

Visit to AFRH-Washington

Sergeant Major of the Army Raymond Chandler III



Retired SGM Edward Davis, a Pearl Harbor survivor, provides some insight on his military career with SMA Raymond Chandler III. SMA Chandler visited the Washington facility along with his wife Jeanne and several active duty members of his staff.

Visit to AFRH-Gulfport

Master Sergeant of the Air Force James A. Roy

CMSAF James Roy visited the AFRH-G on Tuesday, October 16. While here, CMSAF Roy toured the dining room and various recreation areas to meet and talk with residents.

Right - Retired Air Force resident Rupert Maxwell welcomes CMSAF Roy.

Below - CMSAF Roy, Vincent Hammerlund and MCPO Ron Kartz, the AFRH-G Ombudsman, have a photo taken at the birthday dinner.



Jenkins is Kiwanian of the Year

AFRH-G Resident Charlie Jenkins was recently awarded Kiwanian of the Year by the Gulfport Kiwanis Club. His citation read, "Jenkins has worked for years as an example of the true meaning of Kiwanis, a global organization dedicated to changing the world one child and one community at a time." The Kiwanis Club honored Jenkins for his dedication to children, schools and the community.



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AFRH COMMUNICATOR

Phone: 1-800-422-9988 Web site: www.AFRH.gov Email: sheila.abarr@AFRH.gov

Sheila Abarr- AFRH Public Affairs Specialist, Marketing
Mary Kay Gominger- AFRH-G Admissions Officer, PAO
Greg Moore - Public Affairs/Marketing
Sherry Lawrence - Public Affairs

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



ARMY NAVY AIR FORCE MARINE CORPS COAST GUARD

Become a resident today!

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>

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>



The Chief Operating Officer wants to encourage Residents, who want feedback, to submit questions, concerns, or comments regarding the Armed Forces Retirement Home to the following email address: AFRH_PAO@AFRH.GOV. A section of the Communicator will be set aside to provide RESIDENT feedback.

AFRH-G Veteran Highlight

By Ruby Woods-Robinson,
M.S.L.S.

Anthony M. Langdon was one of eight siblings born to a father who was away most of the time fighting in World War II. His mother, five sisters and two brothers knew all about military life, having been born in Rock Island, Ill. As a child, Anthony enjoyed seeing people in uniform.

In Rock Island Anthony and his seven siblings attended Sacred Heart Elementary School and Alleman, Catholic High School. After he graduated from 8th grade, he was in New York City visiting his grandmother he saw Army



Anthony M. Langdon



Anthony M. Langdon in 1962 in Alaska.

Military Police, in a military uniform that was absolutely beautiful. Tony had never seen anyone in military uniform looking that good. That day he decided when he graduated from high school, he was going to become an "Army Military Police" or as some would say an "M.P."

In 1958 Anthony enlisted in the U.S. Army as a Military Police. He was assigned to the First Cavalry Military Police Department Division from 1958 – January 1960 in Munsan, Korea. Tony was also Chief Investigator for Northern Germany, Holland and Belgium, on the Drug Suppression Team. He investigated criminal offenses and drug traffickers. He was also First Sergeant of the 54th MP Company at Fort Ord, Calif. Tony served 20 years and four months in the Army. He was the First Sergeant and conducted routine company administration and company operations as directed by the company commander. He worked in this European theater for many years. Tony served 20 years and four months in the Army.

After Tony retired from the U. S. Army he worked 20 more years in the civilian work as a security officer with John Deere in Milan, Ill., and TRW, Queen Creek, Arizona in Quality Assurance. From both of these companies, he worked long enough to retire.

The good thing about John Deere is that this is where he met his lovely wife Debbie and was married for 17 years. When she passed away in 2001, he returned to work for



Anthony (Tony) Langdon pictured with actress Natalie Wood.

John Deere and retired in Mesa, Arizona.

Tony received the following activities and awards: Selected three times by the Editors of Who's Who in American Law Enforcement; TRW and Nissan Quality Master Award; Honor Roll, Olympic College, 1969; Fraternal Order of Police, Mesa, AZ Lodge 9, Lifetime member; U. S. Army Military Police Regiment Association, lifetime member; Veteran of Foreign Wars, Post 2153, Moline, IL, Lifetime member; Knights of Columbus, honorary lifetime member; International Police Association, AZ, Region 25, Active member.

AFRH-W Veteran Highlight

By Christine Baldwin

Louis was born on Long Island, New York on July 13, 1943. He joined the Navy in December 1962 at the tender age of 19. He went to Submarine School, and later into Special Services in Groton Connecticut. In 1964 he was chosen to go to Underwater Demolition Training and was one of 21 graduating (out of 150) for this elite group. Louis was told, "They only want the very best!" He traveled extensively; one week looking for a bomb around the Mediterranean and then moving to the North Pole for beach reconnaissance. His favorite base was at St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands. Later Louis went to Topographic Training at Ft. Belvoir, where he graduated in 1965.

Louis made it to Vietnam seven times. Since he was one of the fastest swimmers, he would often be at the back of the group. One time he and a SEAL named John Odush captured three Vietcong, not only because of their abilities, but also their strength. In December 1967, he was in an operation that was intended to be a combined reconnaissance patrol and ambush. Their patrol route followed the north bank of the Ong Keo River. Unfortunately, they were the ones ambushed. The platoon was hit hard with Louis and one other SEAL, Mike Collins, suffering serious injuries. It wasn't until Louis was home recuperating that he found out that Mike had died. During his service, Louis was shot in the leg and the arm and four days before going home on his last assignment was shot in the head.

Louis married in 1968 and has one son and one daughter.



Louis Dicroce

His son later joined the Army and his daughter the Navy. While living at Virginia Beach, he had a fall. A friend, who was a former Commander of Louis recommended the Armed Forces Retirement Home DC to him, so in 2005 he came on-board. "Here I can get three square meals a day and a roof over my head."

One last Bowling Column for Ed Crump

Over the years Ed was awarded trophies for bowling and for walking over 3,500 miles! He kept our bowling records, presented the prizes and gave us all recognition in his Communicator column. He helped to make our bowling alley a happy gathering place full of laughter and activities. We're thankful that he has been our friend.

