



Armed Forces Retirement Home

# Communicator

Gulfport, MS & Washington, DC

VOLUME XIV NUMBER 5

MAY 31, 2017

## AFRH-WASHINGTON

### Memorial Day in D.C.

Story and Photos By Christopher Kelly, Public Affairs Officer

AFRH-W residents gathered at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, May 29th to honor and remember fallen comrades with a wreath-laying ceremony at the U.S. Soldiers' and Airmen's Home National Cemetery.

Organized and conducted by the staff from President Lincoln's Cottage, the ceremony featured a joint service color guard, remarks from invited guests, and the laying of a wreath by AFRH-W residents at the tomb of Major General John A. Logan, whose 1868 order formally established what is today known as Memorial Day. Our thanks to President Lincoln's Cottage staff for a wonderful ceremony!



## Memorial Day concert

By Steven Briefs, Supervisor of Recreation Therapy



On Monday, May 29th, the residents of AFRH-W enjoyed a wonderful concert conducted by the Watsonville Community Band from California. They have been performing for 70 years at facilities big and small around our country.

Before they played at our Home they were at the Air Force Memorial on May 28th as part of the National Memorial Day Concert series. There are 35 members in this band, all hailing from Watsonville. Some of the songs they played were, The Fairest of the Fair by John Philip Sousa, Light Cavalry Overture by Henry Fillmore, The Homefront by James Christensen, and Rushmore by Alfred Reed. The two that got the most applause were a medley of our military service songs and then ending the performance with America the Beautiful. We thanked them for taking time away from their homes to be with us at our Home on this Memorial Day.

## AFRH-GULFPORT

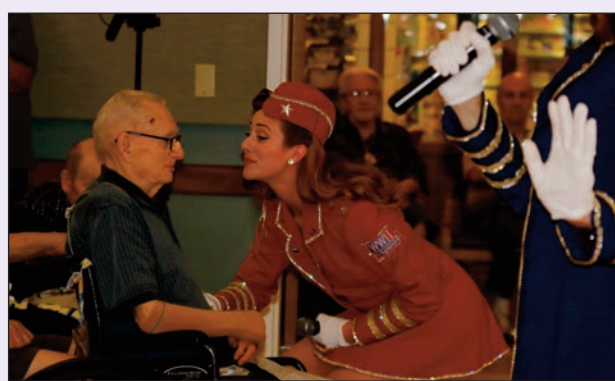
### Memorial Day Weekend in Gulfport

By Sean Campbell, Lead Recreation Specialist  
Photos by Resident Tom Peeks

Memorial Day is a solemn occasion each year when those who gave the ultimate sacrifice are remembered and celebrated. It is because of these sacrifices that we as Americans are able to enjoy a weekend with our friends and family. Friday, May 26th, the Armed Forces Retirement Home in Gulfport kicked off the weekend with a moving ceremony that paid tribute to those who gave their lives for our freedom. Mr. Darrel Smith (USN Retired), Director of Operations for the Naval Oceanographic Office at Stennis, served as the honored guest speaker for the ceremony. The former commander spoke highly of the sacrifices made by both those who had gone before us as well as paid tribute to the great achievements and service that the veterans at AFRH have contributed to our nation's security. A ceremonial wreath was placed to honor the fallen.

The weekend's festivities continued as a bus load of Veterans from the AFRH-G were recognized as VIP's at the annual "Sounds by the Sea" symphony concert and fireworks presentation. Each year the Gulf Coast Symphony hosts this patriotic event and creates a rousing fanfare for the veterans upon their arrival. The patriotic theme continued on Sunday as the WWII Museum's Victory Belles stopped by AFRH-G to perform a special show for the residents. The Belles are always a favorite of the residents, and their musical talents do not go un-noticed. They entertained, performed many patriotic songs and provided several kisses to lucky residents.

AFRH-G concluded the Memorial Day events with their annual "Cook-In Picnic" in the Dining Hall. Boiled shrimp, grilled chopped steaks, grilled cheese dogs, corn on the cob, watermelon along with other vegetables and desserts were enjoyed by all. Beer and wine were provided by Recreation Services for the AFRH-G residents.



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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 & 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, #584  
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-G Veteran Highlight – Bobby Harris

By Lori Kerns, AFRH-G Librarian



Bobby Harris is a fourth generation Harris to be born in Royston, Georgia (home of Ty Cobb). His father, who was the first in the family to be in the military, was a WWII Army veteran. When Bobby was young, his family moved to Greenville, South Carolina. He had an uncle that always talked about how much he loved being a Marine. This influenced him to join the Marines when he turned 18.

Bobby enjoyed his life in the Marines. During his career he had many choice assignments working in infantry and in personnel. One assignment stands out strong in his memory. During the early 1960's, Bobby was a corporal and was given the assignment to take a lance corporal with him to the armory to retrieve two pistols and then head to the motor pool for a vehicle. He was told to arrive at Naval Air Station Jacksonville at 0800. He was there to meet Lord Mountbatten, who would eventually become 1st Earl Mountbatten of Burma, and his two

grandchildren. The two Marines, wearing their summer dress uniforms, were given the responsibility of taking his two grandchildren to Jacksonville Beach for them to picnic and play in the water. At the end of their day, the children were returned safely to their grandfather. Lord Mountbatten shook Bobby's hand and thanked him. It was not until a week or so later that Bobby realized what a big deal his assignment was once he heard other people talk about the event.

After putting in his time with the Marines, Bobby went back to Greenville to begin working as a city firefighter and for the Army National Guard. By this time, he had become the father of two sons and two daughters. To support his children, he began thinking about rejoining the military. He went to the Marine Corps and they said that he would have to reenlist as a private first class. He tried the Army next. The recruiter there was candid and told him that he would go in as a Sergeant but he would be required to take an infantry MOS (military occupational specialty) and would be sent to Vietnam "as a target" in about eight months. He consulted the Air Force and was told they did not need him. Finally he went to the Navy who said they were happy to take Marines and that he would enter as a petty officer second class.

