

»»» QUARTERLY ISSUE «««

# THE COMMUNICATOR

## ARMED FORCES RETIREMENT HOME



### A PREMIER RETIREMENT COMMUNITY FOR OUR NATION'S VETERANS

#### AGENCY NEWS

#### »»» NEWS FLASH

As one of the tallest points in the city, it is not surprising that the Sherman building became the recipient of a lighting strike. We noted significant damage to the tallest finial and sadly, the piece was removed this week for safety of pedestrians below. The finial dates from the building's final phase of construction between 1887-1891 by Poindexter & Co

which included the construction of Sherman North, the addition of the current bell tower to its current height of over 120 feet, and the addition of crenellated parapets around the entire building. The finial that was taken down today is the same finial that fell during the 2011 earthquake. Although the entire finial is carved from a single piece of white marble, the stone broke into three pieces as a result of that fall 13 years ago. At the time, it was repaired and placed back on the top of the tower. The finial was difficult to lift and put into place when it was in one piece, so removing the stone in its broken condition this week was complicated and a testament to the skill of the masonry team.

#### DIGITAL PRODUCTS «««

As we've made changes in Admissions, we've heard the concern from residents that there are fewer printed materials available for advertising. It is true that we no longer provide brochures to residents who graciously offer to hand them out at conferences or events. Instead, we are leaning towards digital products which have a wider reach at much lower costs and will continue to focus on improving the applicant experience.

#### ADMISSIONS UPDATES

# DC CAMPUS

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## >>> HONORING LT GEN. GEORGE H. MCKEE

The open courtyard between the Sheridan and Scott Buildings was created when the new Scott Building was completed in 2013 and has remained nameless since.

Approximately ten years later, the Residents have carefully considered an appropriate title and decided this area be named McKee Courtyard after Lieutenant General George H. McKee, Governor of the U.S. Soldiers' and Airmen's Home 1978 - 1990.



Lt. General George H McKee, USAF (Ret.) worked to make the Home a comfortable place for the residents. His accomplishments include: installing the stained-glass windows and 1855 pipe organ in Stanley Hall Chapel, and recognizing the need for a subterranean passage and building it between the Sheridan and Scott Buildings, now known as 'the tunnel'.

## >>> VOLUNTEERING: A PUTT ABOVE

The golf course is one of the greatest perks of moving to Washington. After financial concerns over a decade ago, the task of maintenance and upkeep fell to a group of passionate residents who loved to golf. They worked hard to maintain the greens and fundraise. That original group of golfers have since retired from those roles and passed the baton to a new group. Under the leadership of Milton Stark, we've seen a revival of the greens, removal of years of debris, control of the wild grasses and weeds, and needed upgrades made to the clubhouse and golf carts. With the daily work of this group of volunteers, the course is ameliorating rapidly, and seeing a resurgence in resident interest as a result!

An incredible thank you to Milton, Brad, Ernie, Fred, Mike, Richard, Lee, and others for continuing a tradition of service and keeping the greens.... well, green!

## >>> NO LONGER ROAMIN' CATHOLICS

After two long years searching for the perfect fit, we're glad to announce that we have a new Catholic priest! Father Dominic Bump was ordained to the priesthood in 2013 and is a member of the Dominican order. Prior to his religious commitment, he earned a B.S. in Industrial Design and worked as a designer and artist. Now, he has a passion for painting and uses that background to teach through sacred art. Please stop by to introduce yourself!





# GP CAMPUS

## CELEBRATING CENTENARIANS <<<

On June 10, Thomas Miller celebrated his 100th birthday! Mr. Miller was an original member of the U.S. Air Force when it was established, serving with distinction in both Korea and World War II, and retiring with the rank of Master Sergeant.

The celebration featured a special video presentation with congratulatory messages from Gulfport Mayor Billy Hewes and Col. William Pope,, Commander of the 81st Training Wing at Keesler Air Force Base. Additionally, Mr. Miller received a letter of recognition from the Governor to mark the milestone. Mr. Miller's birthday was celebrated with his family, fellow residents, and staff, making it a memorable and joyous occasion. Welcome to the Centenarian Club, Mr. Miller!