Message from the Chief Operating Officer



Today's military member relies on an extended network of friends, family and community partners. The Armed Forces Retirement Homes in Gulfport and Washington are very fortunate to have developed a unique partnership with both communities right outside our gates. Even though a fence line separates the facilities from the outlying community it has become very obvious our

Residents have benefited from the outside connections with the community. In Gulfport many Residents are often welcomed at local elementary schools to speak about the military service and key lessons in life. While in Washington we have Residents building lifelong relationships with community members through our gardening program.

This month has really brought the outside community into each of the facilities. Each of our communities is not limited to what is inside or right outside the gate. Instead the entire listening or viewing area is our community, which includes military members, bankers, schoolteachers, firemen, construction workers, truck drivers, shrimpers and Residents.

I have enjoyed hearing positive comments from Residents and community members about the most recent events each facility hosted in October. In Washington even a little cold, damp weather did not stop Residents and the community from spending time together for afternoon polka music, apple butter sauce and arts & crafts with the children. Gulfport had a wonderful opportunity to be a hosting site for many "Cruisin' the Coast" participants. After looking through the photographs of each event an expression of gratitude, happi-

ness, and friendship developed in a short period of time among the entire community.

I believe the community relationships we establish today will become stronger and stronger over the next few years.

In last month's Communicator the AFRH-Washington Administrator, Dave Watkins, discussed his upcoming trip with Residents to the Royal Hospital Chelsea in England. He also mentioned his wife Sue would be traveling with them. Two (2) Q&A's were received this month from one Resident questioning the Administrator and his wife traveling as part of this International Exchange Program. The questions are found below on this page. The following thoughts and response are provided.

This annual event is part of an International Exchange Program between AFRH and the Royal Hospital Chelsea in England. Officially, this International Exchange Program is recognized and sponsored by AFRH. AFRH has traditionally sent an employee with the Residents to represent AFRH, demonstrate support for the Program, and facilitate Resident needs that may arise during the overseas travel. I believe this is both prudent and wise to continue. Over the years the program has benefited many Residents, promoted good relationships with England, and paid tribute to our Guiding Principle – Honor Heritage.

The Residents of the Royal Hospital Chelsea are called Pensioners. Last year four Pensioners traveled to the AFRH Washington to spend a week with our Residents. I have asked Public Affairs to reprint Laura Fogarty's article from their visit in November last year. Please take time to read it. The article highlights many of the activities and shared experi-



In November 2011 AFRH-W residents and Royal Hospital Chelsea in-pensioners toured several military and historic location in the Washington, DC metro area.

ences of program.

The NCOA has traditionally played a big role in support for this program as noted in last year's article. The NCOA Executive Director for Government Affairs, Richard (Dick) Schneider has offered to purchase the airfare for our Resident's traveling to England this year. We are thankful and appreciative of the NCOA's continued support of this enriching International Exchange Program. The Administrator will be traveling on official business and representing AFRH. As such his travel will be funded from the Trust Fund. The Administrator's wife, Sue, will be traveling at her own personal cost. Any gifts the Administrator may or may not receive will be accepted for AFRH and the government.

To all the Residents I would like to thank you for your military service and let you know that your sacrifices are not forgotten. Happy Veterans Day!!

Steven McManus

COO Questions and Answers

Q: I have been told by a member of the RAC that the non-commissioned Air Force Assn. is funding the trip to Chelsea for the Residents selected and your Administrator, Mr. Watkins. If this is true, I again call your attention to the two enclosed articles about Ethics. I sincerely request you reconsider approving this as "official business" and if he use personal leave and says his expenses are personally then there will be no problem.

A: See COO's Article for response.

Q: Regarding the Notification "Restrictions on Federal Employees Accepting Gifts" I believe this pertains to Mr. Watkins forthcoming trips to England. If

not, what will his status be? On leave, or your orders with per diem, transportation etc. paid for by the Residents Fund or from the Trust Fund?

A: See COO's Article for response.

Q: I suggest that the two old swings that were located at the South fence be put under the South veranda where they will be out of the weather and residents can enjoy the scenery. Presently they are along the "walking path" exposed to the elements collecting acorns and other trash. During daily walking the path neither my wife or I have ever seen anyone using the swings. I'm sure that under the veranda they would be used and last much longer. Under the veranda

location was suggested right after the new swings were put in but the suggestion seemed to have been ignored.

A: There were two suggestions for where the old swings should be placed. One was along the path and the other was in the garage. After more thought, we are going to place them in the garage under the veranda and see if they get more use. They have a limited life expectancy and will be disposed of when they wear out.

Q: When are you going to remove or fix the sun screens on the balconies?

A: We currently are reviewing the best options to replace/fix/modify the sun screens. We will be discussing our next course of ac-

tion with the Facility Manager and will let the Residents know how we plan to proceed.

Q: Well - Well Army Navy Game Oct 13th, Do the Vets of AFRH get to see it at Fiddler's Green? Fiddler's Green sure needs help. It is said the bar is open, but what time do they open the door - HA HA a Joke:)

A: The Army Navy game is scheduled for December 8th in the Community Center and will also be on TV in Fiddler's Green. Fiddler's Green opens at 3 p.m. except for special occasions like the Army - Navy game or dances.

Please submit your questions for the COO in the kiosk located in the Lobby.

Sponsored by the NCOA National Defense Foundation

Our International Exchange Program continues and is going strong

AFRH Communicator -November 2011

By Laura R. Fogarty (W)

On Monday, November 7, 2011, as the morning progressed, the excitement began with anticipation of hosting the next group of in-pensioners from the Royal Hospital Chelsea for the week at AFRH-W. Rooms were tidy and special treats were placed in the "tea room" for our guests. The resident hosts were Nelson Jamison, Billy White, Ken Faller and Corrine Robinson. Our Resident Advisory Council Chairman, Esker McConnell participated throughout the week as well. Resident hosts and former hosts gathered on the coach bus with me and the Director as we headed to the airport to greet our guests. We patiently waited for those bright scarlet coats to come thru the custom doors. As they did we yelled our traditional "hip hip hooray" several times with warm hugs for everyone. In Pensioners Tom Metcalfe, Malcolm Smart, Michael Dows, and Alfred Mason embraced our welcome along with their fearless leaders Lieutenant Colonel Rupert and Mrs. Michelle Lucas.

