AFRH-GULFPORT

Honoring the Grand Old Flag

By Sean Campbell, Recreation Services
Photos by Becki Zschiedrich, Public Affairs

It was a Red, White, and Blue day at the Armed Forces Retirement Home in Gulfport as AFRH celebrated Flag Day for the first time with a formal ceremony. The Gulfport Fire Department Honor Guard presented the colors as well as displayed their large ceremonial flag from the top of its ladder truck. Deputy Chief of Operations for the Gulfport Fire Department and retired Air National Guard veteran Hank Levins served as guest speaker for the event. The sound of Johnny Cash’s “Ragged Old Flag” echoed across the campus to begin the ceremony. An emotional poem entitled “I am the Flag: Old Glory” inspired Residents and guests alike to the tune of America the Beautiful. The Flag Day ceremony is sure to become an annual staple of the formal ceremonies held at AFRH Gulfport.

Residents and special guest, SGM Luther Thomas Jr. during the National Anthem and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Resident Services Chief Christopher Alexander was the Master of Ceremonies.

The Gulfport Fire Department Honor Guard presented the colors.

AFRH-WASHINGTON

AFRH-W Celebrates 241st U.S. Army Birthday

By Constance Maziel, Lead Recreation Specialist
Photos by Rebecca Newton, Public Affairs

On Friday June 10th 2016, AFRH-W celebrated the 241st U.S. Army Birthday in the Scott Hall of Honors. The Master of Ceremonies for the event was the Ombudsman, Mr. Robb Webb, who provided a delightful presence amongst all Residents and distinguished guests. The event began with the traditional National Anthem followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, in which all that were present, joined together harmoniously with respect and gratitude to all those who served. The program proceeded with Chaplain John Goodloe, who provided a profound invocation, leaving special thoughts and prayers throughout the room.

The highlight of the event was the guest of honor CSM Michael Howard, who the AFRH-W welcomed with open arms. Command Sergeant Major Michael Howard currently serves as the Command Senior Enlisted Leader at Fort Belvoir Community Hospital. Throughout his career he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Health Service Management from Trident University International. He also received numerous awards and decorations such as the Army Commendation Medal, Aircraft Crewman Badge, Air Force Achievement Medal, Bronze Star and the Order of Military Medical Merit, just to name a few. He expressed delight in being part of the celebration and to share his experiences in the Army. His inspiring story and heartfelt message left its mark on all Soldiers and guests present.

The celebration continued with the traditional U.S. Army Cake Cutting Presentation. The guest of honor joined together with the oldest and youngest Soldiers present. The oldest Soldier, Mr. Elgie Clark, happens to be One Hundred and One Years Young!!! Pride and joy was displayed on everyone’s face, as Mr. Elgie Clark stood up and joined hands with the youngest Army Soldier present, PFC Daniel Davidson, at twenty-one years old. The ceremony concluded with admiration to all Soldiers across the globe. A special thanks to Command Sergeant Major Michael Howard, Mr. Elgie Clark, and PFC Daniel Davidson, for making the 241st U.S. Army Birthday Celebration a success. Hooah, Go Army!
AFRH-W Veteran Highlight - Susan Meckley

By Christine Baldwin, AFRH-W Librarian

Susan Meckley joined the U.S. Marine Corps in 1952. After Basic Training and graduation from Radio School, she went to work in Public Affairs. She served at a number of different duty stations including Aberdeen Proving Grounds, Key West, Gilmo, the Pentagon and Kansas City. Susan once even participated in a simulated salvage of a submarine laying on the bottom near Key West, FL. The USS Falcon (AFR) dived to a river depth to attach a ‘down haul’ cable to the sub. Next the Momsen Diving Bell came down for the simulated rescue. Susan and Chief Hooper were elected to ride to the surface… ‘What an experience!’ She then took a twenty year break and went civilian. During this time, she got her Captain’s License with the U.S. Coast Guard. She decided to retire from the services and went into the U.S. Army 4 months before she would have been too old. Again it was in Public Affairs. One of her memories was being strapped into a Huey helicopter’s safety harness, while standing on the skids and videotaping the Diving Bell coming down for the simulated rescue. Susan was the subject of the Puerto Vallarta Yacht Club’s annual ‘not taking bets as to whether or not she would sail to Hawaii. About 400 miles out from Mexico, she had to use her 12 gauge pump shotgun to scare off two men who were in a large open boat banging against her boat’s hull at 2 a.m. Another time, sailing close to a Boeing space launch platform and their control ship, Susan tried to contact them to coordinate their passing each other. Receiving no answer she raised some ham radio operators in Seattle, who then called Boeing, resulting in the Boeing Space Platform calling her. After spending 36 days and sailing 1600 miles, translating the Pacific, she arrived at Hilo, Hawaii to a spectacular view of the snow covered Volcanos.

Susan came to AFRH-W in February 2015. She has been very active with radio activities and the meditation room services. On February 12, 2016 (Lincoln’s Birthday), she and her friend, Don Jones, operated an Amateur Radio station from the Mary Todd Lincoln’s bedroom in the Lincoln Cottage. They contacted over 16 countries on four continents, all with Morse code. Susan and Don are also active with the National Park Service commemorating the 100th birthday. The Park Service is allowing ham radio operators to operate from various National Parks, contacting fellow ham radio operators around the world.

