Residents from the AFRH-G campus were finally able to enjoy a day trip to the new Mississippi Aquarium located on the beach in Gulfport, Mississippi. Residents were unable to attend the opening festivities during the height of the pandemic shutdown last year. Residents marveled at the new state-of-the-art facility. The Mississippi Aquarium is comprised of both indoor and outdoor features including otters, alligators, penguins, and bottlenose dolphins, along with over 200 other different marine animals in over a million gallons of water.

AFRH-WASHINGTON

Take me out to the ball game!

By Steven Briefs | Supervisory Recreation Specialist
Photos by Carolyn Haug | Public Affairs

It was a beautiful, sunny, hot summer day on July 28 when AFRH-W had its first softball game in two years! Our new Chief of Resident Services Ron Anderson and Ombudsman Chris Kepner came out to participate. Dominic Bernardy from Campus Ops joined us to play, as well as Carol Mitchell and Annemarie Wilson from Recreation Therapy. Librarian Christine Baldwin kept score.

AFRH residents John Baker played first base, Tully Donohue was the pitcher, Dave Kaetzl played center field, and many other residents cheered from the peanut gallery. It wasn’t a pretty sight with all of us fumbling balls or overthrowing our teammates. Each team thought the other team was cheating but at the end, we all got fresh air, had some laughs and reminisced about days gone by when all of us were younger and could play the game of baseball. Everyone agreed we should plan another game in August. Three cheers for America’s great pastime!

AFRH-GULFPORT

AFRH-G veterans explore the new Mississippi Aquarium

By Sean Campbell | Lead Recreational Specialist
Photos by Jack Horsley | AFRH-G Resident & Courtesy of the MS Aquarium Web Site

Residents from the AFRH-G campus were finally able to enjoy a day trip to the new Mississippi Aquarium located on the beach in Gulfport, Mississippi. Residents were unable to attend the opening festivities during the height of the pandemic shutdown last year. Residents marveled at the new state-of-the-art facility. The Mississippi Aquarium is comprised of both indoor and outdoor features including otters, alligators, penguins, and bottlenose dolphins, along with over 200 other different marine animals in over a million gallons of water.
Serving America’s Veterans

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:

-Active-Duty Career Retired: Veterans who retired with 20 or more years of active-duty service in a regular component of the Armed Forces.

-Eligible for Retired Pay: Veterans who served in a regular or reserve component of the Armed Forces, who are now eligible to receive retired pay and benefits:

-Retired Guard/Reserves with over 20 years of creditable service (combined inactive and active duty).

-Veterans who qualified for early retirement such as TERA (Temporary Early Retirement Authority).

-Veterans who served for disability retirement with pay and full benefits.

-Service-Connected Disability: Veterans with a service-connected disability rating of 50 percent or greater from the Dept. of Veterans Affairs.

-War Theater: Veterans who served in a war theater or received hostile fire pay and now suffer from injuries, disease, or disability.

-President Spouse: Spouse of a retired veteran may apply to live with the Retiree if he/she is enrolled as a beneficiary in DEERS (Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System) and was married to his/her spouse prior to the veteran’s retirement from the Armed Forces.

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: https://www.afrh.gov

AFRH W-Resident Highlight – Paul Grimes

Do you know anyone who has a glacier in the Antarctic named after them? Well, read on and you will!

Paul D. Grimes was born in Farmington, New Mexico on February 14, 1926. He was one of eight children born to Edgar and Emma Grimes. Paul’s early school years took place in a one-room school house until the seventh grade. Upon high school graduation, during WWII, Paul volunteered for the Navy.

He attended basic training in Bainbridge, Maryland and was assigned as an anti-aircraft gunner on a merchant ship. These ships were grouped into convoys of 80-90 ships headed toward allied ports in Europe, the North Atlantic, Iceland, and Russia! He was assigned to a ship of action submarines and aircraft. The final six months of his enlistment he spent with the Bismark Atoll, in the Marshall Islands, where ships were tested for their resilience to atomic bombs! Part of his job was to board the ship afterwards and then sink it in the ocean!

Paul was also assigned to accompany a U.S. engineer to the South Pole to measure the depth of the ice! He had to drill a 4in x 3ft deep hole in the ice! Into this he put explosives, set them off and used a seismograph to measure the vibrations to determine the depth of the ice. It was measured to be 8,720 feet!