Upon arrival here, room assignments were given; shortly afterwards, the group ate dinner and there was a wonderful welcoming social sponsored by the residents. This gave all residents the change to mingle with our guests. The start of the daily programs began on Tuesday, November 8th as the group met up with NCOA Executive Director for Government Affairs, Richard (Dick) Schneider, and Chairman, NCOA National Defense Foundation, Matt Daily at the Pentagon. Dick and Matt coordinated with Sergeant Major Jeffrey Wells and Sergeant First Class Jennifer Bass the day's activities which included an informative briefing, tour of the building/memorial and lunch.

Wednesday, November 9th the group got a tour of the

Lincoln Cottage on the AFRH grounds and then ventured to the docks for an afternoon cruising down the Potomac on the Spirit of Washington Cruise Ship for lunch. Great food, entertainment and dancing non stop for the two hour cruise. Later in the day sight seeing between the monuments was enjoyed as each host resident gave a little briefing for each monument they visited. The day ended with attending the National Veterans day concert at the National Shrine here in DC.

Thursday, November 10th was another special day of activity as the group headed for a VIP tour of the White House. After the tour the group ate lunch at the famous Ebbitt's Grill. A little shopping at Pentagon City for some and others used this time to relax. Then it was off to Toby's Dinner Theater to see "White Christmas" The show was fantastic and standing ovations were throughout the house.

Friday, November 11th, Veterans Day, the group got up very early to meet Dick and Matt once again for the day. NCOA hosted a wonderful breakfast at the Hyatt Hotel and then provided box seats for the group at Arlington National Cemetery for the program. Afterwards, the Chelsea guests participated in the wreath laying program along side NCOA and other organizations honoring Veterans everywhere. Once they finished, they proceeded to the Marriott Crystal Gateway for a bit of socializing and refreshments. Later that evening, some of the group ventured downtown to experience a Washington Pub while others opted to relax and catch up on rest.

As the week progressed and so quickly I might add, Saturday came along and the group was in for a real treat. The AFRH speak Easy Culture Club put on a skit presentation titled "It only takes a minute". This was a forum for residents and employees to share their earthquake stories with others. After lunch the Air and Space Museum was the place to be and the

group enjoyed the many displays on hand.

Sunday, November 13th the group ventured out to the British Remembrance Service at St. David's Episcopal Parish Church for a service and social. Once finished, a visit/tour of the USNA in Annapolis was scheduled which was enjoyed by all. The night's activity was dinner, drinks and socializing at the Red Rock Pizza Pub. It was a great way to end the day.

The last scheduled activity of the week was a VIP tour of the Capitol. Representatives from Congressman Jon Runyan, Third District New Jersey met the group and gave a detailed tour. Lunch at Union Station went well and then it was off to the American History Museum. This was a favorite for all of the visitors. As tradition has been set, the week long program ended with a gathering at the Director's home for dinner and gift exchange. The Royal Hospital Chelsea thanked us for a wonderful week and they look forward to hosting us in November 2012 when our residents travel to their home.

This exchange program has been in existence since 2001. It takes many people involved to make it successful. Thank you to the following people for assisting me with this program. Charles Dickerson, David Watkins, Mary Catherine Murano, Nicole Chappell, Christine Baldwin, Michele Bailey, Lori Thompson and Jerry Carter and Susan Chubb. You are all appreciated!

In conclusion, during visits to both homes the In-pensioners and residents and employees from both homes have come away with special friendships and an understanding of traditions and lifestyles represented at each home. Lastly, a very special thank you goes to Dick Schneider and Matt Daily for supporting this exchange program. It is through their determination and desire to serve Veterans that funds are made available to support this endeavor. Thank you NCOA.

From the AFRH-W Administrator



An interesting cache was discovered when the dismantling began with the Sherman Building up in some of the highest stones of the tower. Today we call what was found a time capsule. What a remarkable link back into the history of the Soldiers Home from 123 or so years ago. The collection was a tobacco can filled with an Indian head penny from 1887, a medallion from the Exposition Universelle held in Paris in 1889 (the exposition for which the Eiffel Tower was constructed), a couple of liquor bottles and a local newspaper from 1890. The tobacco can was rusty, the bottles empty, the papers brittle and discolored but the penny was sound.

Now that the restoration is taking place for the Sherman the time capsule idea needs to be continued for later discovery. Plans have developed and a new capsule is being purchased that will be made of stainless steel and can be filled with some small items. The new capsule is small and the pieces that will be stored for perpetuity must be carefully considered. I am going to meet with Joe Wachter, the RAC Chairman and ask that he invite Residents to take part in coming up with ideas of what may be placed in the capsule.

Of course, precautions will need to be made so that the items can last more than a century. Items such as color photos, textiles, newspaper, rubber, leather, certain metals, like iron can deteriorate. Objects that would last are: treated black and white photographs on fiber based papers, wood if sealed, acid free permanent paper, glass, or nonferrous metals. Someone suggested we enclose a CD loaded

with information about the Home, but that wouldn't work unless we included a CD player with instructions as technology changes rapidly.

When all ideas have been gathered, representatives from the Resident Advisory Committee (RAC) and an equal number of staff will make the final decision on what can be included in the new time capsule. We will keep you posted on those decisions.

I want to share with you some information on the AFRH-W Residents' Fund. The Non-appropriated Residents' Fund (NAF) was begun in the early 1980's. Its' purpose is to support projects and activities designed to enhance the morale welfare, comfort, pleasure, contentment and general well-being of the Residents. The fund is to be operated in such a manner so the Resident recreational programs are self supporting. All Recreation programs are to be supported by this fund. Such projects include recreational programs, self-development courses, group social functions, organized trips under facility groups or individuals as well as incidental expenses associated with any of these activities such as transportation and refreshment.

