goes out to all who participated directly and behind the scenes to create a fun and memorable holiday party for all our Healthcare Residents.

## A very special holiday village donation

*By Jen Biernacki, Recreation Therapy Assistant*

AFRH-G received a special donation this holiday season from Ms. Elke Freeman, a local Resident in the community. Ms. Freeman donated her Holiday Village that she spent many years collecting with her late husband. "I wanted to share it with the Veterans because the military has been a very big part of my life," stated Ms. Freeman. Many houses, people, accessories and scenery were part of the donation. Buildings such as a Military Recruitment center, a football stadium, bowling alley, grocery store, community center and a golf course, just to name a few, are displayed in the lobby of AFRH-G and many areas of Valor Hall and Loyalty Hall. The holiday village creates a warm and homey holiday season for this year and many more years to come. A special Thank You is sent your way to Ms. Elke Freeman for sharing something very special for our Veterans.



The donated recruiting station pictured above is very realistic.

## Holiday history helpers, WINGS carolers & Girl Scouts bring smiles!

*Photos & Story by Susan Bergman, MT-BC, Recreation Therapy Services*

On November 20, 2015, the History Honors Society - Phi Alpha Theta – at University of Southern Mississippi, Alejandro Gomez-del-Moral, Assistant Professor of History, Lee Follett, Associate Professor of History, and 2 students assisted residents on Valor, Allegiance, & Loyalty Hall with decorating their Christmas stockings with paint. After lunch, 2 more student volunteers arrived to help label and sort a collection of donated Snow Village items, assisted a resident at Independent Living Bingo, and sorted ornaments for the 5 healthcare Christmas trees.

We were thrilled to be joined once again by the 81st Communication Squadron for the Valor, Allegiance, & Loyalty Hall Holiday Cookout along with special guest Santa Claus (Jeff Tolodxi from NAS Pensacola 81st Communications Squadron/OL-A). KAFB Volunteer, Jill Graves, from Nutritional Medicine, single handedly wrapped all 55 resident gifts on Saturday December 5 and residents were thrilled when they received their special Red Friday Polo Shirt gift at the Holiday Cookout. The Christmas stockings were filled by KAFB 81st Communication Squadron before the Christmas cookout on December 9 and will be handed out to residents on Christmas Day.

On December 10, 2015 close to 40 Girl Scouts including Daisy, Brownie, Junior, Cadet, and Ambassadors from Troop 6346 & 3402 performed on Thursday at 1600 around the front lobby Christmas tree, travelled through the halls to sing on Valor at 1630, and a smaller group sang on Loyalty at 1700. This is an annual event in which the Girl Scouts sing, deliver cards, and hand out candy canes.

The holidays were also filled with guest musicians and performers including the amazing pianist Dr. Erika Hopkins who performed a Holiday Piano Recital on Sunday December 13. Thank you to all our visitors for bringing smiles, holiday spirit and for making the days "Be Merry and Bright!"



USM History Honors Society visit to decorate stockings!



Hubert Wood & Richard Richey share their military history with USM History Professors & students.



Mary Mayo Welcomes the Girl Scouts!



Anne Whittaker visits with Girl Scout Cadets & Ambassadors.



## WASHINGTON

### Holiday tree lighting ceremony

*By Constance Maziel, Lead Recreation Specialist*

*Photos by Rebecca Newton, AFRH-W Public Affairs*

On Tuesday, December 8, 2015, AFRH-Washington celebrated their Annual Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony. Residents, AFRH staff, family members, community members, and The Friends of the Home all participated in the event. I began the evening with welcome remarks, followed by a heartfelt holiday invocation from Chaplain John Goodloe.

Next The Friends of the Home representative, Mrs. Mary Bucci, who presented a wreath and donation as a symbolic tradition of the holiday season and their continued support of AFRH! The U.S Marine Corps Brass Quintet performed jubilant holiday music, which set a very special tone for the holiday season. The U.S Marine Corps Brass Quintet is from "The President's Own" U.S. Marine Band and is the nation's oldest continuously active musical organization. The ceremony was called to attention with a melodious ballet performance from the Kirov Academy of Ballet.