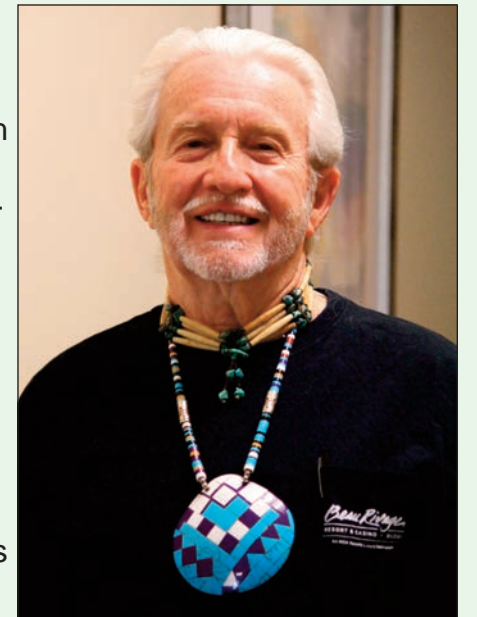
Throughout Bobby's Navy career, he had various assignments such as recruiting, classification, career counseling, administration, and instructive duty. He was fortunate enough not to have to leave his children for sea duty. Throughout his 16-year career, he was only given one sea duty- to Brown Water Navy where he was assigned to run an administration office. In 1986, he retired as a sailor who never went out to sea, and decided to take advantage of the GI Bill.

He went to Nazarene Bible College where he majored in biblical studies and Christian education. While in college, he could not find a good part time job so he began selling various items at flea markets. Eventually he made his way to Taos, New Mexico and opened a successful thrift shop.

While living in Taos, Bobby had to become a caretaker for his oldest son who eventually passed away from cancer. Sadly, his oldest daughter had also passed. Because of the experience caring for his son, he knew he did not want to be a burden on his children once he began to age and need help. This prompted him to put an application in to AFRH-G and moved to the Home 32 months later.

Bobby is definitely a proud brother and father. His only sibling, Roger, served in Vietnam and received the Purple Heart. Two of his children have had very successful military careers. His youngest son, Shannon, served as a diver in the Navy for 24 years. Molly, his youngest daughter, began her Army career in high school at age 17. She retired after 33 years from the U.S. Army Reserve as a full colonel. He is also a proud grandfather to "many grandkids" and great grandfather to "many more great grandkids."

Bobby enjoys living at AFRH-G where he takes advantage of the Home's many amenities. He spends time working out in the gym and swimming. He also enjoys attending many of the area festivals and events, in addition to visiting the local churches and casinos. After living in the mountains for over 26 years, he has adapted and loves the coast life. These days, Bobby's best enjoyment is the hours he spends with his girlfriend of over two years.



## AFRH-W Veteran Highlight – William "Willie" Shives

By Christine Baldwin, AFRH-W Librarian



William "Willie" Shives was born on a small farm in south central Pennsylvania. He was the youngest of nine children. He had a twin sister, who succumbed to pneumonia, only 11 days after birth. Willie attended a rural school, which consolidated all 12 grades into one building. He graduated with honors and was the class valedictorian. Willie was always very active and loved anything to do with sports. Attending a small school with a limited sports talent pool allowed him to letter in three sports, despite his diminutive size. It would be later, while stationed at Bremerhaven, Germany, that he would truly find his sport where physical stature didn't matter – bowling. He hasn't stopped bowling since. Significant achievements include two 300 games, one bowled in 2001 and the other in 2008. He also holds the house record for the AFRH-W with a 288 game and a 768 series, bowled in 1995.

Willie enlisted in the U.S. Air Force before he graduated from high school and left for Lackland AFB, Texas for basic training two days after graduation. The initial aptitude tests showed him to be well-adapted for survival instructor at Stead AFB, Nevada. But his physical stature worked against him in this field due to the large and heavy back packs to be carried, so he was not chosen for this assignment. After successfully taking a language aptitude test, Willie was called into the personnel office and asked what language he wanted to study, and where. He promptly chose German to be studied at a small USAF detachment at Syracuse University, New York. A few days later, he was notified that he was chosen to study Russian at the Army Language School at Monterey, California. Willie's class had two distinctions at school: his was the first all-Air Force class, and the final class to take the Russian six-month course, prior to changing to a nine-month curriculum.

After completion of the basic language school in 1958, Willie's first assignment was to

the 6913th Radio Squadron Mobile, a USAF Security Service unit at Bremerhaven, Germany. His duties included intercepting, recording, analyzing and reporting Russian voice communications. While there, he chose to attend the Russian Intermediate Language School and reenlisted to become eligible for it. Upon completion of his three-year tour, Willie attended the Russian course at Syracuse University. He then was stationed at Goodfellow AFB, Texas for Technical School and to Eielson AFB, Arkansas where the 6985th Security Squadron was activated in 1962, using the RC-135 aircraft. Next, Willie went from Alaska to Rhein Mein AB, Germany. Willie's assignment at Rhein Mein was to the 6916th Security Squadron, which utilized RC-130s. After Rhein Mein, it was back to study Russian in the Advanced Course in 1967.

A short TDY to Ft. Meade, Maryland for technical training at the National Security Administration, was followed by an assignment to the 6986th Security Squadron at Wakkanai, Japan and from there back to Germany for duty at the 6915th SS at Hof in 1969. While at Hof, some improprieties on Willie's part resulted in the loss of his security clearance. He ultimately went into the personnel field, and after completing tours at Darmstadt and Sembach, Germany, along with an assignment to Minot AFB, North Dakota, Willie retired in 1977.

Willie's current residency at the Home began in July 2015, after a 15 year hiatus. He was previously a Home Resident from July 1986 – October 2001. He worked at the Home, first as a night watchman and then in the ID and registration section of Security. We are glad to have him back!



# Message from the Chief Operating Officer



Memorial Day is a time of reflection and gratitude to all those who gave their lives for the freedoms we enjoy. Each of us is touched, in some way, by their sacrifice. Perhaps he or she was a family member, a friend or acquaintance- or someone we may not have known personally, but learned of over the years – who lost their life in defense of our Nation. We cannot thank them enough, and will never forget them. My sincerest appreciation to our staff and residents who helped coordinate and participate in ceremonies over this past weekend.

As May turns to June, I am cheered to see the depth of progress being made on the part of many who continue to ensure that our Homes are not only solvent – but thriving! One highly visible sign of progress made by dedicated volunteers is the re-opening of the golf course at AFRH-Washington. Our volunteer golf members – be they residents, staff or from the community – are all pitching in to care and maintain the course this golfing season. It's a reflection of the pride we have in the Home to make this happen.

Here at the Agency level, my staff and I are also focusing on working with our new DoD oversight which was delegated to the Deputy Chief Management Officer. Together, we are

seeking ways to ensure a healthy, sustainable budget and looking at cost efficiencies that minimize impact on you, our residents. Cost efficiencies will be essential to maintaining our services during FY 2018 with our anticipated budget constraints and reduced revenue streams. We are hopeful AFRH will receive continued support to replace the fines and forfeiture reduction and support our operations.

