



AFRH-GULFPORT

Cruisin' the Coast

Photos by Becki Zschiedrich, AFRH-G Public Affairs

Cruisin' The Coast® comes to the Mississippi Gulf Coast every October for one full week. It is known as America's Largest Block Party. It all started in 1996 as a festival to celebrate antique, classic and hot rod vehicles. 374 vehicles registered that first year and now it has grown to over 7,000 registered vehicles. As you drive down Highway 90 it is exciting to go back in time and witness thousands of antique and hot rod vehicles cruisin' the 30-mile stretch of beachside highway in and around Gulfport, Mississippi. Seeing these vehicles gives you a feeling of nostalgia. Cruisers stopped by the AFRH-G to show their hot rods off to our veterans. Some of our car enthusiastic residents were even offered rides by the "Cruisers" and actually went "Cruisin' Down the Coast."



Resident Tom Lynch enjoys a ride in a 1932 Ford Hot Rod.



Residents had fun Cruisin' the Coast in an old Army Jeep.



Gulfport residents enjoyed the beautiful weather while admiring the cruisers.



Everyone loved seeing the antique Chevs and Fords.

AFRH-WASHINGTON

Hail to the Washington Redskins

By Carol Mitchell, Recreation Therapist & Sarah Kenan, Recreation Assistant

On October 4th Washington Residents enjoyed an exciting day at the Fed Ex Field watching the Washington Redskins clip the wings of the Philadelphia Eagles.

The day started off with the possibility of the game being moved to Ford Field in Detroit due to an extreme cold front, rain, and wind. A ride to Detroit would have been a long one to endure. The Recreation Therapy staff and residents made the decision to head on out to the Fed Ex field... the weather calmed down and the game was on! We were able to tailgate prior to the start of the game with thousands of other Redskin diehard fans. Sarah Kenan from Recreation Therapy made our tailgating feast which included: Baked chilli, grilled hot dogs, sodas, potato salad, fruit, and delicious chocolate brownies. It was a tight game throughout but the Skins pulled it off with a winning field goal by kicker Dustin Hopkins. The final score was 23-20.

Fun Fact: The rivalry between the Redskins and the Eagles dates back to 1934 where they played their first 3 seasons as the Boston Redskins. GO SKINS!!!!!!



Naomi Davis of Occupational Therapy and Resident Peter Martinek brave the cold during the game.



The Resident's view at Fed Ex field.



From left to right, Residents Roger Healy, Catherine Deitch, Howard Smith, and staff member Naomi Davis.

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AFRH COMMUNICATOR

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

Serving Washington, D.C. and Gulfport, Mississippi

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ARMY NAVY AIR FORCE MARINE CORPS COAST GUARD

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

AFRH-Washington has no waiting time for residency



The Joint Commission
www.jointcommission.org

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



AFRH-W Veteran Highlight



By Christine Baldwin,
AFRH-W Librarian

Stan Stewart was born in Indiana and moved around many times during his early childhood finally settling in Evansville, IN, when he was 9 years old. After graduating from high school and seeing that the draft was still active, even though the Korean War was over, Stan decided to join the US Navy in the winter of 1955. The recruiter said he would be going to Naval Station

Great Lakes, IL for basic training. Great Lakes in December? The Air Force recruiter at the next desk, seeing an opportunity, asked if he would prefer California. Stan was sold and became an Air Force enlistee.

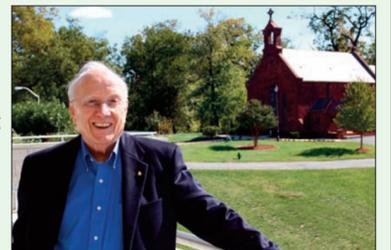
So it was off to Parks AFB, just outside of Oakland, CA for basic training, then to Chanute AFB, IL for Tech school. His next several assignments were to Portsmouth, NH; Goose Bay, Labrador; Thule, Greenland and Keflavik, Iceland. Not exactly warm climates! In fact, Stan remembers working the flight line in Thule at minus 47 degrees with a wind chill factor almost immeasurable. After a tour at RAF Fairford in England, Stan was assigned to, of course, Plattsburgh, NY. A son was born there. One December night, with the outside temperature

below zero, the base steam heating system went down. Temperatures in the housing units were frigid. That morning, the formula bottle was frozen solid! Later that morning he was presented transfer orders to Midway Island and was ecstatic! Finally warm weather! A daughter was born on Midway. Two years later he was stationed at Oxnard AFB, CA. After a six month tour in Okinawa, Korea and Vietnam, it was off to Kingsley Field, OR. After working as an avionics technician took a toll on Stan's hearing, an Air Force doctor ordered him off the flight line and away from noise hazardous areas. Stan was then assigned to Ft. Monmouth, NJ for a year to retrain into communications and then he was sent to the Pentagon, where he was for most of his last 8 years. One 6 month assignment, though, had him detailed as the Detachment Commander at Goose Bay, Labrador working to close out the American presence there. Stan had to sign off on every inventoried piece of communications gear, instrument landing system and precision approach radar component, all the while keeping the Air Base functioning until the Canadians took possession. He had arrived with a legible signature and after signing several thousand inventory documents, returned with a totally illegible one. Returning to the Pentagon, Stan was in support of the National Military Command Center. After making Chief Master Sergeant, he declined to finish the required 2 years' service and retired as a Senior Master Sergeant. Stan spent the next 22 years in the DC area working as a real estate broker. He was manager of a Long and Foster office, when he retired and had several years' experience with the Northern Virginia

Association of Realtors, serving on the Board of Directors and also as President and Chairman of the Board in 1997.

Stan and his wife moved to the Outer Banks area of North Carolina in 1999. They spent several years renovating an old farm house. After 53 years of marriage to his childhood sweetheart, Stan's wife Peggy died. Breast cancer had claimed another victim. They had raised two children a boy, Scott and a girl, JoAnna, seeing them through college and helping them buy their first house. They are still close and he still gets calls for advice. Stan is a musician and can play several instruments. Wherever he went, there was usually a group needing a guitar or bass player so he fit right in. Stan's first love in music is country, although the Beatles era rock is a close second. Stan is also an active Mason, having served as Master of three different lodges, as well as Master of a Scottish Rite Consistory. In 1983, Stan was commissioned a Kentucky Colonel, which is the highest civilian honor the state of Kentucky confers.