## SHARING LIFE <<<

83 year old resident Joseph “Joe” McDonald represented Mississippi in the Transplant Games of America earlier this summer in Birmingham, AL. He won 2 gold medals in shot put and discus, and 1 silver medal in softball throw. Joe has participated in the Transplant Games since 2006 following a kidney transplant the year before, and has won numerous medals in the same events.

Joe attributes his success to the selflessness of organ donors all over the world, who give so that others can live. Residents like Joe remind us that life is precious and vibrant if you choose it to be!

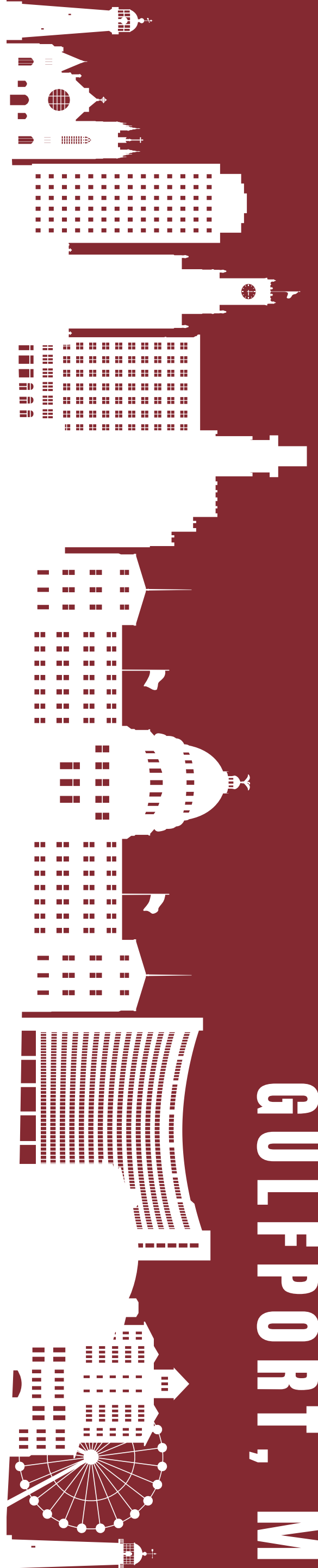
## MAKING A SPLASH <<<

Three times per week, a volunteer comes to AFRH-G to lead water aerobics. Yvette is not just a fitness guru; she's also the daughter of AFRH-G resident and WWII veteran Louis Casebonne, who also attends her classes!

Beyond the health benefits and Yvette's expert guidance, the pool is an oasis where age is just a number. The pool is a great place to get a work out with lower risk of injury and higher chance of fun. We're blessed to have a strong volunteer spirit in Gulfport and grateful to Yvette for her dedication to our residents' wellness.



GULFPORT, MS





# OUR LEGACY

## HILARY ROSADO

➤➤➤ Hilary extends an immense thank you to friends and fellow residents who helped her raise \$1,825 during her participation in the CATERAN YOMP 2024 for ill and injured veterans, their families, and caregivers. Hilary always supports her fellow residents, so we'll be cheering her on next year when she goes for Gold!!

### ➤➤➤ WHAT IS... A YOMP??

A “Yomp” is a long-distance loaded march carrying full kit, or the British equivalent to a “ruck march”. Hosted by the Army Benevolent Fund, the CATERAN Yomp is an annual endurance event hosted in the Scottish wilderness where hundreds of “yompers” walk continuously through the foothills of the Cairngorm Mountains for 22, 36, or 54 miles in only 24 hours.

Hilary joined the Allied Forces Foundation team for the event along with veterans from Australia, Canada, Denmark, France, Georgia, Germany, Italy, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Spain, Ukraine, and the United Kingdom.

Uniting with other wounded, ill, or injured Veterans during the Yomp builds relationships that foster support, encouragement, and empowerment. The lengthy event provides the chance to share stories and advice as they fight together for recovery.