The Residents' Fund is overseen and managed by the Resident Fund Advisory Board. This Board is made up of members from the RAC, staff from the Business Center, Campus Operations, the Ombudsman, the Librarian, Administrative Officer and the Chief of Residents Services. I, as the Administrator, chair the Resident Fund Advisory Board. As of today, the fund has a total balance of \$807,391.42. Income during the year of 2012 was \$195,433. Roughly 95% of this was fees that came in from the Golf Course. Other revenue is from interest, sponsorship, donations, bequeaths, and a small amount from AAFES, book proceeds, purchase card rebates and the Thrift Shop.

Money that is slotted out of the fund is



Items found in the tobacco can discovered during renovations of the historic Sherman Building.

for activity programs, prizes, and awards for the many activities such as bingo, bowling, golf, computer classes, different card games, etc. Other expenses are entertainment such as bands for socials, beverages, food costs for special themed events such as Birthday Parties for the military branches. Recreation activities take place numerous times a week all over the campus yet mainly at the LaGarde and Sheridan buildings. Over and above these everyday expenditures is funding for Volunteer Services, supplies for the RAC and computer room, library, wrapping room and the aquariums. And we can't omit the contracts for the golf course manager and assistants. The fees for the Double Nickels book projects and events come from this fund as well. Lastly, there are the financial administrative charges from Millington Security Finance. Total expenses for 2012 were \$229,224.20.

The Board recently has ordered six new carts for the golf course and we plan to purchase an additional six during 2013. In

addition, 21 computers and related equipment have been ordered for installation in the new Scott. This will assure that all new equipment will be available for the Residents in the computer lab, game rooms and library.

From my past experience and discussions with numerous leaders in the field of retirement communities and nursing homes, the AFRH-W is over the top compared to all the rest in programming and events in recreational activities. More money is expended here per Resident than any place else. I thank the workers of the recreation department for their desire to do extremely well for the Residents. You know, as a way of your showing your gratefulness, you can donate monies for this Resident's Fund and even writing this into your will. I know that is a suggestion and an advertisement but it is an excellent purpose—helping other Residents to find much enjoyment, companionship, friendship, and even making positive health choices by remaining active.

David Watkins

News from the Ponds

By Carolyn Haug

U.S. Coast Guard help beautify campus

On the fall morning of Wednesday, October 10th, the United States Coast Guard Chief Warrant Officers Association, Chief Petty Officers Association and the Coast Guard Enlisted Association joined forces to tackle several projects aimed to make the Ponds safe, beautiful and more accessible for our residents. Our men and women from the Coast Guard showed up with 50 volunteers ready to work. The large project of removing a section of small trees, shrubs and undergrowth along the south pond was completed in less than two hours with the help of our Coast Guard from TIS-COM. Clearing the section and still leaving some shade will allow our fishermen to cast their line along the southwest corner of the Ponds.

Additional projects included painting the pavilion and fence, staining rails and posts, securing the handrail along the south pond, continuing the safety line along the posts, aerate and seed the ground around the pavilion and along the front fence, trimming and removing fallen limbs and branches. After a morning of projects, the volunteers had the opportunity to meet with some of our residents who joined us for a pizza lunch. Thank you to our residents who came down to show support of our Coasties! We look forward to having them back next April.

New Partnership with Trout Unlimited and Living Classrooms

Through the efforts of the Trout Unlimited organization we have been able to assist with this out of the classroom experience. Living Classrooms is a unique program that allows Hart Middle School students in the Washington, DC area to learn how to fly fish as part of their science curriculum. Students spend multiple class periods learning the fundamentals of fly fishing. This includes water quality studies, macro invertebrates, and the importance of being responsible while fishing. Volunteers and educators alike have had a wonderful time during afternoon adventures with the fly fishers. Currently 36 students have participated at AFRH-W, and are very hopeful to have additional field trips in the future. Residents are encouraged to come out and participate. POC is Jerry Carter, room 1005 or ext 7923.

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



This is my first article for the Communicator. How does one write such an article? Just start and write about what one knows!

I know that the new Resident Advisory Committee at the Washington home is

up, and running, and busy making plans for the interesting and challenging tasks ahead. The Committee consists of;

- Joe Wachter as RAC Chairman
- Van Haynes as Vice-chairman
- Phyllis Bradford – Secretary
- Charles Jones – First Floor Rep
- Van Hayes – Second Floor Rep
- Walter (Smoky) Prussman – Third Floor Rep
- Francis (Tully) Donohue – Alternate

- Third Floor Rep
- Robert Brown – Fourth Floor Rep
- Miriam (Mimi) Rivkin - Fifth Floor Rep
- Anthony Contino – Alternate Fifth Floor Rep
- Sixth and seventh floor positions will be filled soon (I hope)
- Corrine Robinson and Edward Davis – LaGarde Ombudsmen

We call that team, the "Advisory Team" - AKA the A-team.

In the next few days we will firm up the sub-committee assignments. We have very qualified candidates for the sub-committees, but can always use more willing hands. As the adage states, "Many hands make light work."

The sub-committees are;

- Food Service
- Morale, Welfare and Recreation
- Health and Wellness
- Resident Fund Advisory Representatives

The AFRH-W RAC Committee has adopted the motto "Advocate, Coordinate and Communicate." We look forward to working to continue the dialogue with the home managers, listening to, and responding to, the advice and comments of our fellow residents, and making each precious day pleasant and enjoyable. With help and guidance from our residents, and support staff, we will do our best.

Joseph Wachter

United States Navy celebrates 237 years



Barbara Danna and Seaman Ledesma make the traditional cut into the cake celebrating 237 years of history.



RAC Chairman Joe Wachter presents the "Resident's Choice" award during this year's Antique Car Show.