Stan moved to AFRH-W in July of this year. After five years living alone in the house he and Peggy had created and loved, Stan decided the time to make plans for moving to a retirement facility was at hand. When asked how he had known about AFRH-W, Stan replied "It was a deduction from my first pay at basic training." Does he miss his home in North Carolina? "Of course," he says, "but I'm content here. I've made some good friends here and expect to make more. And I spent 30 years just across the river in Fairfax County, so I have some roots here."



Stan Stewart today enjoying life.

AFRH-G Veteran Highlight

By Lori Kerns, AFRH-G Librarian



Sammy Davis enjoying time out by the pool at AFRH-G sailing his remote control sailboats.

On July 2, 1951, Sammy "Sam" Ray Davis was born in a Morehead, NC hospital. His family lived on nearby Harkers Island. His family was made up of his father, an

illustrator at the Marine Corps Air Station, his mother, and his older sister. Before his father was employed with the Marine Corps, he worked as a commercial fisherman. Sam loved to go speckled trout fishing with his father. He always felt very comfortable near water since he enjoyed fishing and living on an island. Growing up, he absolutely hated school. He decided to quit in ninth grade, after failing three times. He also quit so he could marry his high school sweetheart. Because he looked up to his uncle that was in the Coast Guard, he went to the Coast Guard recruiter at age 17. He knew he needed a job to support his soon-to-be wife. The recruiter originally told him to leave because he didn't think he could pass the aptitude test to join since he had failed so many times. Sam took the test in 20 minutes and passed.

Sam was sent to New Jersey for an eight-week boot camp. While on boot camp leave, he married his sweetheart. After boot camp he was sent for his first duty station to Sabine Pass, TX. He stayed

there for about six months and made E-3. Then he was transferred to Calcasieu, LA. Here he worked as a radio beacon, radio watch stander, and boat coxswain. By this time he was promoted to Third Class Petty Officer. His next duty station was in Pensacola, FL aboard the Coast Guard cutter, Sebago. USCGC Sebago was originally a WWII destroyer escort that was modified for Coast Guard use. Aboard Sebago, he made two ocean session patrols from Pensacola to the North Atlantic. After the decommissioning of the Sebago, Sam was sent across the bay to Santa Rosa where he stood OOD (Office of the Deck) watch. When his enlistment was about to be up, he transferred to Chincoteague, VA to be closer to home. Here, working as a boat coxswain. Next, he was sent to Station Cape Lookout and was an Executive Petty Officer and E-6 for three years then was sent to Key West. After serving in Key West on the USCGC Diligence for three years, he was transferred to Yorktown, VA to become an instructor for Boatswain's Mate "A" School. After teaching, he made chief and went to serve on the USCGC Obion in St. Louis, MO. Sam thoroughly enjoyed this tour of duty as he did buoy patrols up the Mississippi River from Alton, IL to Davenport, IA. On the Obion, he was the Executive Petty Officer and Captain of the Blue Crew. He stayed working on the Mississippi for a while but also began patrolling the Illinois and Missouri Rivers when he became Operations Officer in Keokuk, IA. He got to ride different Coast Guard units, in addition to commercial vessels. Close to retirement, he made Warrant Officer and transferred to 7th Coast Guard District in Miami Beach. He enjoyed this tour of duty but was ready to retire after serving for 20 years and 18 days. Throughout his military career, his family moved with him to each duty station.

After his retirement from the Coast Guard, Sam moved back home to help his father with his sign business. Unfortunately, his father passed away after only three months leaving Sam to keep the sign business afloat. He operated the business for 13 years and decided to close it. He became a truck driver. He finally decided to

completely retire after five years of truck driving.

Sam is the proud father of three children. He has two daughters and had a son that passed away at two days old due to a heart defect. While living with one of his daughters, she came across AFRH-G and he decided to move in. He enjoys living at AFRH-G because he doesn't have to cook and he can do his own thing. He also enjoys it because the facility is clean and the staff is friendly. According to him, "If you want to be involved, you can. If you want to stay in your room all day, nobody bothers you about it."

Sam is an avid golfer and enjoys racing his remote control sailboat. He is also one of the spectacular volunteers working in the library. Sam represents one of two Coast Guard Residents living in the home. His witty personality makes him a great addition to AFRH-G.



Sam teaches other residents how to sail in the pool.

Message from the Chief Operating Officer



We began October with a retirement ceremony for the AFRH-G Acting Administrator, Col Dwayne Wilhite and I have to reiterate how grateful I am to him for his service. We have made major strides this month with Electronic Medical Records, Nurse Staffing Software, and will end the month with an Advisory Council meeting, which is always productive! The months passing mean a bit more now that I have retirement on the horizon.

On that note, you should know that the advertisement for my position, Chief Operating Officer, recently closed, amazingly 47 individuals applied and 17 were deemed most qualified. The initial interview panel is comprised of senior officials from the Department of Defense (DoD), Defense Health Agency, and AFRH. That initial panel will rack and stack the candidates, providing names to DoD which will ultimately make the decision at the Assistant Secretary level. We hope to have someone on

board by December timeframe.

Another vacancy that touches a little closer to home for some of you (literally) is the AFRH-G Administrator. There were a number of applicants for that position as well, and we received a list containing ten names. I am completing interviews in the coming days and we'll have a recommendation to the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Manpower and Reserve Affairs) this month. Both Shaun Servais and Sheila Abarr are doing an outstanding job in the interim and I am grateful.

We also have several medical positions in play; the AFRH-W Chief Medical Officer position is currently vacant, but a selection has been made and an offer tendered, we await a response. Interviews are currently taking place for the other AFRH-W Medical Officer position and we hope to have a selection soon. At AFRH-Gulfport, the vacant nurse

practitioner position is being converted to a Medical Officer and recruitment will begin soon. There is an additional vacancy in the AFRH-G Wellness Center, the Pharmacy Technician position is vacant, but a selection was recently made, we are awaiting processing.

AFRH has multiple administrative assistant vacancies, these vacancies are well down the road and interviews should begin soon. All in all, AFRH should be filled up within the coming months.

Unfortunately we will have an additional vacancy in the near future, Sheila Abarr, our Corporate Public Affairs Officer, has announced her retirement. I say unfortunate because it is truly a significant loss for AFRH, but we wish her well in her retirement. Recruitment will begin soon but there is absolutely no replacing Sheila. She has been my go-to person and aside from being missed organizationally, I will personally miss her.

Enjoy the fall, the crispness of the weather and the beauty of the changing leaves and I will talk to you soon.