My thanks to everyone – residents, staff, volunteers and friends of AFRH – for being good stewards of the Home, and I look forward to providing you with updates as our plans evolve.

*Dr. Timothy Kangas*



**AFRH COO Dr. Timothy Kangas speaks with Rep. Tim Walz, Ranking Member, House Veterans Affairs Committee.**

## Military Leadership Students Seize Armed Forces Volunteer Impact Day at AFRH-W

*By Robert W. Mitchell, AFRH-W Volunteer/Activities Coordinator*

A massive force of more than 150 military volunteers from the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and Coast Guard descended on to the campus of the Armed Forces Retirement Home on May 18 to enhance the beauty of the historic land with an onslaught of grounds keeping activities. The work essentially transformed the look and feel of the main campus on and around the golf course, the gardens and the two fishing ponds.

Three separate teams of 50 motivated volunteers tasked with multiple projects over a four-hour period, cleared the green fields of tall grass, debris, tree branches and countless brown and orange leaves. Key tasks among the volunteer force included mowing fields of grass on the golf course, tilling lanes of soil for new flowers and vegetables at the gardens, raking leaves and debris, and dredging algae growth from the surface of the ponds.

Following the outdoor work, the volunteers interacted with residents in the dining facility and outside at a cookout held by the dining staff. AFRH-W Chief of Resident Services Ron Kartz thanked the large group of volunteers at the golf clubhouse and expressed gratitude on behalf of the Home for their invaluable contribution. Measuring the impact of the volunteer service in monetary terms, he said their work was "significant."

The volunteers were all students of the National Capital Region Joint Non-Commissioned Officer/Petty Officer Professional Development Course held at the National Defense University at Fort Lesley J. McNair, Washington, D.C. The course is designed to prepare students for leadership challenges during joint missions.

The volunteers were highly motivated and enthusiastic about giving back to the veteran community, said U.S. Navy Senior Chief Petty Officer Denise Demontagnac, an NCR Joint NCO/PO PDC course instructor. "We totally love coming out, giving up our time and giving back to those who have paved the way for us," she said. "And we love listening to the motivating stories and we are encouraged by the knowledge that they give us. We look forward to coming back in November." This effort marks the fifth volunteer visit by the school to AFRH-W, Demontagnac said.



*NCR Joint NCO/PO Professional Development Course 15-19 May 2017*

**Volunteers from the NCR Joint NCO/PO Professional Development Course and AFRH-W staff (down front) pose for photo on golf course at AFRH-W.**

## National President of the American Legion Auxiliary visits AFRH-G

*By Becki Zschiedrich, Public Affairs*

The National President of the American Legion Auxiliary (ALA), Mary E. Davis, recently visited the AFRH in Gulfport, MS. Resident Doris Jones proudly showed her home to Davis and other members of the ALA, who toured the facility. Mary E. Davis of Lacey, Washington, was elected national president of the American Legion Auxiliary during the organization's 96th National Convention in Cincinnati, held Aug. 26-Sept. 1. Davis will serve the world's largest women's patriotic service organization as national president for a one-year term.

As a member of the ALA for 40 years, Davis has chosen to highlight ALA Member Pride for her term as national president. Davis said, "Each and every day as we work our programs, serve our veterans, help our military families, or make a difference in the life of a child, we swell with pride because of the difference we make. I call that ALA Member Pride. Pride in one's accomplishments, pride in making a difference in another's life, and pride in belonging to an organization that embodies the mission work of the American Legion Auxiliary."



## "Deploying" wins first place

*By Milton Williams, Art Specialist*

Wolf Kiessling's art piece "Deploying" has received first place in the 2017 National Veterans Creative Arts Competition in the Transfer Engraving/Pyrography Kit Category. This is a technique using a heated metal tip to draw on wood. Wolf has won several awards using his gifted talent and I think "Deploying" is one of his best. A picture is worth a thousand words and this one says a lot. Both in thought and emotion, reminding us of the sacrifice our military and their families make for America's safety and security. Congratulations Wolf for winning the Gold Medal Award and thank you for inspiring and reminding us to view every member of our military as First Place.



## Reaching out to military veterans at AFRH-W

*By Robert W. Mitchell, Volunteer/Activities Coordinator*

Performing for military veterans is a great way to touch the lives and lift the spirits of residents at the Armed Forces Retirement Home (AFRH-W), according to Miss District of Columbia 2016 Cierra Jackson, a self-described "military brat" and daughter of a retired U.S. Army 1st Sgt.

"I think being a military child, I already understand that there are a lot of difficulties that our veterans face and sometimes certain days can be harder than others," Jackson said. "So, it is always great to provide some sort of musical therapy to our veterans and relief for them in whatever they may be going through mentally that day or if they just want to relax and have fun or [experience] a different perspective on an event that maybe different from what they usually get to see every day."

Jackson who had performed for AFRH-W residents during the 2017 Miss America visit, enjoyed interacting with residents and hearing their stories about being in the military so long ago. "It was really great. I remember being there last year as a contestant and performing, and now coming back as Miss District of Columbia and performing. It is always a great feeling to know that you are giving back," Jackson said. "Our veterans are so thankful and they're so kind and I love hearing their stories."

As the reigning Miss D.C., Jackson is passionate about community service, but said more needs to be done to connect young people to the veteran community. "I would definitely say connecting to different schools, providing different opportunities for the students to come out and serve. If there is an ROTC program, they can come out and serve, if there is an art program and they want to have an art day with the vets or if you want to collaborate with the Miss District of Columbia Organization and reach out to the schools, Miss District of Columbia would also be open to attending and coming with you," she said. "So, there are many different avenues, but I really think it's about being creative. I think a lot of people know that we appreciate our veterans, but sometimes they may not realize that our veterans would like to see their appreciation more on a daily basis. I think being able to express that to them and also [finding] ways that our veterans, our schools, our communities can connect with one another would be a great start in bringing young citizens and citizens of all ages to come out and support Veterans."

Jackson is set to debut a new song during a performance at the 2017 Miss DC Pageant at Howard University in Washington, D.C. June 18.