From the AFRH-G Administrator



It is very heart warming to see the enormous amount of support that the Mississippi Gulf Coast has for our veteran population. Two great examples of this occurred this past month. On October

20, Ingalls Shipbuilding hosted over 30 of our residents to attend the christening of the USS America (LHA 6). During the ceremony, the residents were acknowledged and received a standing ovation from the crowd. Then on October 23, at the annual Salute to the Military, 25 tickets were donated by local businesses to the AFRH-G so that our residents could attend this prestigious event. The support we receive and enjoy from our community continues year round as well with regular visits from volunteers with the Pet Therapy program, Seabees that come daily to help our residents, active duty that attend our military service birthday celebrations and much more. It is truly a win-win for the AFRH-G and the local community and we are very much in appreciation for the continued support.

The calendar for November is filling up fast with activities and events for our residents to attend. Please make a note that we will be holding our second annual Veterans Day Open

House on Monday, November 12. The gates will open at 9 a.m. with opening ceremonies to take place outside by the flagpole at 10. Captain Rick Burgess, the Seabee Center Commanding Officer, will be the guest speaker. Immediately following the opening ceremonies, a demonstration from the Biloxi Police Department Bomb Squad will take place. And back by popular demand is the Harrison County Canine Unit demonstration. Inside guests will be given tours, refreshments and a chance to enjoy crafts and artwork from residents and local artists. The afternoon will wrap up with the regular Friday afternoon dance. What a great opportunity this day will be to show our local community what we are about and thank them for all they do for us.

Participation at the monthly Townhall meetings has been very good and I encourage each and every resident to make every attempt to attend. It's the best place to go to hear first hand about the status of projects or new initiatives for your Home. It's also a forum for me to provide answers to your specific questions about anything that is a concern or is of interest to you. November's Townhall will be held on Friday, Nov. 2 at 10 a.m. in the Community Center.

If you haven't had a chance to see the south end of the property for a few weeks, now is a good time to go. The sidewalks have been moved to better accommodate the residents that enjoy walking or riding bikes and the landscaping is nearly complete. And what

a difference our flag-lined entry makes! Thank you to all the residents that are getting state flags to fly weekly alongside our service flags. It just goes to show that there is no limit to what all we can accomplish collectively.

The change of seasons brings cooler temperatures and I'm seeing more residents heading outside to take advantage of the pleasant weather. Please remember to slow down and watch out for the other person when you are in the garage, whether you are on foot, in a car or on a bike. Don't assume the other person sees you. Statistics have proven that accidents typically happen in close proximity to your home, when your guard is down, so please pay attention and watch out for each other.

What is the Resident Fund or Non-appropriated Fund (NAF) as it is also called? The Resident Fund was established to support a variety of projects and activities designed to enhance the morale, welfare, comfort, entertainment, pleasure, contentment, and general well-being of the Residents at AFRH. Such projects might include: recreational programs; self-development courses; group social functions; organized trips under facility sponsorship; concerts; dances; and educational programs for groups or individuals; as well as incidental expenses (such as transportation and refreshments) associated with any of these activities. The fund is self-supporting and must be derived from non-appropriated income sources.

Each campus has a Resident Fund Advisory Board (RFAB). The RFAB meets quarterly, or at the call of the Chairperson. Agendas for the meetings will be built from a combination of the distilled minutes from the RAC meetings and prior RFAB meetings. Discussed at RFAB are the expenditures, financial reports, investments, non-funded and unbudgeted items and revenue. Annually the RFAB reviews the upcoming budget and makes recommendations. The RFAB consists

of the following voting members: Administrator (Chairperson), Chief of Resident Services, Chief of Healthcare Services, Chief of Campus Operations, two RAC members (one being the RAC Chairperson) and two Residents at large appointed by the RAC Chairperson. Non-voting members include representatives from Recreation and the Business Center; and the Ombudsman.

For FY12 ending September 30, 2012, the fund had a balance of \$1,184,348.18. Income of \$67,119.91 through resident estates, donations, interest, dance entrance fees, Thrift Shop income, NEX and Fiddler's Green and other fund raising programs. Expenses were \$117,976.27 that supported the many programs AFRH-G had throughout the year. Also included in the expenses are the fees paid to NAS, Millington, Commander Naval Installations Command (CNIC) for investment and accounting services. The fee is about 1.5%, however there was an adjustment made in September that adjusted FY11 and FY12 for incorrect charges that were being paid by the DC Resident fund. Those fees alone were \$23,763.94 which was unexpected. All local deposits for the Residents Fund are deposited in Hancock Bank as a pass through account for CNIC.

The Board recently approved the FY13 Resident Fund Budget to benefit the residents of AFRH-G. Managing and oversight of this fund takes a lot of work and oversight by many people from Recreation, Finance and the Resident Advisory Committee. I want to thank you for a job well done.

Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 6. We will run buses every hour on the hour to the polls beginning at 8 a.m. until 3 p.m. For those that wish to drive, the voting location is the Skate Park on Debuys Road. Don't forget the time change on Sunday, November 4. Have a safe and happy November.

Chuck Dickerson

Residents join Seabees in Navy birthday celebration



Ann Whittaker (center), Charlie Jenkins, Hugh Wingo and Neville Smith join the Seabee Center Commanding Officer Captain Rick Burgess and Constructionman Lorenz in cake cutting ceremonies.



Navy birthday celebration at AFRH-G

The oldest female resident that served in the Navy Marion Ritchie cuts the cake with guest of honor Cmdr. Jonathan Vorrath and active duty members of the Navy that were in attendance of the AFRH-G Navy birthday celebration.

Notes from the AFRH-G

Chairman, Resident Advisory Committee



October 2012 has been another picture perfect weather month here on the Beach. The Resident count here in Gulfport this month is now 506 and in that count, 21 are in Valor and 11 are in Loyalty.

Fred and his TEAM of Super-Stars in the Food Service Department created another great "SUCCESSFUL" month! Fred, congratulations to you and your Team for another Month well done!! Birthday Night was a, to "die" for, event!!

The beautification of our grounds is still continuing!! The walking and bike trail is being cut and re-routed for better and safer movement. More blooming plants (Confederate Roses) are going in all along the entire front of the natural areas across the back of the property. I think 65 fast growing plants were planted by Susan's outstanding crew! They are going to be "Just Beautiful!!"