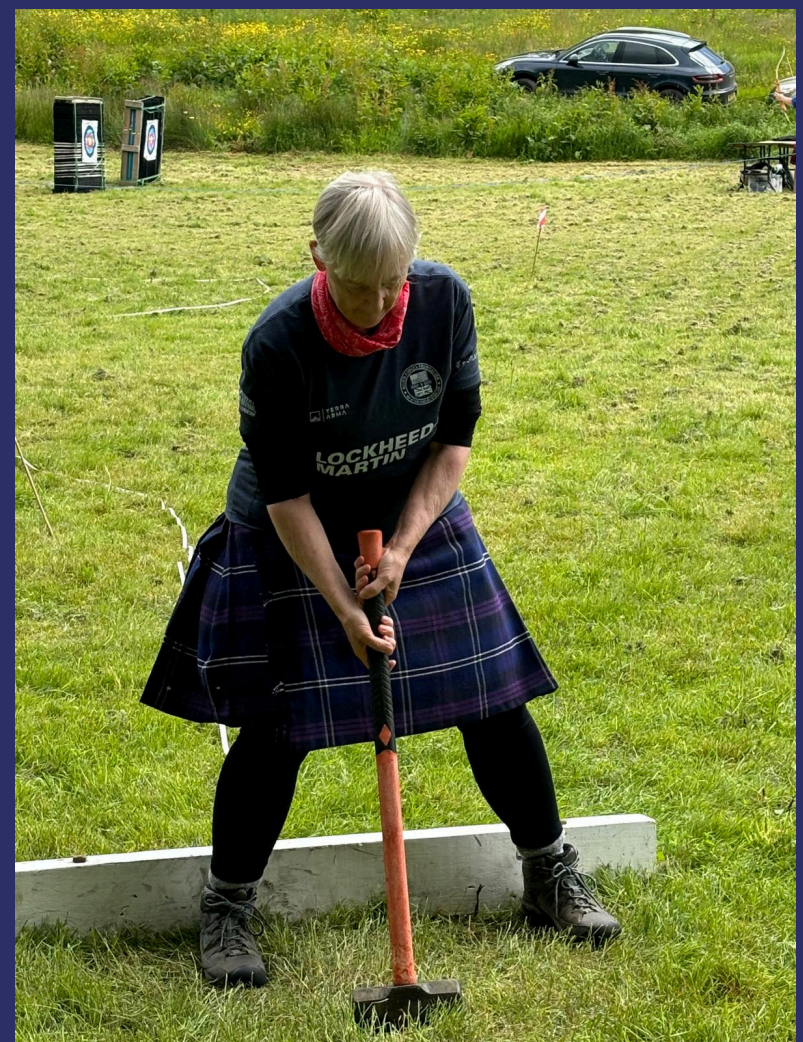
Hilary's training in the months prior helped her earn the bronze-level medal by completing 22 miles in 9:39:27 with only one water stop and a lunch break.

We hear she'll be participating next year, perhaps with fellow residents!!

### ➤➤➤ HIGHLAND GAMES

In addition to the Yomp itself, Team AFF enjoys cultural visits whilst in Scotland, including tours, gala dinners, and learning the skills needed to enter a Highland Games.

Here we see Hilary in her kilt at the Wounded Warrior Highland Games beside Loch Tay participating in the hammer toss.