Steve McManus



Steve McManus and Stephanie Barna attend Col Wilhite's Retirement Ceremony at AFRH-G.



Steve McManus presents Col Wilhite with a Certificate of Appreciation.

Message from the Chief, Healthcare Services



Ladies and gentlemen, I just wanted to give you all a quick update from Health Care Services on the Washington campus. During the week of September 21st, our consultants visit conducted an operational assessment of our accreditation preparedness. Overall, we did well. One key area of focus is our new home health program ("Independent Living-Plus"). In general, we got great feedback, and they had good things to say about the program, a real compliment to Marie Zepp, the Clinical Nurse Supervisor.

However, the reason I am writing to you today is to share with you our approach to providing you the best quality healthcare services, with the goal of supporting you to remain as healthy and independent as possible. We are ensuring that we are identifying opportunities to improve, and we are carefully tracking progress. We do this in a couple of ways. First, there are some standard industry measures, which are basic parts of accreditation. The accreditation is important, because it provides us with a framework on which to base our programs. More importantly, as a person-centered-care organization, it is essential that we incorporate feedback from our customers, the Residents. We are tracking concerns brought to our attention by Residents, action taken, and the date we got back to the Resident with a response. Some improvements are the result of concerns presented either anonymously or by groups of Residents, and those are also being addressed on an action plan.

Examples of issues we are currently working on include ensuring that we have accurately captured Resident's preferences for key concerns, such as who they prefer to see for their medical care, advanced directives (resuscitation, for example), and which family members they would like involved with their care. We are also working on improving our processes for medication distribution, and continuity of care. So, we are out there aggressively soliciting your feedback to ensure that we are promptly informed about any concerns, as well as looking for great ideas about how to improve our service to you. We will continue to work with the Resident Advisory Committee (RAC), and Robert Webb, your Ombudsman, to ensure we stay on top of this. Thank you.



Michael Bayles gives RAC Chair, Phil Ford support while he receives a flu shot.

**Michael Bayles
Chief, Healthcare Services**

Every quilt tells a story

By Becki Zschiedrich, AFRH-G Public Affairs

When browsing the halls of AFRH-G you can always catch Gerry DeVoe in the sewing room working. Her goal is to finish sewing 60 quilts before Christmas. This means she has been spending eight hours a day, or more, in the Sewing Room at AFRH-G quilting. Even though Gerry retired from the Navy as an E-6, this is what she considers her "full time" job now. Gerry, who is a very kind and gentle soul, has led a very exhilarating life. Born in Kentucky and raised in St. Louis, Michigan she joined the Navy in 1973. Her first duty station was in Stockton, California. From there she was stationed in Australia, Guam, Norfolk, Virginia, Bermuda, and San Diego, California. After traveling the world while in the Navy, Gerry settled down in Virginia Beach after retiring. In 2014 she moved to Gulfport, Mississippi and for the past year she has called AFRH-G home.

Quilting is only one of many gifts Gerry has. Not only does she compose breathtaking quilts, she is also a fiber artist, in which she takes wool from a sheep, washes it, spins it, and then knits or crochets it into an item like a shawl, vest, or scarf. She learned how to spin in Virginia at a historical house and she was immediately hooked. She also likes to make homemade soap out of palm oil, coconut oil, castor oil, olive oil and fragrance. Another talent of Gerry's is basket making. She creates baskets out of reed, which is a part of bamboo. When asked how she knew she had these abilities she said, "I just saw all of these creations at craft shows and historical houses and got interested." She also stumbled across books on quilting and is mostly just self-taught. "I took classes in the 90's on quilting. I love it because it is fun. I love making the colors come together and looking back at it. It is awesome and beautiful", she expressed.

The first quilt she ever completed was while she was stationed in Guam in 1986. Since then she has constructed over 100 quilts. Gerry said when she first started quilting, it was a big challenge and she always worried about having enough material. She has also composed her own Bargello design, which she said was not easy, but was inspired by the satisfaction of knowing she did it.

Gerry's creativity, vision and imagination is endless. She also designs Dutch and Russian spiral beaded necklaces and delights in painting nature scenes. It's hard to believe that Gerry did not discover her talents until the 1980's.

When Gerry is not quilting in the sewing room you can catch her in the exercise room or the swimming pool. She is thankful that she does not have to drive to work, enjoys getting plenty of sleep, and is grateful she does not have to cook anymore. "I do not want to sit on the couch and do nothing. I need to keep active and that is why I like the art of quilting, basketry, beading, crocheting, knitting, spinning and soap making. I appreciate not having a schedule and I don't have to go to work if I don't want to because I'm retired," she said. Out of all of her hobbies she enjoys quilting the most because she can use the quilts to cover up and keep her warm.



Gerry created an extreme masterpiece sewing the above quilt.



Gerry has fun putting many colors together.



This is just one of the 60 quilts Gerry will make before Christmas.

From the AFRH-W Administrator



It has been an honor once again to serve as the Acting Administrator on the Washington campus. As I did before I jumped right in and started working with Healthcare & Resident Services as well as the Campus Operations

teams. I have found that the majority of my work is following up and making sure we are heading in the right direction when it comes to residents care and services. Over the last month there has been a common theme with resident concerns and requests. Your concerns and request have mostly been small in nature, but when action is not taken it turns

into a larger problem. The AFRH-W staff knows that I am very big on follow-up and communication with residents and the staff when it comes to addressing issues. I continually ask the staff if certain requests have been addressed and if they have not, then action will be taken.

Let me be very honest, not all concerns and requests brought to the Administration will have an outcome that pleases everyone. However, if the concern or request is never brought forward then we cannot move in the right direction. A resident or staff suggestion just might make a small or even large difference in a fellow resident or staff member's daily routine or life for that matter. It does no one any good to sit around and complain if you never bring that complaint forward for review and possible action. But the key to all concerns and requests is the chain of command. I will

continue to stress the importance of working through the chain of command in Healthcare Services, Campus Operations, and Resident Services before jumping to the Administrator or Chief Operating Officer level. I will always have an open door policy, but the first question I will ask is "Did you bring it through the proper chain of command or the Resident Advisory Council (RAC)?" I would suggest that you, as a resident, attend a committee meeting that you are truly interested in and you want your opinion heard. Committee meetings range from trip selections, dining and movies. I challenge you to attend and make a difference in the AFRH-W Community. As I said in a recent Town Hall, "I listen and I hear what your concerns are." I have acted on several of the concerns in the short month I have been the Acting Administrator.