In the Antarctic, Paul and a fellow Seabee (Bill Cullity) saw an overloaded freighter break away from its moorings and start drifting out to sea. Paul and Bill grabbed a 2’ line attached to a steel cable, rowed out to the ship, boarded it and attached the cable so that it could be hauled back into port. For this feat they were awarded the Navy and Marine Corp Medal.

Paul was in the Navy for 24 years and his last assignment, eight months of shore duty in Washington DC, made him realize it was time to retire, which he did as an E-9 master chief petty officer.

Paul moved his wife Ruth (aka Ralphie) and three children Diane, Steve, and Tammy to Blacksburg, Virginia where he attended Virginia Tech. Paul had met "Ralphie" in elementary school but her family moved away. Fifteen years later, and after his initial Navy tour, they met again at a roller skating rink and that was the beginning of their lifelong love, which lasted 53 years.

During and after college, Paul worked for Anderson and Associates in electronics to become a heavy equipment manager and retired from there 35 years earlier.

Paul moved to AFRH-W in 2008, which he considers a wise decision. He had volunteered at the auto hobby shop, helping residents with their vehicles, which he enjoyed.

His children live in Virginia Beach, Virginia and Savannah, Georgia. He doesn’t get to see them as often as he would like, but they have given him two grandchildren and one great-grandchild! His family makes him very happy!
AFRH-G Resident Highlight – William F. “Bill” Wedding

By Lori Kerns | Librarian

William “Bill” Wedding was born in Cynthiana, Kentucky in 1937. Ten days after his seventeenth birthday, he joined the U.S. Air Force to get away from home. He chose the military because he wanted to work on airplanes. Throughout his thirteen and a half year service, Bill and his wife began a family. The couple raised four children, Connie, William Jr., Marlene, and Ronald, and moved around the world to follow Bill to his duty stations.

When he and his personnel arrived on 29 December, he set out to locate his unit’s equipment. Unfortunately, there was no information available on that equipment’s whereabouts. After about a week, and with no other information provided, he set out to Saigon to investigate. On 13 January he contacted a captain at HQ 1st Log Command. An equipment manifest of the ship showed that his unit’s equipment was unloaded on 16 December 1968. After personally checking the docks and storage areas, to no avail, he continued his investigation with a series of phones and personal trips to locate his missing items. Bill met with and telephoned several officers, from lieutenants, to sergeants, to majors, to find any information leading to the whereabouts of the equipment, mostly to no avail. He poked and prodded, angering those of them in charge, and took what little information he could gather to further his search each day. Finally, which he tried to get back. Bill was abruptly dismissed. About an hour later, a captain provided Bill with two generators and one of the air conditioners and told him to check back the next day for the other air conditioning unit. Thankfully, with some proof of ownership, Bill got his other air conditioner. On 21 January 1969, Bill loaded up all the equipment he located and returned to his unit the next day. For Bill’s determination on locating his unit’s equipment, he was quickly awarded an Army Commendation by a two-star Army general.

Bill ended up serving seven years with the Army and retired as a W-2 Chief Warrant Officer. He dedicated twenty years total to the military. Upon leaving the military, he began a twenty-year civil service career with Mosler Safe Co. He worked until 1994 then retired to work on his farm. In 2018, Bill came to AFRH-G to tour and found that the home was “paradise on the water.” He called admissions right away and was able to move in two months later. After just living at the Gulfport home for ten days, Bill knew he wanted to spend the rest of his life there. He went straight back home to sell his farm to return to enjoy the rest of his days in paradise at AFRH-G.
From the AFRH-W administrator

After days of heavy rains, wind, flooding and downed trees, I am hopeful that the blue sky I am looking at will stay around for a while. While I don’t like to lose trees, we are fortunate to have many on our beautiful campus and have volunteers who plant new ones each year. The golf course looks great! It is obvious how hard the residents have worked this summer to keep it ready every day. Our associate members have enjoyed being able to golf on our historic course. The school is getting ready to welcome back staff and students, so after a year with almost no children onboard, we will see them again. We continue to have zero positive COVID cases from our testing, which is a true blessing. We did put a few precautions back in place hoping to keep it that way.