A great ceremony was performed and enjoyed by the Residents at the "Raising of

the Flags" event at the front entrance. A flag for each branch of the military was raised along with appropriate music for each service. Many thanks to our Administrator, Chuck Dickerson, for making this patriotic event possible!

Many of the Residents have continued to "step up" day after day to assist in the operations of OUR HOME, to make it a better place to LIVE. The staff in Recreation did a great job in preparing us for the "Cruisin' the Coast" folks, a BIG Thank You!

HIGHLIGHTS OF ACTIONS AT THE RESIDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING:

The Resident Advisory Committee met on the 9th of October 2012. Some of the actions taken were:

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

-RAC Chair is continuously impressed with the friendliness and patriotism displayed by the Residents of the Home.

-Ball Room Dance lessons will again be offered Mondays and Wednesdays nights at 6 p.m.

REVIEW OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

-Minutes of Meeting for September 11, 2012, were approved with amendments.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:



A night view of the flags on display at the main gate of the AFRH-G.

-RAC received updates from all Committee Chairpersons.

-MWR Committee reported that a discussion needs to take place on dance entertainment pricing. The RAC continues to hold down the amounts authorized for music.

-RAC Members volunteered to acquire state flags to be displayed at our front flag poles.

-Financial Report for September 2012 was reviewed.

OTHER BUSINESS:

-RAC discussed the price to charge for copies in the Library copier. Motion made, seconded, and passed that the prices charged for copies will not be changed at this time.

-Many THANKS to all the Residents for making OUR HOME a better and more patriotic place to live.

Your help, your suggestions, and your comments are helping us all become BETTER.

Enjoy!!

Bill Parker

AFRH-G October Activities

Residents treated to three ring circus

By Sean Campbell
Recreation Specialist

For the second year in a row, members of the Patriot Guard Riders treated AFRH-G residents to a fun night under the big top at the Cole Brothers Circus in Biloxi. Patriot Guard Riders provided the Three Ring Action as a special thank you for the residents and their contributions to their country. A few residents stated that they haven't been to a circus in a long time, and it was fun to relive their memories watching the show.



At the Mississippi Coast Coliseum on October 2, residents and Patriot Guard Riders take a group photo to mark the occasion. The tickets to the circus were donated to residents by the Patriot Guard Riders.

Pet Request Makes the Day Special

Story and photo by Susan Bergman
MT-BC, Recreation Services

With a surprise visit from his daughter, son, and daughter-in-law, Vince Hammerlund was ready for a fabulous "95" Birthday on Monday, October 15! Vince began the day asking about "Leif", the 11-year old Golden Retriever of owner Dick Stanford. Due to Mr. Hammerlund being at an appointment that morning, Leif missed visiting with him when travelling from the front lobby to Valor to Loyalty Hall. Leif even came back several times to see if he had returned. After the third try, Leif surprised Mr. Hammerlund, stayed for an extended visit, and was the talk of the day. Leif enjoyed the extra petting and Vince enjoyed the special visit for his Birthday!



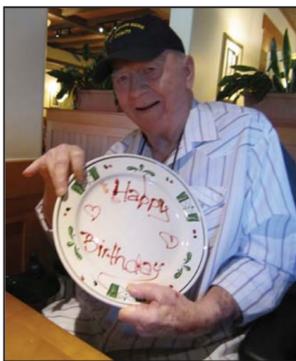
Leif, a Golden Retriever, visits Vince Hammerlund and his daughter-in-law on his 95th birthday.

Seabee volunteer, Wendy Miller, for arranging the Birthday surprise.

Birthday Surprise

Story and photo by Susan Bergman
MT-BC, Recreation Services

On Friday, October 5, Jesse Self was welcomed by a Birthday Surprise at Olive Garden restaurant. After a morning of watching the dog agility trials, Jesse was ready to travel on to lunch. Mr. Self's face brightened as he saw a plate dressed up with "Happy Birthday" and a bowl of his favorite vanilla ice cream arrive candle lit. Jesse blew out the candle, onlookers walked up to congratulate him, and his peers sang to cheer him on. We thank our



Happy Birthday Jesse Self holds up his decorated Birthday plate!

Valor & Loyalty Hall residents watch Dog Agility Trials at Harrison County Fairgrounds

Story and photo by Susan Bergman,
MT-BC, Recreation Services

On Friday, October 5 residents from Valor Hall and Loyalty Hall enjoyed a visit to the Harrison County Fairgrounds to see the Dog Agility Trials. During the trials, residents watched dog owners direct their dogs through various obstacle courses. The dogs travel off their leashes and are judged by time and accuracy. The owners or handlers give the dogs cues through their voice, body signals, or hand gestures however are not allowed to touch or give incentives like food or toys to the dogs during the competition. The bars for the jumps are ad-

justed based on the height of the dogs and the courses are changed for different ranking of dog - novice compared to master. Courses are created in which dogs could not successfully complete them without direction from an owner or handler. The course often includes a tire jump, teeter-totter, tunnel, collapsed tunnel, weave poles, and a pause table in which dogs must sit down and stay until given a cue to continue. Residents Fred Schell, Earlene Syverson, Ebbie Simpson, Jack Oxford, and Jesse Self enjoyed visiting with Endee along side volunteers Clifford Smith, Wendy Miller, and Pauline and Ken Larson. Endee regularly runs in the dog agility trials, too. What a wonderful way to go to the dogs!

Historic player piano back in business

By Brian Mason, Recreation Assistant

What is the deal with the player piano? Why doesn't the Master Chief have to pump the pedals and wear out his legs and forearms to get this thing to play anymore? Well, that is because it has been fixed! Thank you, RAC (Resident Advisory Committee), for approving the budget to allow the purchase and subsequent repair and tuning of the piano.