This coming month we have several events and items on the calendar that impact the entire community. The week of November 2nd we start the Annual Facility Fire Alarm Testing, November 6th Marine Corps birthday ceremony, November 11th a Veteran's Day ceremony will be held, November 14th we will host the National Military Family Volunteer Day, and of course the wonderful Thanksgiving dinner put on by the Dining staff.

I would like to congratulate Carolyn Haug, Volunteer Coordinator for being selected as the Employee of the Quarter.

I have to say the best part of my position is walking through the dining hall at lunch time and saying hello to each of you. I also get the scoop of the day which makes my job much easier. Thank you for your continued support.

Sheila Abar

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



If you haven't heard about or seen the minutes of the RAC – MASTER PLAN – FOSH – ADMINISTRATION and AGENCY

On Monday, October 5, 2015 a meeting was called by the RAC Chairman. In attendance were; COO of AFRH Steve McManus, Acting Admin-

istrator of AFRH-W Sheila Abar, Chairman of Friends of Soldier's Home (FOSH) John Hughes, Chairwoman of FOSH Master Plan Committee Reyn Andersen and Chairmen of AFRH-W Resident Advisory Committee Phil Ford and Master Plan Committee Roy Cogle, numerous AFRH-W Administrative personnel and interested residents.

Meeting was called to order at 6:05 PM by RAC Chairman.

Brief introductory remarks made by RAC Chairman noting:

–work of Community Action Plan Committee (hereafter CAP) (which is comprised of members of the AFRH-W and FOSH Master Plan Committees in equal voting representation)

–the issuance of Permit on July 22, 2015 to FOSH to conduct a feasibility study within 180 days for an economically successful mixed used development of land generally west of Arnold Drive

–the announcement on 9/2/2015 that continued maintenance of Golf Course would not continue effective 10/1/2015

–Agreement between Resident Advisory Fund and agency for continuance of Golf Course Maintenance for next golfing season (through September 2016)

–Now 75 days into 180 permit.

Question: What is status of permit?

Reply: Upon issuance of permit FOSH foresaw two ways forward; find one entity to 'do it all' or for FOSH to be an umbrella organization for different entities (golf course developer, park and recreation developer/specialist, restaurant development organization, among other entities). FOSH determined most timely and feasible way forward within permit time constraints was obtaining a single entity that could develop a comprehensive study comprising of the entire area primarily west of Arnold Drive. The Trust for Public Lands is the entity so identified with expertise and resources utilizing their over 40 years of experience in successful development of a mixed used development of expanses of land similar to that presented by the area generally west of Arnold Drive.

Question: If golf course needs entire area will FOSH forgo a 'community use' portion?

Reply: – The work of the CAP culminated in a list of priorities desired by AFRH-W residents and Community members. This list included continuation of Golf Course, and a number of other uses such as a Band Shell, a restaurant, walking trails. That list is being utilized by FOSH as a guide for preferred uses to be considered by the 180 day study underway. In a 'nutshell' the overall approach is a continuation of a golf course amongst other uses of the area west of Arnold Drive with the main underlying factor being that the entire area must be economically feasible and not dependent on a single source of revenue, i.e. all revenue combined would support the multiple activities.

Question: Is a fence still mandatory since area in question has now substantially changed?

Answer: Not necessarily dependent on outcome and use of land as determined by study and mutually agreed upon by AFRH and FOSH.

Question: As a 501(C)(3) can FOSH partner up and just move forward with agency approval in development of area generally west of Arnold Drive?

Answer: AFRH is governed by legislation in this area and will only move forward within AFRH legislative framework.

Question: Will a percentage of income come back

to the AFRH-W Resident Fund, i.e. will FOSH agree to fund resident activities at current level (about \$125,000 yearly not including money for Golf Course) after donations and amounts raised deducted from the previous year? With that being said it is acknowledged that reductions in current outlay are being considered.

Answer: As a non-profit entity without shareholders FOSH will continue to utilize funds raised for the benefit of the AFRH-W. Initially FOSH only contributed volunteer manpower for Saloon Nights and now provides all the food, beverages and entertainment for these events. It is envisioned that in time, many if not all, current resident activity funded events would be funded and enhanced by FOSH.

Question: What entity will be responsible for regular updates to residents of AFRH-W regarding the land usage of area generally west of Arnold Drive currently being explored by permit to FOSH?

Answer: This will be determined shortly. The CAP is still an existing committee but currently in hiatus. FOSH has acknowledged that regular updates are requested and will endeavor to do so in a timely manner.

Question: Will retirement of COO in January affect the usage of the land generally west of Arnold Drive that is currently focus of FOSH permit?

Answer: It is not anticipated that retirement of COO will have a negative impact on usage of the land. The permit will help define way forward and benefit both AFRH and community. As a result, would expect effort to continue moving forward after retirement of COO.

Question: Will the 80 acres of FOSH permit have an impact on the area being focused upon by the permit?

Answer: It is not anticipated a negative impact will occur upon land that is the focus of the FOSH permit. A way forward for the 80 acres is currently being pursued that may in the long term and short term prove more timely and beneficial to the AFRH-W.

In summation all were thanked for their attendance at meeting, particularly with the short notice of request. The floor was then opened to questions or comments of any of those in attendance "at the table" or "observing". No questions came forward.

It was unanimous that FOSH seems to be on a path for an economically successful mixed used development of AFRH-W land generally west of Arnold Drive

Prior to conclusion it was concurred that time is of the essence and regular updates would be provided to residents of AFRH-W. Patience between updates is requested as the purpose of FOSH permit is reached.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM

Repeating what I wrote last month, because I feel it soooooo important!!! There is a lot going on and I encourage you to take the time to find answers to questions you have when you hear "stuff". Life is a lot better when you have the correct information to guide you. Rumors and innuendo will only lead to a dead end or a path not well traveled and wasted time, energy and thoughts. So I'll close by saying you have a choice of what kind of day you want to have or are having... for me it's always a good day or better day. The right mindset does miraculous things.

As always, your floor representatives and I are standing by to assist (we all have yellow I.D.s). I have yet to have something or know of something presented to the RAC or a RAC member that could not be resolved using courtesy and respect. Try it..... you might like it. If you have something you would me to discuss in this article let's sit and chat or drop me a note.