We had our popular cooking and various food events this summer and will continue all year. Some of the tastiest included ice cream sundaes, seafood feast, blueberry pancakes and our highly anticipated Popcorn Mondays and Birthday Dinner. Our RAC Chair led a turbot making class, where they used garden fresh tomatoes. And, the cucumbers grown in our gardens were made into pickles that will be served at our Labor Day picnic. Taking advantage of our warmer weather, our residents enjoyed croquet, bocce, corn hole and also used our new putting and chipping gear. We will miss those activities once the weather gets colder.

We were fortunate to have the Master Chief Petty Officer of the Coast Guard, Jason Vanderhaden visit us to celebrate the U.S. Coast Guard’s 231st birthday. He is a great friend of our Homes and we are always happy to have him visit. The Coast Guard continues a long tradition of keeping our waterways safe among their many taskings. This month I am extremely happy to welcome our new Director of Nursing (DON), Ms. Gladys Osuchukwu. Her name may be familiar to many, as she has worked at the Armed Forces Retirement Home (AFRH) for 14 years. Gladys started her nursing career 28 years ago and has worked in various healthcare settings to include hospitals, healthcare, long term care facilities, and more. At AFRH, she started her journey as a clinical nurse on the former Laguna Four skilled unit. Since then, she has worked on all of the units and is a skilled and trusted nurse. After two years at AFRH-W, she was promoted to Assistant Clinical Nurse Supervisor and managed the night shift for ten years. In April 2019, she was promoted to the Clinical Nurse Supervisor (CNS) of Independent Living Plus (ILP) to lead our homecare program.

AFRH-W welcomes new Director of Nursing  Gladys Osuchukwu

Story & Photos by Carol Mitchell, ADC | Recreation Therapy

On September 1st, the DC campus is happy to welcome our new Director of Nursing (DON), Ms. Gladys Osuchukwu! Her name may be familiar to many, as she has worked at the Armed Forces Retirement Home (AFRH) for 14 years. Gladys started her nursing career 28 years ago and has worked in various healthcare settings to include hospitals, healthcare, long term care facilities, and more. At AFRH, she started her journey as a clinical nurse on the former Laguna Four skilled unit. Since then, she has worked on all of the units and is a skilled and trusted nurse. After two years at AFRH-W, she was promoted to Assistant Clinical Nurse Supervisor and managed the night shift for ten years. In April 2019, she was promoted to the Clinical Nurse Supervisor (CNS) of Independent Living Plus (ILP) to lead our homecare program.

Our immigration was made possible through the efforts of a group of concerned citizens who worked tirelessly to get the bill passed and signed into law. The group consisted of a diverse coalition of attorneys, community leaders, and concerned citizens from across the country. They worked together to educate the public about the importance of immigration reform and to rally support for the bill. The group also provided legal assistance and resources to those in need of help navigating the immigration system.

AFRH-W celebrates the 231st birthday of the Coast Guard with Master Chief Petty Officer of the Coast Guard Jason Vanderhaden

By Christopher Kepner | Ombudsman

Photos by Mike Hoth | AFRH-W Resident photographer at large

The United States Coast Guard celebrated its 231st Birthday on August 4th, 2021. We were extremely pleased that we were able to celebrate with Master Chief Petty officer of the Coast Guard (MCPOCG), Jason Vanderhaden as our guest of honor. MCPOCG spoke in detail about the sacrifice and service of Coast Guard men and women throughout its 231 year history, as well as the Coast Guard’s global contribution in support of the National Defense. Strategy today. Of particular interest was the Coast Guard’s latest initiative to name new ships after prominent enlisted members of the Coast Guard. The ceremony concluded with the traditional cutting of the cake with MCPOCG Vanderhaden, our oldest Coastie Mr. Donald Stout (91), and the youngest Coastie present PO2 Cardenas (28). Semper Paratus!

Notes from the AFRH-W resident advisory committee chairman

We are almost into September, but August was not good for our campus. High winds and heavy rains left many down trees and debris, but our staff managed to clean up everything in record time. Special thank you to everyone in campus operations for their support. Our recreation department, as usual, has been hard at work coming up with many activities to entertain our residents. The residents enjoyed such activities as the Olympics, the food cooking demos, and the softball game. The bus trips are back to the local commissaries, the malls, the museums in DC, and the USS Maine. Residents should stop by and let them know how much we appreciate what they do for us.