The player piano was purchased from a family in the fall of 2011 and brought to us from Minneapolis, Minn. Thanks to the RAC and the piano professional, Jerry Hebert, the

Master Chief can rest! The player piano was derived, believe it or not, from the simple music boxes that were made in the late 1800s. Similar technology was used to produce the paper rolls that were inserted to play the music. Some of the rolls were made of paper thin metal near the beginning of the player style pianos. There are player pianos produced this day and age but, they no longer use the paper rolls as music. In this digital age they use computers and other devices to engage the piano to play. Ah, modern technology. Our particular piano, according to researching the serial number, was made by the Baldwin company in the 1920s. Typically, they were used in taverns and bars, in the early years, and then expanded into many of the family homes. Maybe, even some of our residents can recall hearing Christmas music during the holidays playing from the piano? Or maybe a Boogie Woogie song? It's nice to have this piece of history in the home for us all to enjoy. Our ice cream socials have gotten that much better being able to listen to this piano while we all socialize!



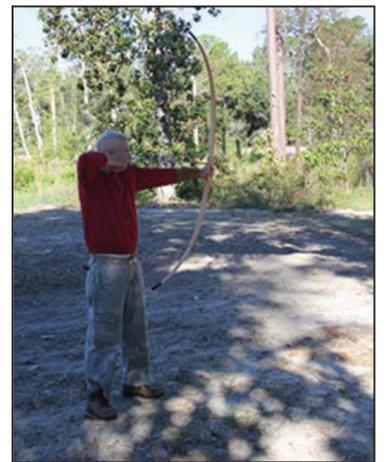
Marion Wolke, aka one of the calendar girls, tickles the ivories of our player piano.

Resident uses ingenuity, resourcefulness with bow

Story and photo by Laura Slack
Chief, Resident Services

Resident James Taylor is getting ready for archery! He went online and ordered a DVD about how to make a bow. He was resourceful and used maple wood that was removed from the pillars in the Dining Room during the sharp corner repairs. With the finish help of PJ Johnson and WW Smith, he made a 72" bow.

On Monday, October 22 he showed off his hand-made bow with a target he put together with the help of Ability Works. Now, Recreation is determining if there is enough interest to start an archery program at AFRH-G. If you'd like to get involved, let Recreation Services know.



James Taylor takes a practice shot with his hand-made bow.

More Fall Games Results

	Ladies	Men's 76&Under	Men's 77&Up
Predictability Walk Event			
1st	Jean Rhizor	Mike Longwell	Harry Rhizor
2nd	Pat Russo	Ernie Fowler	Wayland Webb
3rd	Gerry Gorsky	Snuffy Smith	Ken Schneider
Golf Shot Event			
1st	Pat Russo	Ernie Fowler	Andrew Pellkofer
2nd	Edna Hall	Mike Longwell	Rosie Rosenburgh
3rd	Jean Rhizor		Andy Lemstra
Poker Walk Event			
1st	Pat Russo	Joe Kelly	Harry Rhizor
2nd	Ebbie Simpson	Peter Behl	Ken Schneider
3rd	Earlene Syverson	Mike Longwell	Forest Schneider

AFRH-G Second Annual Veterans Day Open House

Monday, November 12 from 10 a.m. til 2 p.m.

Invite your family and friends to attend



Residents have front row seats to watch the dogs navigate the obstacles course.

AFRH-W October Activities

Recreational Services hosts 55th Annual Antique Car Show

Residents brave the rainy weather to see some really great classics

By Mary Catherine Murano, Recreation Team Leader and Nicole Chappell, Recreation Specialist

Rain Rain Go Away! could have been the theme for this year's 55th annual antique car show at the Armed Forces Retirement Home on October 7th. Although the weather was not on our side the return of familiar faces were. Out they came to support our historical event bringing many first timers with them. Returnee DJ Billy White spun tracks from the 50s with classics such as "Come and Go with Me" and "Shake Rattle and Roll"; the Model T club took a record 15 minutes to go from parts and pieces to complete reassembly; and announcer Erwin Mack entertained everyone with a brief history of the Ford Motor Company's accomplishments in the past 100+ years.

Sunday showcased several vintage cars from an era gone by. In addition to the 1909 Ford Model T Touring, autos from the 40s through the late 60s including the beautiful white 1969 Cadillac Deville, could be found gracing the grounds of the Armed Forces Retirement Home.

Judges Dave Watkins, Administrator, Joe Wachter, RAC Chairman, Clem Clement, Dave Browne and Ken Burns had the difficult task of selecting winners in seven categories. High-

lights of the event included presenting the awards to the following winners: Director's Award to John McMillan for his '41 Packard, Runner up award and oldest car to Dan Murray for his 1965 Buick Riviera and the Resident's Choice award to Don Silbert for his 1923 Nash. It was great having the 25 or so residents come out and brave the weather to cast their vote for Resident's Choice Award and to see all the cars.

It was a perfect ending to an enjoyable day as all entrants joined in the parade of cars led by Director's Award winner John McMillan (lucky first time entrant/winner!), as he began the procession toward the King Health Center where veterans were standing by to catch a glimpse of some of the finest cars ever produced, and that have withstood the test of time.

The support for this event was tremendous and ensured its success. Many thanks to the following organizations and people for their assistance throughout the day: The V-8 Club for lending sponsorship support, DC Defense Force for their traffic control support, DAR and CAR (Daughter's and Children of the American Revolution respectively) for manning the refreshments table, the demonstration provided by the Model T Club, judges Dave Watkins AFRH Director, Dave Browne, Joe Wachter, Clem Clement and Ken Burns, DJ Billy White for spinning winners, and AFRH Security for their role in assisting with the event.



The Director's Award went to this 1941 Packard Clipper.



Judges look under the hood of this classic.

Strong Partnership

Family Day at President Lincoln's Cottage

By Callie Hawkins, PLC

On September 29th, President Lincoln's Cottage, in conjunction with the Armed Forces Retirement Home, held our first annual Family Day. The event proved to be a rousing success, with a record 210 people going on tours of the Cottage, and an estimated 400 total visitors to the site. Our visitors caught a very special glimpse of some everyday scenes from Lincoln's life at Soldier's Home thanks to re-enactors from the 150th Pennsylvania Volunteers. These soldiers performed drill and firing demonstrations, and engaged many visitors about what life was like in the Civil War armies and on the Union home front. The Washington Revels' Jubilee Voices captivated our audience with beautiful renditions of Civil War favorites such as "Battle Hymn of the Republic," while parents and children alike enjoyed making their own Lincoln top hats. Perhaps the events most popular attraction



was our live petting zoo, complete with pony rides and peacocks---one could almost picture Lincoln and his youngest son Tad enjoying the company of similar animals on these grounds 150 years ago! V

Volunteers from AFRH such as George Wellman and Gwen Henley provided valuable assistance (and lots of good cheer) while food vendors from across the Washington area kept everyone well-fed. All

Left - Members of the 150th Pennsylvania Volunteers perform one of many firing demonstrations.