**Miss America 2017 Savy Shields (left) and Miss District of Columbia 2016 Cierra Jackson (center) talk to Resident Chuck Felder (right) outside the Scott Theater at AFRH-W.**

## From the AFRH-W Administrator



Dear AFRH-W residents, employees, and friends:

Spring is a wonderful time of year to be in our nation's capital not to mention the Armed Forces Retirement Home. Cool spring temperatures allowed us to take advantage of numerous outdoor activities on our beautiful 272-acre campus. Softball, golf, gardening and picnics were just some of the many ways we have been enjoying our historic home in May. This month, one of our three public outdoor events kicked off with the Fifth Annual Spring Fling on May 6th. Residents and neighbors came together to share in the fun. Food trucks and a beer trailer were parked near the golf clubhouse and driving range. A big top tent and live music were enjoyed by all despite a few raindrops. There were even costume play Star Wars characters on hand for kids of all ages. Noticeably, Darth Vader stood at attention during the presentation of colors by the

Marine Corps Color Guard.

Our first softball game of the season was held May 10th after volunteers cut the outfield grass. Our landscapers provided finishing touches to the all-dirt infield to make the field safe. We had a lot of banter during the first game which was well attended by residents, volunteers and a handful of sporty staff. It was an excellent way to share in America's pastime!

The golf course is indeed open again this year! Memberships were sold to the

community for a planned seven-month season. This course, having been in existence for 100-years, is significant to present residents and future residents, who are committed to wellness and enjoying the outdoors. A volunteer labor force, or tiger team, has come together to save the course from irrecoverable harm. An eight-foot wide zero-turn lawn mower was purchased to cut the grass. Volunteers, after completing a safety training program, are keeping fairways cut to a golf-able level. We are by no means up to PGA standards, but we are learning more each week and even experiencing the occasional surplus of help. The AFRH-W has a storied history and I can't help but draw a connection to the old ways, when inmates (as residents were called in the 1800's) performed the labor keeping up the grounds. My sincere thanks to Ron Kartz and the residents, in particular Ken Faller, Ken White, Bill Jentarra, Richard Heinrich and Tulley Donohue, who are giving their time and dedication to caring for their Home and golf course. Their tireless efforts are keeping us going. Fore!

Shaun Servais



Resident Services Chief Ron Kartz pitches at the first softball game of the season.

## Chief Petty Officers volunteer at AFRH-W

By Robert W. Mitchell, AFRH-W Volunteer/Activities Coordinator

A team of U.S. Navy volunteers from the Chief Petty Officers (CPO) Association (Pentagon Chapter) spent half a day here at the Armed Forces Retirement Home, Washington, D.C. setting up the community center with Recreation Services indoors, and sprucing the campus grounds with Volunteer Services outdoors.

Inside, the CPO volunteers helped post a large banner for the Mexican Fiesta celebration high on a wall in the community center. They also assisted with furniture placement and assembling the serving tables for food and drinks. Outside, the volunteers took turns mixing and staining the wooden barriers and walking surfaces at the pond, collecting and removing debris from the surrounding areas.

In all, 25 volunteers contributed five hours each of community service to AFRH-W, interacting with residents and ensuring that our veterans continue to enjoy a neat, clean and safe community at the Home.



U.S. Navy volunteers affiliated with the Chief Petty Officers Association (Pentagon Chapter) comb leaves and debris from the fishing pond at AFRH-W.

## Democrat Members of House Committee on Veterans Affairs meet at AFRH-W

By Christopher Kelly, Public Affairs Officer

Photo by Necilia Jones, Public Affairs

AFRH-Washington hosted Democrat Members of the House Committee on Veterans Affairs on Monday, May 1. The Members and their staff came to AFRH to meet as a group as they discussed ongoing initiatives and plans for their current legislative session. AFRH Chief Operating Officer Dr. Timothy Kangas welcomed the visitors and, along with AFRH-W Administrator Shaun Servais, provided them with a tour of the Home. Our residents were delighted to have lunch with the Members and their staff!



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



Greetings from the RAC Chairman!

A Fishing Tale - On May 5, 2017 our own Ombudsman Robb Webb and his wife Jackie went fishing at the AFRH pond. Robb cast his line upon the waters and after approximately 10 minutes he felt a tug on his line. With the help of his wife, they brought in a catfish weighing in at 20 lbs. and measuring 30 inches. Robb's bait of choice was chicken gizzards. As it is here at AFRH-W the policy is catch and release. Sorry Robb!

On May 13, 2017 the AFRH-W Golf Course opened for the season, with the help of volunteer residents, associate members and AFRH-W staff members. The first weekend's membership drive brought in \$19,000 dollars for the Resident Fund.

On May 18, 2017 AFRH-W hosted Armed Forces Volunteer Impact Day, with the help of 170 volunteer service members from around the Washington D.C. area. Once briefed by Chief of Resident Services Ron Kartz, the volunteers were broken into details to do maintenance on the golf course, fish pond, and garden areas. After all of the hard work was completed, the volunteers joined the residents for an outdoor cookout. I would like to say thank you to all of the 170 volunteer service members for a well done job!

-June 4, 1944 - During World War II in Europe, Rome was liberated by the U.S. 5th Army, led by General Mark Clark. Rome had been declared an open city by German Field Marshal Albert Kesselring amid Allied concerns the Germans might stage a Stalingrad-style defense that would devastate the historic 'Eternal' city.

-June 5, 1968 - Robert F. Kennedy was shot and mortally wounded while leaving the Hotel Ambassador in Los Angeles. The shooting occurred after a celebration of Kennedy's victory in the California presidential primary. He died at 1:44 a.m., June 6, at age 42, leaving behind his wife Ethel and eleven children, the last one born after his death. President John F. Kennedy had named his brother and campaign manager, Robert Francis Kennedy, to the post of U.S. Attorney General in 1961. Robert served as the president's closest confidant. After the assassination of JFK, Robert remained as Attorney General until 1964, when he resigned to make a successful run for the U.S. Senate from New York. Allied with the plight of the poor and disadvantaged in America, he spoke out against racial discrimination, economic injustice and the Vietnam War. In March of 1968, he had announced his candidacy for the presidency, and with the win in California, appeared headed for the nomination.

-June 6, 1944 - D-Day, the largest amphibious landing in history, began in the early-morning hours as Allied forces landed in Normandy on the northern coast of France. Operation Overlord took months of planning and involved 1,527,000 soldiers in 47 Allied divisions along with 4,400 ships and landing craft, and 11,000 aircraft. The Germans had about 60 divisions spread along France and the Low Countries. American forces landed on two western beaches, Utah and Omaha, while British and Canadian troops landed farther east on Gold, Juno and Sword beaches. By the end of the day 150,000 Allied soldiers and their accompanying vehicles had landed with 15,000 killed and wounded.