Highlights of our October 21, 2015 meeting; Call to order at 10:00, October 21, 2015 in the Community Center

Roll Call -- Members present: Phil Ford, George Freburger, Lillian Miller, Marvin Archer, Joe Maier, Tom Myrick, Jim Judy, Jack Bruneel, Michelle Busch, George Brewer, AI Brotski, and Ken Faller
Members absent: NONE

Staff and Guests present: Robb Webb, Ombudsman,

Minutes of September 16, 2015 meeting approved by unanimous vote

Chairman's Welcome to all / Announcements

–The RAC Fund always welcomes donations, and requests that residents consider remembering the AFRH-W RAC Recreation Fund in their final bequests (wills).

–Please place comments and concerns in RAC box in Tunnel for the most expeditious handling rather than waiting for a RAC meeting. All RAC representatives have yellow ID tags. NOTE: Anonymous submissions may receive NO action if further information needed and it is unobtainable.

– Between meetings of the RAC each month the Chairman and Vice Chairman meet with the Chief of Residence Services, Ombudsman, Chief of Health Care (or designee) and Chief of Campus Operations on Mondays. Numerous items remain under discussion. The RAC does listen and is involved with discussions with Administration and staff on a regular basis to keep AFRH-W the premiere retirement facility that it is.

AFRH - W Ombudsman

– Please leave a note if not in office and he will contact you. A majority of day is spent out of office advocating/working for and with residents.

–Resident issues with another resident, with how a resident uses a BPV, and other issues that appear in violation of the Resident Guide, can be handled one on one through the Ombudsman Office. The RAC meeting is not the forum to discuss individual residents.

RAC FLOOR REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS and COMMITTEES

FLOOR REPS: No report

CAMPUS OPERATIONS: See questions under Administrative Reply requested

FOOD SERVICE:

–Next meeting November 10, 2015 10 AM in dining Hall.

–Please put your comments, suggestions and concerns in suggestion box located between the menus at entrance to dining hall. They are read and addressed.

GOLF:

–Golf course will be closed November 1 through March 31. Resident can use the golf course at their discretion as NO maintenance will be performed.

Only residents, no guests. A minimal number of golf carts may be available based on weather conditions.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS:

–When the Medication Distribution Room is closed during posted hours (Monday through Friday 8AM to 4 PM) please go to the Wellness Center front desk for assistance. There are procedures in place to get your medications dispensed during posted distribution hours, if Pharmacy Tech not present.

–All residents are encouraged to have an 'emergency bag' available that includes change of clothes, underwear, toiletries, cell phone charger, etc. in case it is needed for an unexpected hospitalization.

–The RHCC is not a RAC Committee. It is a stand-alone committee created by a mediated settlement. The mediated agreement is posted in Sheridan Building Ground Floor, near Tunnel. Please see an RHCC or RAC member if you cannot locate it.

MORALE WELFARE and RECREATION: Bus trip utilization needs to increase. If you sign up, please go on trip. Currently there is over a 50% 'no show' on average.

RESIDENT FUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE: The resident fund is expending more than it is receiving. Donations greatly appreciated (and needed!)

SECURITY: REMINDER: NO WEAPONS ALLOWED IN ROOMS/ON CAMPUS

–See questions for administration.

–Pendants are available from security that can be utilized in case of emergency. The pendants only give an approximation of location – they are NOT 'GPS accurate'.

OLD BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

–Please see a member of the RAC if you hear something that does not sound correct. Rumors and gossip only hurt everyone. Get the facts, PLEASE.

–David Pauling appointed Alternate for 5th floor. Approved unanimously.

RESIDENT CONCERNS FOR ADMINISTRATIVE

REPLY

–Is there a way for credit cards to be accepted for use by Mail Room?

–Can a sign regarding common courtesy/custom be placed in dining hall or at entrance (i.e. men not wearing hats or placing hats on tables) be placed?

–Ladies room by dining hall has a clear view of room from outside/community center when door opened. Can a partition or wall be installed similar to men's room?

–Survey for naming of plaza between Sheridan and Scott will be forthcoming. It will be a time limited survey, open for a minimum of one week. Ballots will be by the RAC box in tunnel.

–Can the microwave on 3rd floor of Sheridan (Assisted living) be repaired?

–Can signage for parking lots clearly state those for use by residents only (side of Sheridan)?

–Lighting on side of the Sheridan Building by parking lot is inadequate (not coming on or going off early) during hours of darkness.

Resident Comments:

–Comment received regarding process currently underway via Agency permit issued to FOSH for utilization of land generally west of Arnold Drive.

Resident is opposed to land being 'given away'. Resident encouraged to attend Master Plan Committee meeting on Monday October 26 at 7PM in Club Room of Scott. RAC meeting is wrong forum for discussion of previous land sold to VA, Catholic University, etc., Resident encouraged to bring up question at Administrator of COO town Hall.

–Numerous incidents regarding individuals raised. Resident(s) encouraged to utilize Ombudsman's Office as the public forum is not the place for such issues to be discussed or resolved.

–Income for Resident Fund discussed. Main source of income is Golf Course. Donations make up a small portion. The Golf Course expenditure is significantly higher than income. To be good stewards the Agency is looking for a mechanism to utilize the land generally west of Arnold Drive for mutual use of residents and local community that can also generate an income to maintain the area at no cost to agency or campus. At the present time the mechanism is a permit issued to FOSH to develop mutual areas of interest per the CAP recommendations.

Next meeting of CAP is 7 PM Monday October 26 in Club Room of Scott.

–There are no 'secret' meetings. All meetings chaired by RAC Chairman or a RAC Committee Chairman are open for residents to observe. If time allows at end of meeting the floor is opened for comments, questions, concerns, etc. by those observing.

MASTER PLAN: (courtesy announcement – not a RAC Committee)

–The Master Plan Committee will be discussing utilization of land generally west of Arnold Drive at 7:00 PM in Club Room on Monday October 26th. Attendance is welcome by residents to observe agenda items and discussions. If time allows the floor will be opened at end of meeting for general comments, questions and discussion.

–A 'buy a brick' fundraising campaign is being planned. Current areas under discussion. Stay tuned for its roll-out soon! Committee encouraged to roll out the program as the RAC Resident Fund needs the income.

Motion to adjourn at 10:35 passed, Next meeting at 10AM on November 18, 2015

Thank you for supporting your Resident Advisory Committee

RAC meetings are held the third Wednesday of every month at 10 AM in the Scott Community Room

The Resident Advisory Committee (RAC) is here to serve you!