Your resident advisory committee (RAC) worked with the AFRH staff and the AAFES exchange manager to supply new items to their inventory, including distilled water. Residents who have additional items that they would like to see carried in our exchange should contact their floor reps.

Great News! The results from our last Covid-19 test came back with no positive cases found. Let’s keep up the good work.

Fred Layman
The military life of Donald Blaylock

By Dan Ellis | AFRH-G Resident

Donald Blaylock was born on March 8, 1944, in the small farming town of Elkton, Kentucky. His father, James Blaylock, had been killed in-action during WWII, but had left his wife and three children settled in a home that he had built prior to his military service. Donald graduated ninth grade at Todd County High School, he decided to join the Armed Forces and the Armed Forces Reserve Home at the age of 17.

After his 22nd birthday, he and four of his friends enlisted in the U.S. Army on March 10, 1966. He completed his basic training at Fort Polk, Louisiana, and attended a special school at Fort Eustis, Virginia before being shipped out to Vietnam, where his duty was handling cargo consisting of ammo, food, and various supply items.

In 1991, he worked at the Norfolk, Virginia Army performing light duties due to various illnesses that he had developed. In one stint, at Cheyenne, Wyoming he bought a truck cab and became an owner/operator and contracted with a Nebraska carrier to perform their road trips. He then moved back to Norfolk to drive for carriers that provided Ryder trucks. He moved to Durham, North Carolina in 2004, where he worked in the Durham Rescue Mission for twelve and half years performing various duties such as car salesman, thrift store maintenance, and telephone operator.

In 1980, Donald met and married his friend, Cathy, and welcomed her four children. He then became employed with the South Mississippi Regional Center in Long Beach, Mississippi as a house parent to patients who had developmental disabilities. In 1975, Donald worked for a year with the rehab group at the Methodist Church in Macon, Georgia. While engaged in various jobs, he would also travel to Arizona and other places by way of keeping in touch with his grandparents and his brothers and sisters.

While “on the road,” he worked at a chicken processing plant, at a fertilizer factory, and even as a dishwasher. He was a custodian at the Salvation Army in Gulfport, Mississippi and also was a truck driver providing pick up and deliveries.

In 2017, John Paul II’s dedication is commendable and watching and should you need him he will come to the rescue. John Paul goes above the call of duty, and for the better without even realizing it. So let us all try to give each other a warm fuzzy in this life, because we never know what a person is dealing with or has been through.

Congratulations to Gulfport, Employee of the Quarter John Paul, II

By Deanna Johannsen | Administrative Specialist

During my time in college, I once had a professor in a public speaking class that had us do several exercises. At the time I thought she was a little crazy, but then it all made sense at the end. One of the exercises was to anonymously write down a secret that you had. As I sat there thinking, I thought I truly had no secrets because I was pretty much an open book. However, the class did not know me well so I could write anything and it would not matter. At the end of the class she collected these little pieces of paper and mixed them all up and pulled them out one by one. I was taken back at some of the things that my classmates wrote. Some were quite boring like mine, but some almost brought tears to my eyes. In this class, of 20 individuals, we sat amongst several that were raped, one that had thoughts of putting their child in the dryer one time when they were angry, some that had criminal pasts, gambling and drug addiction, and so many more. Her point in this lesson was to understand that when amongst other people in this life, we just never know what that person is going through or has gone through. It really made me think a lot and I truly took a lot from that lesson. The following week she began another exercise that we would do for many classes to come. We had to take a paper upon entering class and write a description of who we were wearing. Then she would pass them back out to the class. On that paper she asked us to write one positive thing or compliment that we had about that person by figuring them out through their wearing. Then you had to put your paper in a box. She then took the papers out and read them. She explained the power and impact that one very small compliment or positive comment could have on an individual. As I learned in the lesson prior, we never know what a person is dealing with or has been through. It is nice to hear something nice and positive about yourself at times, it can give you a smile or brighten your day. My point is that we have all been through a very rough and trying life, but remember just one small positive thing could change someone’s day for the better without even realizing it. So let us all try to give each other a warm fuzzy in this life, because we never get one and never know when I will be the last one.

A warm fuzzy

By Deanna Johannsen | Administrative Specialist

Congratulations to Employee of the Quarter Second Class, Guard John Paul II for exceptional service to the Armed Forces Retirement Home during April, May, and June 2021. John Paul goes above the call of duty, and for the better without even realizing it.