-June 13, 1786 Birthday - American Army General Winfield Scott (1786-1866) was born in Petersburg, Virginia. Nicknamed "Old Fuss and Feathers" because of his formality, he served in three wars; the War of 1812, the Mexican War, and the American Civil War. He was also

nominated for the presidency by the Whig party in 1852 but was defeated by Franklin Pierce. -June 14, 1775 - The first U.S. Military service, the Continental Army consisting of six companies of riflemen, was established by the Second Continental Congress. The next day, George Washington was appointed by a unanimous vote to command the army.

-June 14, 1777 - John Adams introduced a resolution before Congress mandating a United States flag, stating, "...that the flag of the thirteen United States shall be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white on a blue field, representing a new constellation." This anniversary is celebrated each year in the U.S. as Flag Day.

-June 20, 1925 Birthday - American military hero and actor Audie Murphy (1924-1971) was born in Kingston, Texas. He was the most decorated American soldier of World War II, awarded 37 medals and decorations, including the Medal of Honor for single-handedly turning back a German infantry company by climbing on a burning U.S. tank destroyer and firing its .50-cal. machine gun, killing 50 Germans. He later became an actor in western and war movies and made 45 films including; The Red Badge of Courage (1951), Destry (1954), and To Hell and Back (1955), based on his autobiography. He died May 28, 1971, in a plane crash near Roanoke, Virginia.

-June 25, 1876 - General George A. Custer, leading 250 men, attacked an encampment of Sioux Indians near Little Bighorn River in Montana. Custer and his men were then attacked by 2000-4000 Indian braves. Only one scout and a single horse survived 'Custer's Last Stand' on the Little Bighorn Battlefield. News of the humiliating defeat infuriated Americans and led to all-out war. Within a year, the Sioux Indians were a broken and defeated nation.

-June 25, 1950 - The Korean War began as North Korean troops, led by Russian-built tanks, crossed the 38th parallel and launched a full scale invasion of South Korea. Five days later, U.S. ground forces entered the conflict, which lasted until July 27, 1953, when an armistice was signed at Panmunjom, formally dividing the country at the 38th parallel into North and South Korea.

Sheldon Shorthouse



Ombudsman Robb Webb caught this 20 lb catfish while fishing in the AFRH-W pond.

# From the AFRH-G Administrator



Greetings,

What an exciting time to live and work at the crown jewel of the Mississippi Gulf Coast. I continue to be impressed by the outpouring care and concern the residents and staff have for each other. I have experienced the "caring culture" environment at other homes but nothing of this magnitude. Seeing firsthand how the residents and staff are engaged with each other is truly a blessing.

Coming up on June 14th we have two wonderful reasons to celebrate. That morning we commemorate "Old Glory" during our Flag Day ceremony. It was President Truman who signed the Act of Congress on August 3, 1949 that designated June 14th as National Flag Day. I was unable to attend our first Flag Day celebration last year so I am greatly looking forward to the ceremony this year.

On the evening of June 14th we will celebrate the United States Army's 242nd birthday. This will be exciting because it is the first of all branches birthday. The RAC requested we conduct this ceremony during the evening hours so current military men and women can help us celebrate this special occasion. Come early to get a good seat and I'll see you there.

God bless you and God bless America!

Jeff Eads



Memorial Day Ceremony.



Administrator Jeff Eads (in evacuation chair) participates in the Safety Fair.

# Boss's Bingo

By Jen Biernacki, Recreation Therapy Assistant

On Thursday May 4th, the residents of Healthcare were surprised with a special caller for their weekly bingo game. The AFRH-G Administrator Jeff Eads called the bingo numbers during the hour long bingo activity spreading cheers and fun for all. A microphone assisted Mr. Eads in volume as residents and volunteers were spread far across the room. "That was a lot of fun," stated Ms. Kitty Gill. "I wish I would have won though," she added. Mr. Eads has revealed his very special talent. Thank you Mr. Eads for spending your afternoon with us. We appreciate you!



# Gulfport resident wins gold in the National Veterans Golden Age Games

By Becki Zschiedrich, Public Affairs  
Photos by Resident Diana Dopp

Congratulations to Marine Corps veteran and AFRH-G resident Doris Denton for placing first in Shuffleboard and Horseshoes in the 31st National Veterans Golden Age Games that took place May 7 – 11 in Biloxi, Mississippi. She also competed in bocce ball and table tennis. Over 800 athletes flocked to the coast to compete in a variety of sports.

Doris was also selected to carry the torch at the Parade of Athletes, which was held at the Beau Rivage Resort and Casino on opening night. Veterans from each branch of the military proudly represented their residential state during the parade. This event attracted veterans from almost every state in the country, and even places outside of the United States.

Doris said, "I've always been competitive, and I enjoy participating in sports. It doesn't matter what the game is, I just like to play." She served in the Marines from 1961-1981. She rose to the rank of sergeant major, and completed a tour in Vietnam. She grew up in Florida, but now calls the Armed Forces Retirement Home in Gulfport, Mississippi home.



Doris carries the torch at the Beau Rivage Resort and Casino during the Parade of Athletes on opening night.



Doris Denton participating in the Game of Horseshoes.



Doris Denton wins Gold in horseshoes and shuffleboard.



Doris receives her gold medals from the Biloxi VA Director Anthony Dawson.

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



Volunteering is generally considered an altruistic (altruism or selflessness is the principle or practice of concern for the welfare of others) activity where an individual or group provides services "to benefit another person, group or organization".

Volunteering is often intended to promote goodness or to improve human quality of life. Volunteering may have positive benefits for the volunteer as well as for the person or community served. Many volunteers serve on an as-needed basis, such as in response to a particular need of an individual or group.

Your RAC members often hear a discouraging word, thought or idea from a resident (or even a visitor/guest) about the level of service you receive from them. Most times it is due to the RAC member doing the right thing or deed, although by no means the most popular action or deed. In my humble opinion, the members of the AFRH-G RAC strive to ensure, as far as possible, equal rights, opportunity and treatment for all members of the

AFRH. (AFRH Agency Directive 8-12B issued January 14, 2013)

Although it shouldn't be necessary, perhaps it is the time to repeat part of the direct quote "for all members of the AFRH". While this phrase can be open to interpretation, again in my humble opinion, it includes the residents, employees, professional and non-professional staff, as well as the contracted employees who have such a direct (and indirect) affect and effect on the morale, safety and health of all.