Please contact us; a) in person, b) through submission of form placed in RAC box in tunnel, or c) by e-mail at rac.afrh@gmail.com. Minutes approved for posting on October 21, 2015

Phil Ford

From the AFRH-G Administrator



Fall is in full tilt at the Armed Forces Retirement Home – Gulfport! We began the month with forums, ceremonies, and distinguished visitors, and a new interim administrator at the helm. Towards the end of the month we stayed busy working on our team

approach to providing person-centered care, hosted the CFO, and agency IT staff. We have worked hard on our ongoing mission to be the premiere retirement community for our nation's veterans!

On October 1st, we said congratulations and farewell to our interim administrator, Col Dwayne Wilhite. He retired from the US Air Force after 28-years of service. It was clear to me from all the well wishes from Residents that he was admired by many at the home. We had some good conversations about this community and the many challenges leaders face at every level of management.

On October 1st and 2nd, distinguished visitors from DoD were here to check in on how things are going with the Home. Stephanie Barna, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Readiness and Force Management) was here with her staff to visit Residents and employees. She paid close attention to thoughts shared by staff during an All Hands meeting and other smaller department meetings throughout her visit. It

was great to have madam secretary here to show her support for the mission.

Our Chief Financial Officer, Vicki Marrs was here mid-month to conduct business and address Residents in a Focus Group on October 21st. She met with each campus department to review the Fiscal Year 2016 Budgets which have been reduced to save money. I'm confident our CFO is fully in tune with our fiduciary responsibilities and acts as a responsible steward.

I wish to thank all the Residents and staff for the warm southern hospitality during my interim assignment. Many have shared kind words of welcome. A consistent theme amongst Residents I've met is the significant pride everyone has for our Home on the Gulf Coast. What a great place to Live, Work, and Thrive; all things to be mindful of as we approach the season of

Thanksgiving! Hoping to see y'all at the Open House, this Veterans Day!

Shaun Servais



Resident Donald Riley shares a laugh with Gulfport's Acting Administrator, Shaun Servais, at the October Birthday Dinner Celebration.

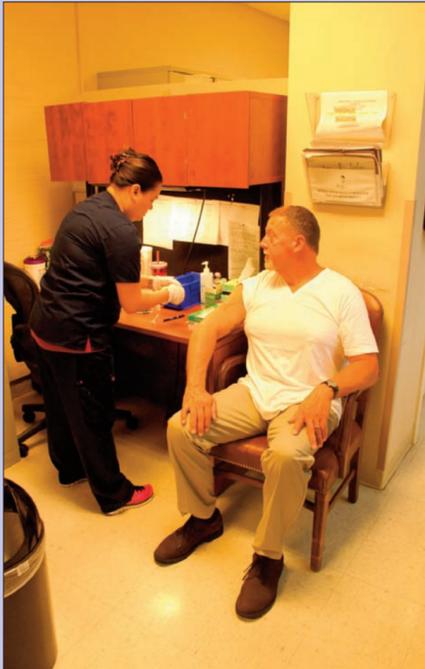
Fighting the Flu at AFRH-W

By Rebecca Newton, AFRH-W Public Affairs

According to the CDC, flu causes millions of illnesses, hundreds of thousands of hospitalizations and thousands of deaths every season. In an effort to protect against the virus, many of our staff and residents were vaccinated right here on campus.

In keeping with the vision of promoting vitality and wellness for veterans, AFRH-W staff understands that people 65 years of age and older are at high risk of developing flu-related complications.

Leading the way, was Mike Bayles, Chief of Healthcare Services. Mike stressed the importance of yearly vaccinations to staff members during a town hall meeting, as well as the employee breakfast. Ombudsman Robb Webb, who does not like shots, was vaccinated after twelve years! Flu outbreaks can occur as early as October and can last until spring of the following year. Staff and residents began getting the vaccine the first part of October. It takes about two weeks after receiving the vaccine for protection to set in.



Ombudsman Robb Webb receives his first flu vaccine in twelve years.



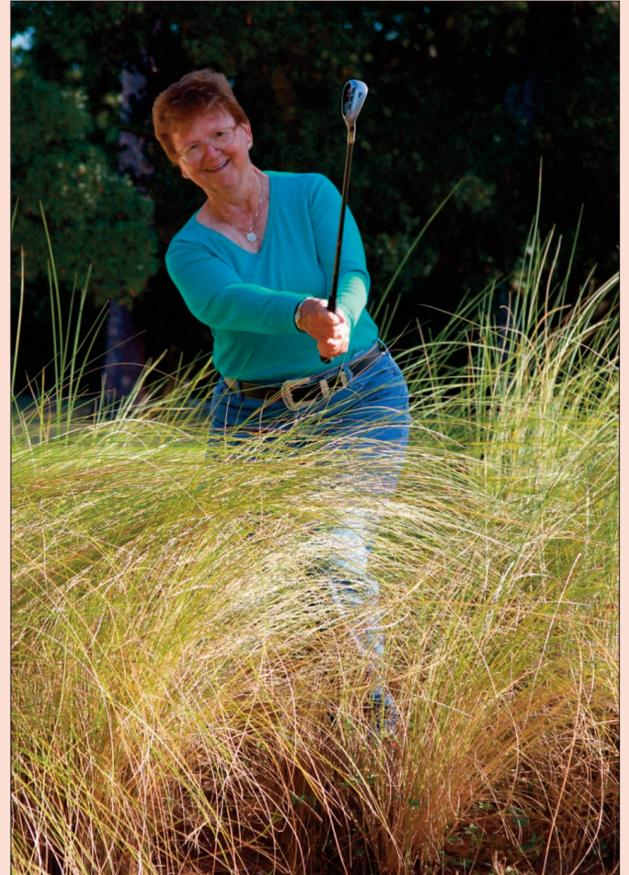
Charles Modde, Resident receives his vaccine from Clinical Supervisor, Melba Wardrip.

Gulfport Resident places 1st overall for first flight in Golf Classic

By Becki Zschiedrich, AFRH-G Public Affairs

Doris Denton placed 1st in overall for first flight in the International Women's Veterans Golf Classic in Mobile, AL at Magnolia Grove. Over 100 women veterans from all over the country and from different services participated. This Classic is held every year at different locations throughout the US. Next year it will be held in California.

Doris has been playing golf since 1973 and currently plays for pleasure two to three times a week at Keesler Air Force Base.



Doris received a gold medal pendant for winning first place.

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



The holiday season is fast approaching and it is now that I think about what's going to happen and what I will be doing in the coming year. I don't like to make "New Year Resolutions" because I've learned many

years ago that after the first few days or weeks, events and circumstances come along that always interfere with me keeping them. So I just tell myself that I will endeavor to do a better job taking care of myself and just live a better more productive life. Perhaps if all of us would follow that mantra we all can have a better life.