Resident Marion Marques and local children enjoy the petting zoo.

visitors had the opportunity to see a rare signed copy of the Emancipation Proclamation that is currently on display in the Robert H. Smith Visitor Center, one of only 36 known copies still in existence today. All told, it was fantastic day filled with lots of eager visitors and fun activities, and our thanks again to the wonderful AFRH staff for all their cooperation and assistance!

Greenbelt Dog Show

By Amanda Jensema, CTRS

Some residents have said that the Armed Forces Retirement Home has "gone to the dogs!" When the members of the Greenbelt Dog Training came to the LaGarde building you would have thought that too. There were dogs of all sizes, colors and breeds. In total there were around 25 dogs, and of course their owners, who were here to put on a show for the residents. The show began with a demonstration of their agility course and training. They had to walk across a balance beam, go up and down a ramp, run through a tunnel, and leap through a hoop. After that we were taught the secrets of how to train your dog. The secret is that you must train the owner first to listen to commands. Once they know the commands then they can begin to train their dogs to know the commands. They ended the program with what they call "freestyle dog dancing" where the owner and their pooch dance. It was quite interesting to watch. There was a dog who danced around an umbrella to the song "Raindrops Keep Falling on my Head", and another one gliding on a skateboard to "Surfing U.S.A.". The dogs were rolling over, jumping through their owners' arms, going between their legs, and even doing the conga! It was a sight to see for those who attended. Alli Lee is the owner and trainer and has over 35 years of teaching experience. The residents of AFRH look forward to when they return!



The Greenbelt Dog Show is a big hit with the Residents.

A Day at the Races

By Amanda Jensema, CTRS

The residents of the King Health Center enjoyed a beautiful afternoon on Oct. 19th at the Laurel Race Tracks. We could not have asked for better weather! The residents instantly were placing their bets on which horse would win each race, and some event won. Mr. Residents Johnny Cargo and William Palmer were the go to guys for information and rules on how to place bets. While there we enjoyed a lunch which consisted of Chili Soup, Turkey & Cheese sandwich and chocolate cake. The second race of the afternoon was named for the Armed Forces Retirement Home and it was announced before the race. We were able to watch the race from the winner circle. After the race we were able to take a picture with the winning jockey. He spoke and shook hands with each resident and even shared some inside tips with a few. Carol Mitchell told the residents to bet that horse #5 would win because that is her lucky number. Sure enough horse #5 in a couple of the races did place or show, but did not win. The residents were able to enjoy four races before returning home. We all noticed that the trees were very bright and colorful compared to the previous week along the same route on I-295. We all look forward to our annual trip to Laurel Racetrack and we can't wait to go again next year!



Residents from LaGarde enjoying a day at the races.

Cruisin' through the AFRH-G

By Sean Campbell, Recreation Specialist

October 9 the Gulf Coast weather could not have been better to host visitors in the area for Cruising the Coast. This annual event brings thousands of cars to the Gulf Coast and offers numerous events and entertainment opportunities for both visitors and locals. The Mississippi Coast Watchers Antique Military Vehicle group acted as a sponsor for the event and assisted with the promotion. Coast watchers also brought out their unique military vehicles for display. Residents swapped stories and memories as cars from their childhood and youth cruised by them. Cruisers were invited to park and were offered tours of the facility. While the connection with AFRH-G and the Cruising the Coast Event is still in its beginning stages, we look forward to future events and are confident that this event will continue to grow as a result of the media coverage of this year's event.



Best seat in the house - Mike Longwell takes a break from his daily bike ride to watch the classic cars cruise through the AFRH-G.



Quite a show - Residents gather in front of the building to watch the parade of classic cars and trucks that participated in this year's Cruisin' the Coast.



It's under the hood and on top of the hood
Residents look on in interest at a classic car.

Kicking the tires
Maynard Howard gets a closer look at one of the classic cars on display at the AFRH-G on October 9.



Can't miss this one
Flames licked the hood of this antique truck. Cars and trucks in the parade were of all types of models, colors, and variety.

Oktoberfest a huge success

By John Hughes and Carrie, Green, on behalf of Friends of the Soldiers Home

About 300 residents and community members braved chilly weather Oct. 7 to celebrate the season with "Oktoberfest" held on the lower grounds of the Armed Forces Retirement Home. Sponsored jointly by the Home and Friends of the Soldiers Home, the festive celebration had people dancing to the sounds of Polka Hall of Fame inductees, the DC German Band. For those who preferred watching to moving, the Bairisch und Steierisch Dancers showed some of the moves people have been making in Bavaria since the Middle Ages. Three kinds of beer were offered, so were delightful eats like fresh pretzels from local vendors. For good measure, free samples of David Watkins' made-on-the-spot apple butter were available to all!

Friends of the Soldiers Home, not yet a full year in existence, is dedicated to serving members of the Armed Forces Retirement Home and linking residents with the community, and vice versa. Along with co-sponsoring major events such as the July 4 celebration and Oktoberfest, Friends of the Soldiers Home now supplies all the volunteers for two monthly events at the LaGarde Building, bingo and happy hour. The best is yet to come! Friends would like to sponsor more regular events at the Home, as we did Oct. 19 by showing a documentary on the U.S. Bike Corps in the basement of Stanley Chapel. We are grateful to residents for their service and feel it is a privilege to have you in the community. Thank you!!



David Watkins, AFRH-W Administrator, gets help making apple butter from a few youngsters.



Bairisch and Steierisch Dancers perform Middle Age dance steps from Bavaria.



Even the cool weather didn't stop Washington residents from enjoying Oktoberfest with fellow residents and the local community.



Michele Bailey works with local children on a craft project.