Making decisions for the benefit of the 'we' and not for an individual or the 'I' is by no means easy, generally less than popular, and oftentimes second and third guessed by those not involved in the decision process. The decision is dissected, pounced upon, criticized, analyzed, ridiculed and the list of adjectives could go on ad infinitum. Countless hours behind the scenes are performed by your RAC members in an effort to ensure a proper, just, fair, and correct decision is reached.

I informed the Administrator that his decision on the alcohol vote would be somewhat controversial, in light of the RAC's recommendation to continue providing alcohol at special functions until the end of the current fiscal year and not fund it for next fiscal year from the resident fund. I commend him for taking the time to consider not only the RAC's recommendation, comments made at a Town Hall, comments received from residents and staff as he traversed the halls or met with residents and staff in his office, as well as through personal observations and coming to a decision he felt was fair and equitable for all residents.

To this end, discontinuing the Contract Employee of the Quarter Award was not a

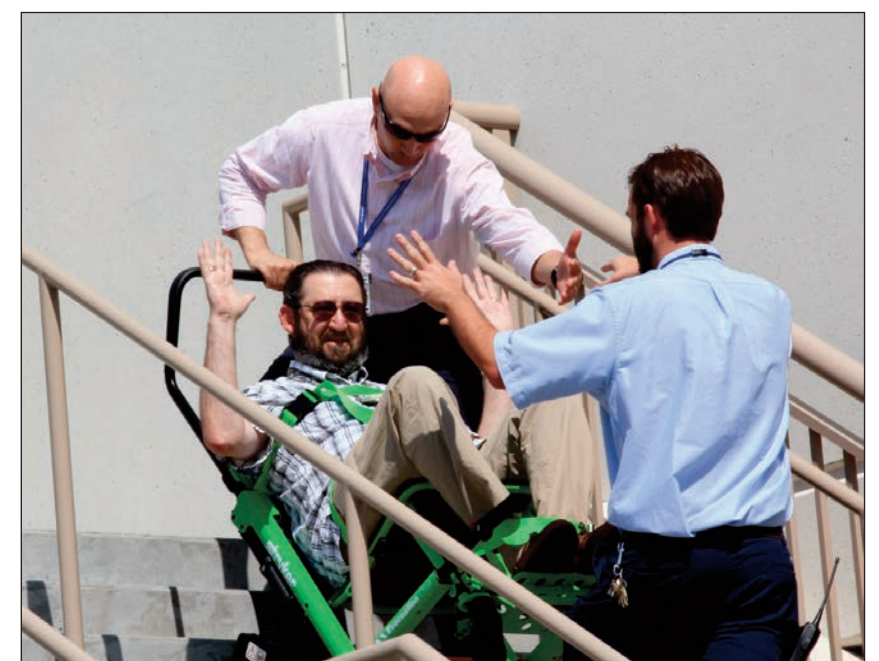
decision that came about lightly. It is not a mandated Standing Sub-Committee of the RAC. Participation ebbed significantly and not enough nominations were received to ensure all contracted employees were treated equally. When it became controversial in the eyes of some and began to be a negative rather than positive activity, it was time to end the program. Do our contracted employees deserve recognition? Absolutely! However, it should come from their employer. Residents have an opportunity to provide their thoughts regarding outstanding performance of the contractors by utilizing comment boxes provided by GCE and CMI as well as writing a note to Susie Baumunk of Ability Works in Harrison County.

Should you be interested in knowing how to contact the employer for any other contracted person working at the AFRH-G, please let me know and I will find out how to do so. That being said, do you realize how many different ways other contracted persons are assigned to work on the property of the AFRH in direct and indirect services to residents? To conclude, please know that your needs, ideas, interests, suggestions, recommendations, comments and critiques are heard and acted upon; especially if they affect your morale, safety, or health. The RAC will continue to strive to be your effective vehicle for dissemination of information, policies, regulations, and constructive ideas and concerns to and from the Administration while striving to ensure, as far as possible, equal rights, opportunity and treatment for all members of the AFRH.

I am open to any suggestions or topics you would like me to discuss, or to answer questions in this column that may be of importance to you. If it is on your mind it must be important to you, and chances are it is also of importance, or at least informative, to other residents to know the answer.

Til next month I wish you all the best,

Phil Ford



Phil Ford was a good sport while being carried down the stairway when he participated in the Safety Fair.

# AFRH-W Activities

## Take me out to the ballgame!

By Amanda Jensema, CTRS

Residents of AFRH were treated to a Washington Nationals game against the Arizona Diamondbacks on Thursday, May 4th. The weather was on the cool side with a constant breeze. We all bundled up well and ate some hot dogs and popcorn to keep us warm! It was a great game and the residents were right there cheering them on! The Nationals were the first to score in the second inning with one run, followed by two more runs in the 3rd to make the score 3-0. The Diamondbacks did not score until the 7th inning with one run. We then answered that with a run in the 8th, and Arizona responded with one more run in the 9th. The final score was 4-2, a Nationals win!! What also made this a special trip was that we ran into our neighbors from the Washington, DC VA Medical Center, who were sitting in the section next to us! It is always nice when we are at an event together. Everyone had a wonderful time at the game and look forward to their next opportunity to cheer on their home team, the Washington Nationals! On behalf of the residents we would like to thank the Fenwick Foundation for donating the tickets.



## AFRH-W Mother's Day and Ladies Tea Social

By Constance Maziel, Lead Recreation Specialist



A springtime Mother's Day and Ladies Tea Social created a jovial event for all the lady residents at AFRH-Washington on May 15th, 2017. Glamorous bracelets, necklaces, and Mother's Day pins welcomed each participant as they entered the room. Bright purple, pink, and green decorations covered the tables and walls, while beautiful red roses set the tone on each table. Everyone who attended had the opportunity to win door prizes as they also engaged in Women's History Trivia and Facts. Classic tea time treats were served including an assortment of fine teas, finger sandwiches, fruit, and cheese/crackers. However, the highlight and most favorite seemed to be the decadent cake pops. The residents enjoyed socializing and sharing stories, while classic women's hits played on the record player. Special thanks to all the volunteers and participants for making the Mother's Day and Ladies Tea Social truly delightful!!!