# OUR LEGACY

## LEO ROZYCKE

By Dan Ellis



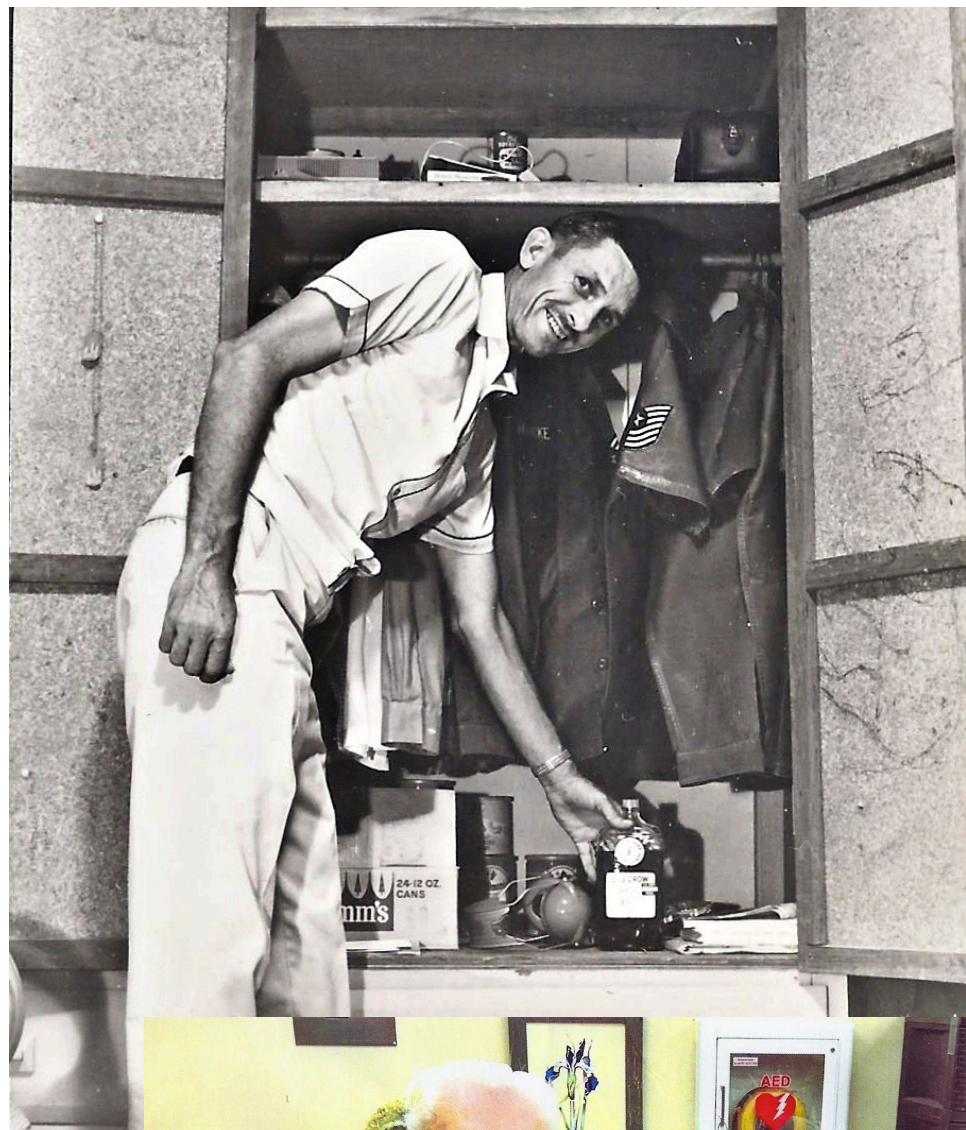
### MILITARY CAREER <<<

Leo joined the U.S. Air Force in January 1953 and was sent to boot camp at San Antonio, Texas.

He received Jet Aircraft mechanic training at Turner AFB, Turner, Georgia before being transferred to AFB Ladd, Fairbanks, Alaska. While there, during after work hours, for two years, Leo played Base Level basketball. His team placed Second String All Air-Force, for which he was recognized as one of the Top-Ten All-Air Force Sports players of 1956.

While at Clark AFB Philippines he was assigned on TDY to DaNang, Vietnam as Maintenance Control. Leo earned his Master Sergeant rank while in Thailand as Flight Line Chief of Mechanics. He retired in June 1973, at McChord AFB in Tacoma, Washington.

In civilian life, Leo was employed as an A/C mechanic at Fort Walton Beach, Florida for fourteen years before his permanent retirement in 1985.



### >>> RETIREMENT

Leo's wife, Thelma, died in 2005 and due to complications with his right leg, that was amputated in 2021, Leo decided to move in to the Gulfport campus.

Desiring to keep active, he attended a class in clay modeling of pinch pots that was taught by Milton Williams. In this endeavor, Leo continued to apply his time in the Arts and Crafts room making more and more pinch pots. Gradually, he learned to improve his product and recently, his fellow potters named him A Chief Potter of 2024.



# THANKS FOR READING

DO YOU HAVE A STORY YOU'D LIKE TO SHARE?  
AN IDEA FOR A STORY YOU'D LIKE TO READ?



Send your suggestions! Are you part of a special community group? Did you move to a campus for a specific reason? Are you a staff member working on a project that will create positive change for your campus? We're waiting to hear from you.

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Or see the public affairs specialist at your campus!