Before going too far let me give a hearty welcome and thank you for your service to Mr. Shaun Servais, our interim Director. I say thank you because he has to leave his wife and family in D.C. while work-

ing down here. Sounds somewhat like our military careers when we had to leave our families and go off to perform duties unaccompanied in some far off place. So I (we) can understand what he is and will go through. So good luck and I stand ready to assist you in any way I can.

Mr. Chris Alexander has been promoted to be the new Chief of Resident Services. This promotion in my opinion was long overdue. Chris has done an excellent job as our Admissions Officer and as the Acting Chief of Resident Services and I know he will carry on with the same commitment in his new position. Chris, I look forward to working with you and stand ready to assist in any way I can.

Now on to some RAC business: There are now No Smoking signs posted in the garage and in my opinion this is been a long time coming. The signs were needed because some residents have been smoking in their parked cars and or walking through the garage smoking and then discarding their cigarette butts on the ground instead of using appropriate receptacles. Don't get me wrong I smoke, but I smoke in the designated smoking areas and I don't discard my butts on the ground.

Please smoke only outside of the garage or in the "Smoke Shack Area" and don't throw the butts on the ground, field strip them then discard the filter in the trash. Remember life isn't fair but it's still good. For your information: The copier in the Library is gone for now because the contract has ended and we are now waiting on a new company to sign a contract and provide us with a copier. Hopefully we will get a new copier very soon. The RAC has requested that a light be install over the "Distinguished Veterans Board" by the Chaplin's office and John Cage, Chief of Campus Ops, said this will be done shortly. Soon residents on each floor will be able to see a picture of their floor reps. A photo of them will be posted on each floor's bulletin boards along with their room number. Did you know that most of the changes mentioned above were concerns that residents brought to a RAC meeting and the RAC acted on them? If you see something here in the Home that should be changed, altered or modified, all you have to do is drop a note in the RAC Box in the mail room or come to a RAC meeting and present a suggestion in person. The RAC will dis-

cuss the suggestion and if it has merit, and will benefit the Home we will ACT on it.

Now I'll sign off till next time so remember, "Don't waste your precious energy on gossip, energy vampires, issues of the past, negative thoughts or things you cannot control, instead invest you energy in the positive present moment."

Henri D. Gibson



Henri serving up wine at the October Birthday Celebration.

AFRH-W Activities

DC Residents visit Watkins Regional Park

By Carol Mitchell, Recreation Therapist

It was a beautiful October morning to be outside for the Healthcare Residents of AFRH-W. The Recreation Therapy staff planned an outing to the Watkins Regional Park in Upper Marlboro, Maryland. The park hosts the "Old Maryland Farm" which is an agricultural educational farm open to the public. The farm has agricultural exhibits, vegetable gardens, pumpkin garden exhibits, and a wide variety of animals. Some of the animals included: rabbits, chickens, roosters, peacocks, sheep, hogs, goats, ducks, geese, horses, and a burro.

The farm brought back wonderful memories for residents who grew up living on a farm. The residents then enjoyed lunch at McDonald's before heading back to the AFRH homestead.



Resident Bill Conrad is enthused over this steed.



Staff member Valerie Kirkwood and residents, from left to right, Catherine Deitch, Bill Conrad, Santo Dibella, and Mike Haddad enjoy the horses.

AFRH-W Derby

By Rebecca Newton, AFRH-W Public Affairs

What a day at the races! Residents joined some staff members in the Community Center on October 2nd, to place their bets on their choice of four horses: Man of War, Sea Biscuit, Seattle Slew and American Pharoah. Sea Biscuit was the fan favorite. It seems that the Residents liked the odds of an apprentice jockey. So, down the stretch they went.

With Acting Administrator Sheila Abarr rolling the dice, Residents were excited to claim their consolation. Betting on white, blue or yellow proved fruitless. It was the red filly who would take it all. Jockey Nicole Chappell, rider of Seattle Slew hit a daily double and knocked out the other racers: Alita Colbert, Andrea Thomas, and Oliva Pessima. Win or lose, Residents loved playing the odds!



Residents wait with excitement as Acting Administrator Sheila Abarr rolls the dice.



Residents sighed when the color red hit on nearly every roll.



Seattle Slew, aka Recreation Specialist Nicole Chappell, triumphs at the finish line.

Special donation to the Hall of Honors

By Christine Baldwin, AFRH-W Librarian

Due to the efforts of two residents, David Pauling and John Smith, the National Museum of the Marine Corps, Quantico, VA was able to donate some artifacts to our Hall of Honors. Alexis Rager, Assistant Registrar to the Museum came on the last Friday in September to give us a parade snare drum, a set of four historic USMC drummer prints, one WW2 winter coat and one shirt and cap from the Vietnam-era. The drum and postcards now reside in the Marine Corps case in the Hall of Honors and the shirt, coat and cap will be used in the future for our uniform cases.



The National Museum of the Marine Corps provided a gracious donation for the AFRH-W Hall of Honors.



Resident David Pauling (right) and Librarian Christine Baldwin (middle) show Alexis Rager, Assistant Registrar of the National Museum of the Marine Corps, the Hall of Honors at AFRH-W.

AFRH-G Activities

All Aboard for Sumo Lunch & MS Coast Model Railroad Museum!

By Susan Bergman, MT-BC, Recreation Therapy Services

On Friday, September 25, 2015 Residents enjoyed a trip to Sumo Japanese Steakhouse and Mississippi Coast Model Railroad Museum in Gulfport. As the group arrived early, residents took a quick peak next door in the Dollar Tree and found treasures including Halloween items, chocolate, and other goodies. Seated around a Hibachi table, the group quickly began telling stories, reminisced about world travels, and local favorites. Nancy Richey described her antique shop, "Nancy's Fancy's" in Michigan and her "All Around the World" trip through Hong Kong on the way back to the United States. Also for an appetizer, a plate of eel sushi was sampled by those daring enough to try. The big show came as the chef lit up the table, created a flaming onion volcano, and sang to Jesse Self for his 84th Birthday sprinkling pepper on top to create fireworks. After a wonderful lunch at Sumo Japanese Steakhouse, residents sang train themed songs on the bus on their way to MS Coast Model Railroad Museum to take in the masterful art of tracks and trains. Upon entering the museum, vintage model trains lined the walls, trains on smaller tables were running, and a cityscape of more than 500,000 Lego blocks was circled by a passenger and freight train. As the residents entered the back train room, a monorail train made its way near Lego block airplane displays. When looking up, train cars displaying club member's names circled on a track overhead around the room along the walls near the ceiling. The main display included several O-scale track layouts, an upper level bridge, and an inner table of multiple trains running at once. Vice President, Ken Miles accepted a Union Pacific hat donation from resident James Skelton through train advocate, Marvin Heth. Both Ken and Marvin shared their military experiences and were surprised to have North Dakota in common. The MS Coast Model Railroad Museum is located on 504 Pass Road in Gulfport and open 12-5 Tuesday through Saturday. Residents voted thumbs up and decided this was the best kept secret that everyone should see.