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Having completed the admission requirements in 2016, he first moved into AFRH-Washington; and in 2017 he made his move to AFRH-Gulfport. As Don remarked, “This may be the end of my trail.”

A warm fuzzy

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One of those times. All you have to do is practice good safety precautions and “STAY SAFE.”

August is National Immunization Awareness Month. How ironic is it that instead of celebrating the nation’s successful/struggling vaccination program, we are in a serious struggle to vaccinate our nation against Covid 19. At a time when the scientific community and CDC all support the value of the Covid vaccination to prevent serious illness and death, a great percentage of the nation remains unvaccinated. The introduction of the delta variant of Covid to the United States and the low percentage of Americans fully vaccinated has resulted in increased hospitalizations and deaths.

As we move into the fall season of the year, schools have re-started and many outdoor activities will move inside. The potential for exposure increases exponentially.

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Notes from the AFRH-G resident advisory committee chairman

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Notes from the AFRH-G resident advisory committee chairman

August 31, 2021

AFRH-G RAC Chair Art Jones in the dining hall on August 17 for the August Birthday luncheon.

Arthur "Art" W. Jones

AFRH-G RAC Chair Art Jones in the dining hall on August 17 for the August Birthday luncheon.

AFRH-G RAC Chair Art Jones in the dining hall on August 17 for the August Birthday luncheon.
American Legion Auxiliary Unit 1976 connects with AFRH-W by donating a variety of puzzle books, notebooks, hand-knit knick knacks, cards and tasty treats. Joyce Landry, the 2nd Vice, is excited about developing future relations with the residents of the Home. The ladies of the Auxiliary are looking forward to continuing their donation efforts with items that are sure to bring a smile.

AFRH-W Senior Summer Olympics broke ground in July. While the Olympic song was playing in the background, Recreation Supervisor Steven Briefs ran through the hallways with the lighting of torch. “Let the games begin!” This was a two-day event with three events for each day. Thirty-five competitors came out to challenge other residents in different events.

Corn Hole was the first event. Dan Webber came in 1st place. 2nd place was Bennie Anaya 3rd place was PK Koot. Both Bennie and PK earned 4-ringers for the games. (This means they sunk four of their beanbags into the goal in one game.)

Swimming challenge, Fred Ebner won the gold and Norma Rambow came home with the silver. The swimming challenge consists of swimming the length of the pool while being timed; they were only four seconds apart from each other. Both Norma and Fred enjoy the pool.

Billiards, Bennie Anaya won the gold, John Morris walked away with the silver and Richard Heinrich brought home the bronze. Six men played a challenging game of 8-ball with double elimination.

Golf Putting was played on the bocce court with challenging layers of different struggles that would catch other residents in different events.

Wendy’s to go!

Story & Photos by Amanda Jensema, CTRS | Recreation Therapist

Residents of assisted living asked for it, and they got it. What did they ask for? They wanted lunch from Wendy’s. Residents from both floors met in the activity area and were treated to an array of menu options. On the menu included bacon cheeseburgers, chicken BLT sandwiches, chicken nuggets, French fries, coleslaw, and homemade chocolate Frostys. Everything was made fresh at pick up and delivered still hot. Their meal was served with a variety of beverage options. Once everyone was done, Recreation Therapist Amanda Jensema made the homemade Frostys. The recipe is similar to a milk shake, requiring milk and vanilla ice cream. To make it chocolate, Nesquik powder was added. All the residents stated that it tastes just like they remember a frosty tasting. Everyone in attendance had a wonderful time. The room was filled with music, conversation and reminiscing.

AFRH-W Billiards and Beer in July

Story and Photos by Marla McGuinness | Recreation Specialist

Every month at AFRH-W, pool players get together, enjoy a cold one, and play some pool. The players are Bennie Anaya, John Morris, Bob Farris, Richard Heinrich and the new comer is Tully Donohue. We also have people who enjoy the show while they play. This is a double elimination game, which means the player can lose one game and still win the tournament. In July, the 1st place winner Richard Heinrich, 2nd place was Bennie Anaya, and Tully Donohue took 3rd place.