## Spring into Summer Ice Cream Social AFRH-W

By Constance Maziel, Lead Recreation Specialist



The 89-degree sunshine weather created the perfect day for the Spring into Summer Ice Cream Social on Friday May 19th. Residents from each population gathered together in the Scott Community Center with their stomachs and hearts ready for chocolate, vanilla, strawberry swirl, and even butter pecan ice cream. The ice cream social would not be complete if it wasn't for the extra toppings of walnuts, strawberries, chocolate and caramel syrup, whipped cream and of course cherries!!! The room was filled with spring and summertime florals, and bursts of green, purple, and pink décor throughout. Everyone socialized amongst each other and some residents moved on to the dance floor to boogie to classic hits played by the DJ, Billy White. The social concluded with full bellies and pure bliss on all the participants' faces. A special thanks to all the volunteers for making the Spring into Summer Ice Cream Social a real treat!

## Reading Buddies ends another year

By Christine Baldwin, Librarian

AFRH-W has completed another year of the Reading Buddies program with the children from the Creative Minds International Charter School. The students are from Kindergarten – 6th grade and the readings took place during their lunch time. The resident guided the youth with his/her reading or just read to the child while he/she ate. Residents participating during one or both semesters were Earl Tourgee, Joe Nesnow, Norma Rambow, Frank Lawrence, David Kaetzel, P.K. Knor, Frank George, Roberta Spangler and Esker McConnell. Also Chris Kelly, our Public Affairs Officer, was able to help during the fall term. A special thanks to Glenna Orr, our outside volunteer, who added so much with her Reading Specialist training and warm and caring heart. Glenna first began to volunteer at AFRH in 1998, when she was asked by America's Promise-The Alliance for Youth to collaborate with a middle school in Washington, D.C. and help to put in place an Intergenerational Program uniting the middle school students and AFRH residents. And finally a big thank you to our Creative Minds International Charter School staff including Aura Matias, who organized the children and their times, and Willis Paleschi, Physical Education teacher, who loved reading with the children.

## First Recreation Therapy swim of the season

By Amanda Jensema, CTRS

With the weather you would not believe it was swim season. It was cold and overcast, and we were all thankful for the indoor heated pool. Residents Margaret Spicer, Victor Mosesso, and David Kaetzel, and recreation therapy staff Carol Mitchell and I had a great swim in the therapeutic pool located next to the gym. We walked, swam laps, played water volleyball and basketball, tossed a beach ball, and did water weights and aerobics.

Everyone enjoyed the warm water. We traveled down memory lane speaking about our memories of going to the pool as kids, and what you had to do to be able to join the Navy. Mosesso stated they had to jump off a high dive and they pulled you out of the pool with a hook!

When we were done with our hour long swim we had chips to snack on and, soda or water to drink while we drip dried. RT swim is a once a month program that all residents are invited to attend. We always have a great time. See you next month!



## Korean cyclists travel cross-country to thank AFRH-Washington Korean War veterans

By Christopher Kelly, Public Affairs Officer



Two recent college graduates – T.H. Lim and Lee Yoon-hee, culminated a months-long cross-country bicycle ride when they arrived at AFRH-W on May 11 to honor our residents who are veterans of the Korean War.

They carried with them messages of thanks to the veterans on behalf of the citizens of South Korea.

For Lim, the project was personal. His grandfather escaped from North Korea in 1950, and fought as a special forces member under American command and alongside American soldiers until 1953. As a refugee from the North, Lim's grandfather faced suspicions and received no recognition from the South Korean government for his efforts. Lim decided he needed to do something to honor not only his grandfather, but all who fought to preserve his country's freedom.

Lim and Yee were greeted at AFRH by a gathering of Korean War veterans who listened intently to the story of their journey. "Carrying old fashioned paper letters with nothing more than the power of our legs, was a fun, respectful and much more meaningful way to express our thanks to the veterans of the Korean War," he told those gathered. A number of residents brought scrap books and other mementos to share with the young riders. AFRH Ombudsman Robb Webb presented the two with the AFRH-W official challenge coin as a token of the Home's respect and gratitude for their efforts.



# AFRH-G Activities

## National Nurses Week and Safety Day

Photos by Becki Zschiedrich, Public Affairs



In partnership with National Nurses Week and OSHA's National Safety Stand Down, the AFRH-G hosted a Safety Day to display safety devices for the purpose of raising awareness among residents and employees regarding fall hazards and fall prevention, response capabilities and tools of the trade. Some of the tools of trade on display were the Jaws of Life, ambulance stretcher, evacuation chair, ladders and safety devices.

Safety Officer Frank Bermudez provided key safety training on the Paraslide and Evac Chair to the nursing staff. CMI staff offered ladder safety, AMR Ambulance were on hand to answer any questions and the Gulfport Fire Department attended and presented the Jaws of Life.

Nursing staff also participated in the Safety Fair. Nurses provided education and posters on fall prevention, and to keep "fall a season, and not a safety reason." Amanda Herold, RN, Infection Control Nurse provided education on hand hygiene using "Glo-Germ." Brandon Kinchen, RN/Nursing Supervisor/Wellness Center provided education on oxygen safety and management and Diane Snyder, RN/Nurse Educator played "Health Care Jeopardy" with the residents and staff.

National Nurses Day is celebrated annually on May 6 to raise awareness of the important role nurses play in society. Thank you to all of our nurses for providing person-centered-care to our residents.



## Boy Scout bowling and lunch bunch fun!

By Susan Bergman, MT-BC, Recreation Therapy Services

On Saturday, April 29, 2017, Boy Scout Troop 201 took resident veterans from Valor, Loyalty and Allegiance Hall for a morning of bowling in the bocce center as a spring game event. After bowling, they escorted residents to the main dining hall, visited, and ate with them for "Lunch Bunch."

To conclude the day, they returned the tables and podium from the AARP Driving Course to the community center, followed by a meeting with Independent Living resident, Edward Farrell, about his experiences caretaking his mother with Alzheimer's Disease. Afterwards, the scouts engaged in various sensory and perception exercises to achieve their Disabilities Awareness Merit Badge. We look forward to a future visit with this amazing troop.



## Sweet sounds of country music

By Jen Biernacki, Recreation Therapy Assistant

On Thursday May 11, the residents of Valor, Loyalty and Allegiance Hall enjoyed a guest musician, Brooke Shambley. Brooke played guitar and sang popular country songs that touched everyone's heart strings through the lyrics.

Brooke is the wife of a Navy Officer and has an eight-year-old son. She has been writing her own songs, singing and playing her guitar since the age of thirteen. We send a special thank you to her for sharing her talents and spending the morning here at AFRH-G.