Flamin' Fun at Sumo Japanese Steakhouse!



OJ Ferrington & Jen Biernacki check out Legos and trains!



Marvin Heth passes on Train Hat donation to Ken Mile.

Halloween Fun

By Jen Biernacki, Recreation Therapy Assistant

It was a Monster Bash fun time on Wednesday October 14, 2015, for Valor Hall, Loyalty Hall and Allegiance Hall. The dining hall and tables were decorated with a Halloween theme while Monster music played in the background during the cookouts provided on Valor and Loyalty. The Residents on Valor Hall and Allegiance Hall enjoyed a day with a Pirate that provided the entertainment, Cats, a Devil and Rabbits that served up medicines and in nursing care a Clown, a Princess, and a Cowgirl prepared and served a delicious lunch. The Recreation, Nursing and Dining staff all participated to create a fun and enjoyable day for the Residents.



Staff dresses up in costume for the Halloween cookout.



Residents enjoyed seeing the staff all dressed in costumes.

The Karun Court #89 brought fun, laughter and smiles

By Jen Biernacki, Recreation Therapy Assistant

On Saturday October 3, 2015 the Karun Court #89, Order of Eastern Star, shared their morning with our Loyalty Hall Residents. Many sounds of laughter and hoorays were heard as the game of bingo was played. Smiles were seen on many faces while chatter filled the air as the group shared stories and introductions. An overall great time spent with our Residents. A special thank you is sent to the Karun Court #89.



Maynard Howard takes his bingo game seriously.



David Sampson and Dwight Shelby had fun with the Karun Court #89.



Anne Whitaker wins the game!

And they are off!

By Jen Biernacki, Recreation Therapy Assistant

On Saturday October 17, 2015 the Loyalty Hall Residents started the fall games off and running. With thirteen Residents participating in the "Loyalty Downs" event, the horse race began at the far end of the halls and ended at the front door, the finish line. The Residents named their horses as the start of the event galloped into action. The horses wheeled down the halls to the finish line as their numbers were rolled. Cheers, roars and yahoos were heard as the horses thundered down one space at a time. The winner of the day was "Cash Roll" Naomi Pointer. A special thanks to all the volunteered that day!



At the finish line!



The Cash Roll Winner of Loyalty Downs 2015, Naomi Pointer.

WASHINGTON

D.C. celebrates the U.S. Navy's 240th Birthday

By Constance Maziel, Lead Recreation Specialist

On Friday, October 9th, 2015, AFRH- W celebrated the 240th U.S. Navy Birthday celebration in the Scott Hall of Honors. The event was hosted by the Chief of Resident Services, Mr. Ronald Kartz, who is also a retired Navy sailor. Mr. Kartz shared exciting memories about his past in the military, while showing gratitude to all those who served. The ceremony was brought to attention as all participants joined together for the National Anthem followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

The event continued as Chaplain John Goodloe provided a heartfelt invocation which set the tone of the event. The highlight of the ceremony was the honorable speech provided by the guest of honor, Force Master Chief Christopher R. Levesque. Force Master Chief (FORCM) Levesque became the Force Master Chief Petty Officer of the Seabees on January 10, 2014. FORCM Levesque is a native of Rantoul, Illinois. He enlisted in the Navy in October 1985, and attended Recruit Training Center in Orlando, Florida. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Occupational Education from Wayland Baptist University. Master Chief Levesque is a graduate of the U.S. Navy Senior Enlisted Academy, Class 149, and earned his Seabee Combat Warfare and Master Training Specialist designations. His decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal; Joint Service Commendation Medal; Navy/Marine Corps Commendation Medal (5 awards); Army Commendation; Joint Service Achievement Medal (2 awards); Navy/Marine Corps Achievement Medal (3 awards); and Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal. It was an honor to have Force Master Chief Levesque be a part of such a remarkable Navy celebration. The celebration proceeded with the traditional U.S. Navy Cake Cutting, honoring our oldest Navy sailor present, Mr. Herbert Outlaw. The ceremony concluded with admiration to all those who served as every participant joined together to sing the U.S. Navy song "Anchors Aweigh". A special thanks to the RAC Honor Committee, Force Master Chief Christopher R. Levesque, and Mr. Herbert Outlaw for making the 240th U.S. Navy Birthday Celebration a success.

Hooyah Go Navy!



Force Master Chief Christopher Levesque, Herbert Outlaw, the oldest Resident at AFRH and CTRI Linda Ray (guest), the youngest Navy seaman in attendance cut the cake.



AFRH-W RAC Chair Phil Ford presents the guest speaker with an AFRH mug.



Acting Administrator Sheila Abarr addresses Residents and guests during the Navy birthday celebration.

GULFPORT

Happy Birthday United States Navy

By Becki Zschiedrich, AFRH-G Public Affairs

October 13th marked the 240th birthday of the United States Navy. AFRH-G celebrated the Navy's Birthday in the Community Center where CPO Paul Wise was the emcee.

On that day in 1775, the Continental Congress met in Philadelphia and voted to outfit two sailing vessels – the Andrew Doria and the Cabot, with ten carriage guns, swivel guns and a crew of 80 men. The ships were to sail out for three months and intercept transports of munitions and stores meant for the British army in America.

Now 240 years later, the United States Navy has a fleet of 271 deployable ships, over 3,700 operational aircraft, over 328,000 active duty sailors, over 110,000 reserve sailors, and nearly 200,000 civilian employees.

"Ready Then, Ready Now, Ready Always"



Master Chief Paul Wise (left), the youngest sailor in attendance (middle), and our oldest Navy female resident, Marion Ritchie (right), cut the cake.



Charlie Jenkins and Ray Reinke celebrate the Navy Birthday in style.



These two young sailors asked Marian Powers to take a photo with them because they were so honored to meet her.