Selling the cows

By Christine Baldwin | AFRH-W Librarian

Photo by George Wellman | AFRH-W Resident

Many know that at one time we had a working farm for the retired military here. One of the prize commodities of the “Soldiers and Airmen’s Home” was their herd of cows. In fact, it was considered “the showpiece of the home.” But in 1950, Congress ordered us to get out of the milk business. In March 1951, over 150 bulls, cows and heifers were sold at auction; some went for as much as $880.00. (The average price at the time was $29.30).

RT trips return with a military salute

Story & Photos by Amanda Jensema, CTRS | Recreation Therapist

Recreation therapy’s last trip was on March 6, 2020. Due to COVID, healthcare residents were unable to attend any trips. That has all changed, and we could not have picked the perfect first trip. On July 28, the residents were treated to a wonderful performance of the Twilight Tattoo at Ft. Myer - Henderson Hall. The weather was iffy, giving us a worry that the event would be cancelled. It held up and we made our way to the base and were treated to front row seats. We were entertained with music from the U.S. Army Band “Pershing’s Own” and the U.S. Army Band Downrange vocal group. Some of the groups that performed included the Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps., Continental Color Guard, The Old Guard Caisson Platoon and The 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment, also known as “The Old Guard”. We watched the U.S. Army Drill Team show off their skills with their bayonet tipped 1903 Springfield rifles. At the end they performed their trademark move of the blind front to back rifle toss where the person in front of the line throws their rifle over the heads of the other members and the person in the back catches it. It is blind because the person throwing it does not look before he throws. This takes a lot of practice! Unfortunately, after the drill team completed their showcase the show abruptly ended due to an incoming severe thunderstorm and everyone was asked to return to their vehicles. While waiting to board the bus many people came over to speak to the residents in attendance. Everyone had a wonderful time. Upon our return, assisted living resident Mr. Armin Schiwy gave me a big hug thanking me for taking him. The healthcare residents are looking forward to the next trip!

AFRH-W Senior Summer Olympics

By Marla McGuinness | Recreation Specialist

Photos by Marla McGuinness | Recreation Specialist & Carolyn Haug | Public Affairs

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Swimming challenge, Fred Ebner won the gold and Norma Rambow came home with the silver. The swimming challenge consists of swimming the length of the pool while being timed; they were only four seconds apart from each other. Both Norma and Fred enjoy the pool.

Billiards, Bennie Anaya won the gold, John Morris walked away with the silver and Richard Heinrich brought home the bronze. Six men played a challenging game of 8-ball with double elimination.

Golf Putting was played on the bocce court with challenging layers of different struggles that would stop the ball from going into the hole. Jack Beck and Bennie Anaya battled against the odds. Jack Beck won the gold and Bennie Anaya putted away with the silver.

Wii Bowling had one competitor, it was Bennie Anaya and he won the gold medal. He had high score. Music and Trivia had a variety of songs and trivia from the 40’s, 50’s 60’s. This was a serious challenge of 30 questions with either listening to the music naming the song and artist for bonus points or answering trivia questions. Craig Wellman was the gold medal winner, Richard Walk won the silver medal and Richard Robinson won the bronze.

Note: Bennie Anaya won the best Olympian Player award. He participated in seven out of eight events. Recreation staff are getting ready for the Winter AFRH-W Olympics.
Bocce Tournament

On August 9, 2021, residents competed in the Bocce Tournament in the Bocce Room. Residents competed against each other to see who would advance in the brackets. Residents lined up on the outer court and watched the game. There could only be four winners for that day. Ernie Fowler took 1st place, Harry Rhizor took 2nd place, Jerry Anderson took 3rd place and Jerry Anderson took 4th place.

Corn Toss Tournament

On August 12, 2021, residents competed in the Corn Toss Tournament in the Bocce Room. The players competed against each other while the rest of the residents watched them play. Doris Denton took 1st place, Jerry Anderson took 2nd place, Wayland Webb took 3rd place and Frank Baker took 4th place.

Hook and Ring Tournament

On August 17, 2021, residents competed in the Hook and Ring Tournament in the Bocce Center. The object of the tournament was to throw six rings and hook them on the hooks for points. Whoever had the most points at the end advanced in the single elimination bracket. All the residents concentrated for all the points that they could get in their throw. There could only be four winners that day. Wayland Webb took 1st place, Ernie Fowler took 2nd place, Frank Baker took 3rd place and Carol Harmes took 4th place.