## AFRH-G residents speak to students at local school

Courtesy of Connie Favret, St. James School Librarian

Our speakers schedule has been wildly successful this year thanks to AFRH-G residents, who have done nine different presentations for the students at St. James on varying subjects, including: "Life on a Submarine," "Hawaii and Her Volcanos," "Appalachian Trail," and "The Mighty Monk Seals."

Our library at St. James recently hosted an exciting presentation by Mr. Clifford Smith, a veteran from the Armed Forces Retirement Home, and his daughter, Michelle Smith. Michelle recently returned from the Hawaiian Islands where she worked as a team member of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Hawaiian Monk Seal Recovery Plan. Together, Michelle and her father amazed Ms. Ruspoli's and Mrs. Holder's second grade classes with facts about Laysan Island, Midway Island, Pearl and Hermes Reef and French Frigate Shoals. Michelle spent four months roughing it while assessing the population of the monk seals, removing debris from their haul-out sites and disentangling seals from marine debris. Monk seals grow to a length of seven feet and can weigh up to 450 lbs. They like to haul themselves out during the day on sandy beaches, corals and volcanic rock. Monk seals are named for the folds of skin on their head that look like a monk's hood and because they spend a great deal of time alone or in small groups. Part of Michelle's job was to restrain the seals while they were being banded, which proved to be quite a challenge. The Hawaiian Monk Seal is considered one of the rarest marine mammals in the world and without the conservation efforts of the young people like Michelle to study the seals and protect their habitat; we would no doubt experience a loss of this extraordinary species of God's creation. It was three cheers and a multitude of thanks for a wonderful presentation.

## Resident attends Gulfport Police Department Memorial Ceremony

Resident Tony Langdon was invited by the Gulfport, MS Police Chief Leonard Papania to attend the Gulfport Police Department Memorial Ceremony on May 19th. As it does every year, the city blocked the street in front of the Gulfport Police Department as officials and residents remembered eight fallen police officers. The memorial ceremony on the police department's front steps is in conjunction with National Police Week and is one of several taking place on the Mississippi Coast in May.



Resident Tony Langdon (far right) takes a group photo with the Gulfport PD.

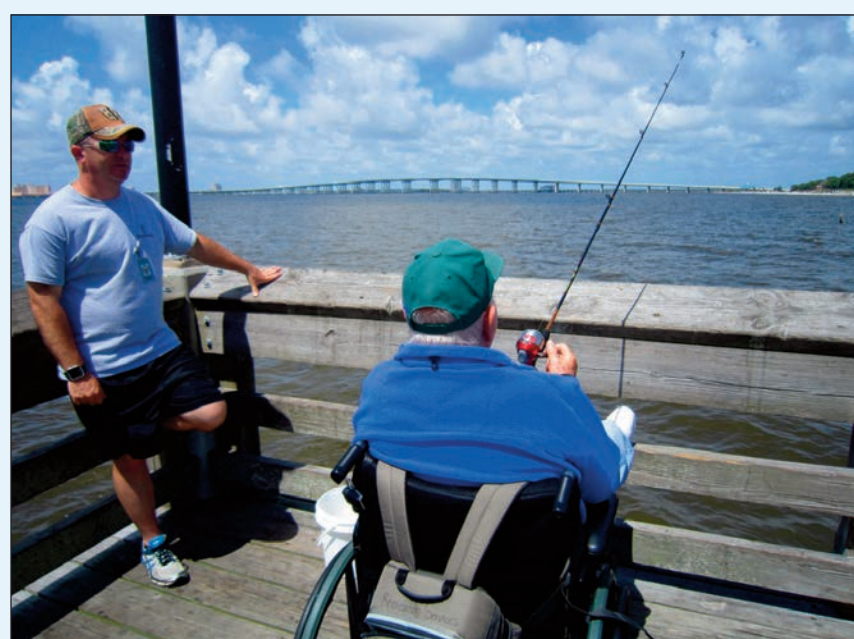


# GULFPORT

## A beautiful day for fishing and kite fishing

By Susan Bergman, MT-BC, Recreation Services  
Photos by Resident Jack Horsley

It was a beautiful day on Friday, April 21 for residents from Allegiance, Valor, and Loyalty Hall to grab their fishing poles and enjoy Fort Maurepas Park and Pier in Ocean Springs, Mississippi. Once the fish started biting the bait shrimp, catfish, croakers, speckled trout, and spotted croakers were the main catches. With lunch approaching, residents headed for the picnic shelter to enjoy a delicious box lunch from dining service and a perfect view of the blue sky and sparkling water. After lunch, residents took their turns kite fishing where several volunteers lined up to watch and provide sound effects responding with "oooo's...awww's...nooo...yeaahh" as the kite dipped and rose with the wind. Thank you to our resident volunteers – Jack Horsley, Edward Farrell, Rick John Walk, Doris Jones, and Smitty Smith along with community volunteers – Pauline Larson and Leann Wise. We can't thank our military volunteers enough including the Navy CB-133, USS Portland from Pascagoula, and the Coast Guard. Can't wait to go fishing and kite fishing again!



# WASHINGTON

## Recreation Therapy Mexican Fiesta

By Carol Mitchell and Amanda Jensema, Recreation Therapy  
Photos by Necilia Jones, Public Affairs



Hola Amigos! On Wednesday, May 3rd the Recreation Therapy department hosted what has become an annual event... The RT Mexican Fiesta! This year's event was just as memorable as in previous years. Residents were served traditional Mexican foods to include: burritos, Mexican layered bean dip, chips and salsa, fresh fruit and cinnamon tortilla chips.

Resident Services Administrative Assistant Carolyn Haug, and Recreation Team Lead Constance Maziel had the huge responsibility of making the fresh table side guacamole and one of our regular volunteers, Betty, and a military volunteer took on the task of making home-made quesadillas. Our resident

bartenders Sheldon and P.K. did a tremendous job at the bar making strawberry margaritas, both with and without alcohol, as well as serving Mexican beers, sodas and water. A handful of brave residents even had a shot of tequila!

Throughout the event we had a three piece roving Mariachi Band giving each table specialized attention. Military volunteers did a phenomenal job serving residents at their tables and providing for their food and beverage needs, along with mixing and mingling with the residents. There were over 90 residents in attendance from all levels of AFRH-W care, and they all left with smiles on their faces. Days following the event, residents were still expressing how much fun they had and they are already looking forward to the next Fiesta! Until then...Adios!



Ray and Jo Colvard (pictured above) have been married for 70 years! They enjoyed an afternoon together at the Mexican Fiesta. Both reside at the AFRH-W.