Founded in 1989, the Kirov Academy of Ballet is the epitome of world-class ballet training. The Kirov Ballet provided a special performance incorporating a mix of holiday classics including excerpts from the Nutcracker. Residents, staff, and guests appeared astonished as they watched each ballet dancer perform. The Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony concluded with holiday remarks from the AFRH Interim Administrator Sheila Abarr, followed by the lighting of the tree by RAC Chairman Phil Ford. Thank you to all the Residents, guests and AFRH staff, who came out to celebrate such a remarkable event. Happy Holidays!!!



Kirov Academy of Ballet dancers performed scenes from "The Nutcracker" with confidence, much to the delight of our Residents.



Chaplain John Goodloe leads carolers in singing, "Oh Christmas Tree" right before the tree lighting.



The U.S. Marine Corps Brass Quintet of the "President's Own" Marine Band prepares to serenade the audience with traditional holiday tunes.

## GULFPORT

### KAFB military groups and volunteers bring holiday cheer

*By Susan Bergman, MT-BC, Recreation Therapy Services*

On December 9, 2015, KAFB 81st Communication Squadron and 81st TRW Occupational Safety volunteered to help with the set-up, implementation, & clean-up of the Valor, Allegiance, Loyalty Christmas Cookout & Party making this the 3rd annual tradition. Several volunteers helped Recreation staff hand out Christmas gifts, take pictures with Santa's crew, and visit/eat alongside veteran Residents.

Earlier in the morning after the cookout set-up, the KAFB 81st Communication Squadron volunteers disappeared to be secret Santa helpers and fill each residents stocking. Back in October, KAFB 81st Communication Squadron began to coordinate the Adopt a Veteran Christmas stocking project. The project paired residents with military volunteers who bought personalized items based on a list of specific resident person centered interests and needs. The resident stockings that were decorated by USM History Honors Society were then filled in order to be ready for Recreation Therapy and volunteers to hand out on Christmas Day. A1C Albert Dusseault and Mr. Jose Fuertes along with Mr. Anthony Gravitt and KAFB PAE helped coordinate the Christmas stockings by pairing items up with resident names. Also, Mr. Jeffrey Tolodxi (from Pensacola, Florida) surprised residents as the real Santa Claus and handed out gifts alongside Ms. Claus (Jen Biernacki) and Rudolph (Susan Bergman). We thank these groups for their continued generosity. The priceless smiles and joy brighten the lives of our AFRH Healthcare veterans on Christmas Day and throughout the 2016 New Year.



Santa and crew with Harry Gordon.



KAFB 81st and the finished stockings.



KAFB PAE and Adopt a Veteran Stocking Project.



81st Communication Squadron & Catherine Dailey.

### Santa arrives in Gulfport for the AFRH-G Christmas tree lighting

*Photos & Story by Becki Zschiedrich, AFRH-G Public Affairs*

On Thursday, December 2nd the AFRH-G lobby was filled with joy and exhilaration as the Lynn Meadows Discovery Center WINGS Performing Arts choir sang Christmas carols around the gigantic Christmas tree in the lobby of AFRH-G. Residents and employees gathered and sang along as Music Therapist Susan Bergman led the choir and strummed her guitar. While everyone was singing along to "Jingle Bells" Santa made his grand entrance and greeted all with hugs, high fives, and candy canes.

With all attendees counting down from ten, Resident Frances Scott flipped the switch that lit up the dazzling fifteen foot tree. The Tree Lighting Ceremony concluded with everyone singing along to "We Wish You a Merry Christmas".

The choir then headed to Valor and Loyalty Halls to bring more jubilation to the Residents in Tower D. This festive day concluded with refreshments in the lobby for all to enjoy.



Marion Wolke was thrilled when Santa stopped to take a photo with her.



Frances Scott flips the switch to light up the fifteen foot tree.



Dwyght Shelby enjoys the WINGS carolers!



The Lynn Meadows Discovery Center WINGS Performing Arts choir sang Christmas carols around the tree.