Horseshoes Tournament

On July 22, 2021, residents competed in the Horseshoe Tournament. It was a muggy 90 degree morning with high humidity. However, there was no complaining with this group of residents ready to have some fun. There were a total of 13 ringers for the tournament but there could only be four winners for that day. Frank Baker took 1st place, Ernie Fowler took 2nd place, Glynn Atchley took 3rd place and Don Blaylock took 4th place.

Putt ing Tournament

On August 3, 2021, Recreation held its Mystery Game. The Mystery Game was “Skittles Scatter.” The object of the game was to scatter the skittles as far as you could. If you knocked one number pin down, your score was the number on the fallen pin. If you knocked more than one pin down, your score was the total number of knocked down pins. There could only be four winners for this Mystery Game. Frank Baker took 1st place, Fred Schultz took 2nd place, Wayland Webb took 3rd place and Jerry Anderson took 4th place.

Washer Toss Tournament

On August 2, 2021, residents competed in the Washer Toss Tournament. The object of the tournament was to throw the washers for points. Whoever had the most points at the end advanced in the single elimination bracket. Frank Baker took 1st place, Fredi Van Pelt took 2nd place, Jerry Anderson won 3rd place and Fredi Van Pelt won 4th place.

Mystery Game

The Mystery Game was “Skittles Scatter.” The object of the game was to scatter the skittles as far as you could. If you knocked one number pin down, your score was the number on the fallen pin. If you knocked more than one pin down, your score was the total number of knocked down pins. There could only be four winners for this Mystery Game. Frank Baker took 1st place, Fred Schultz took 2nd place, Wayland Webb took 3rd place and Jerry Anderson took 4th place.

Outdoor Shuffleboard Tournament

On July 23, 2021, residents competed in the Outdoor Shuffleboard Tournament at the basketball court. The morning was a little hot and the bugs were biting. All 11 residents playing went through the two hours for the single elimination bracket. There could only be four winners that day. Dianne Hatley took 1st place, Jerry Anderson took 2nd place, Frank Baker took 3rd place and Harry Rhizor took 4th place.
**AFRH-Gulfport**

**Armed Forces Museum Trip**

*Story & Photos by Jack Horsley | AFRH-G Resident*

Our trip to the Armed Forces Museum at Camp Shelby was fascinating in so many different ways. It brought back memories, not just of ourselves, but also of our parents, siblings, children and friends from long ago. It released a storehouse of memories of our experiences while serving in the military.

Our tour guide, Joe, guided us through 16,000 square-feet of exhibits with 17,000 artifacts, 4,500 volumes of military history and 2,000 historical documents. There were many galleries open for viewing including: World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Desert Storm and global war on terrorism. There were displays on weapons, equipment, clothing and medals. The museum also had outdoor displays of tanks, helicopters, aircraft and heavy equipment.

The museum honors the service and sacrifices of servicemen and servicewomen of all branches from Mississippi, and other parts of the nation, who trained at Camp Shelby.

This exhibit tells stories of American heroes and serves to educate the public about the price paid for freedom and prosperity. The overall experience was exceptional.

After visiting the museum, we stopped in Wiggins, Mississippi for lunch at The Whistle Stop Café. This was the perfect place to wind down. The food was great and the service was outstanding. I give the whole day trip five stars.

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**AFRH-Washington**

**Seafood Fest’ returned to a hungry crowd!**

*By Amanda Jensema, CTRS | Recreation Therapist*

*Photos by Carolyn Haug | Public Affairs*

It has been three years since recreation therapy held their Seafood Fest’ and the residents could not have been happier to see its return. On the menu were steamed crabs, oysters on the half shell and shrimp cocktail. For those who do not like seafood, or could not have it, we also had a delicious chicken gumbo. Residents who wanted to pick their own crabs were able to and they were in heaven, since last summer they could not go out due to COVID. It took a crab picking team to get all the crabs picked, so those who were unable to do it themselves were able to have crab meat. That team consisted of staff members Amanda Jensema, Annemarie Wilson, and Marine Robbins, as well as residents Alex Picard and Steve Flynn. Without their help we never would have made it through picking an entire bushel of crabs! Our master shucker Bill Striegel demonstrated his skills as he shucked his way through two dozen oysters for the residents to feast on. During the program, it was asked what residents would like in the future. Some suggestions were a full crab feast, more oysters and snow crab legs. Everyone is already looking forward to the next seafood-themed event!