AFRH-G Veteran Highlight - Tom Butler

By Lori Kerns, AFRH-G Librarian

Thomas ‘Tom’ William Butler was born in the farming community of Wheat, TN. Tom, the oldest of ten children, and his family lived here when the government came through and took all the land to build an atomic bomb. The site was perfect because the town was surrounded by mountains and rivers. His father worked where they were building the bomb. The family left Wheat in 1942. After the war, his father decided to open his own barber shop.

Tom has always had a love for airplanes. One of his earliest memories is when he was about five years old. His mother had bought him some little planes. He found a piece of wood and enjoyed letting planes roll down it. Around the age of fifteen, he noticed a J-5 Cub sitting at the nearby airfield. The pilot of the plane let him take a ride around the countryside in it. That flight sparked such a love that he vowed he’d never fly again.

At the age of eighteen, Tom thought “there had to be a better time somewhere” so he decided to join the Navy. His first orders were to Naval Air Station North Island to work with VFA-11 Fighter Squadron, a.k.a. Red Rippers. As part of this squadron he did maintenance and socializing with friends. Tom continued to live in California in the western Pacific. Once it was time to retire, he ended up touring around the world instead of going straight back to California and were sent to the Brooklyn Naval Yard for decommisioning. He was then transferred to Virginia and California where he finally married his wife Shirley. Together they lived in a 40x50 hangar equipped with a full bathroom. Understanding his love for planes, Shirley decided to build her own plane. Tom got a call from a friend who was a Navy chief he knew received orders and couldn’t finish the project. Tom bought the plane, an RV-4, and finished it in about five years. Again, he flew this plane to visit friends and family. He came by another hit plane when a Navy chief asked him to finish the plane his husband had been building. Again, this took him about five years to complete. This is the last plane Tom flew. In total, he built four planes. All four are owned by private individuals with three still flying today.

Sadly, Tom passed away in 2009. This is when he made the decision to move to AFRH-G. For a little while, he served as a tour volunteer for the Home. Today, Tom enjoys spending his retirement by visiting the library, watching movies, reading flying magazines, or spending time with all the other residents here at AFRH-G.
Residents and employees have the absolute right to take issues/concerns to any level of their chain of command at any time, and to use the union in an effort to resolve issues of staff concern. I believe it is crucial that we provide our dedicated leaders and managers the opportunity to lead and address matters at the lowest level. In my experience, pro-active and engaged managers tend to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of their agency. Managers will only be able to do that if they are made aware of issues and perceptions, and empowered to create a culture of change. I am committed to the continued development of the AFRH, and two of the most critical elements of that development are centered on communication and decision making. Neither of which are easy to develop if people who should be involved in resolving issues and making decisions are removed from the process. I ask for your help as we all work to continually improve this place we call Home.

I am including copies of the AFRH Organizational Charts for the Corporate Staff and Campus level, and request that when you have issues you engage the individuals responsible for your particular area of concern. Again, I welcome the opportunity to meet as many members of the AFRH family as possible. Rest assured that I am committed to making the AFRH a vibrant community in which to live and thrive!

Dr. Timothy Kangas
From the AFRH-W Administrator

Summer is already in full swing here in Washington and the campus looks beautiful. This month, we hosted several tours of the Home, played our season opener on the softball field, celebrated the US Army’s 241st Birthday, and continued planning for the Fourth of July Celebration! Lastly, the staff’s period of performance came to an end June 30th, marking another successful year of service to the Residents.

When the campus hosts visitors and provides tours to outsiders there is always a common theme; how impressive the campus and its facilities are. People are amazed to see the numerous amenities featured which enable Residents to pursue their interests during retirement. The tour often begins in the Scott Building featuring the Home’s legacy in the Hall of Honors. The visitor is then escorted to the library overlooking the grounds and view of the National Monument. The library has an abundance of natural light for reading and the perfect place to check out a book. Tours often feature stops at the Artist Colony, bowling alley, wood shop, and modern Wellness Center. I encourage any prospective Residents to come out for a tour; they will be glad they did!

The grounds crew worked quickly to make the field ready for the softball season opener on June 8th. Residents of all ages played with staff, and some came out just to watch the action. It was a great team-building event led by Ron Kartz, our Chief of Resident Services. Afterwards, beer and hotdogs capped off the cool summer evening.

Friday, June 10th, we celebrated the US Army’s 241st Birthday. The event was well attended and our guest speaker was Command Sergeant Major Michael Howard from Fort Belvoir Community Hospital. As a special token of our appreciation, Administrator Coins were given to the eldest Army veteran, youngest Army enlisted man present, and CSM Howard.

Speaking of birthdays, this July 4th marks the birth of the United States and its adoption of the Declaration of Independence in 1776. The Washington Campus will have its gates open to the public for picnicking, fostering a sense of community. The Friends of the Soldiers Home (FOSH) will coordinate and organize the event which will include live music, beer and food sales. I hope to see many Residents, Family and Friends here to celebrate the day with America’s heroes, the Residents of AFRH!

As much care and acknowledgment the Residents receive (including a drop-in by tourists from Korea), the Home would not be what it is without the sincerely dedicated staff, who work long hours to maintain operations. Many of the staff members are veterans themselves and I am grateful for each and every person who contributes to making the Home all that it can be.

Congratulations to those who went above and beyond this review period – your service is truly appreciated, and keep up the good work!

The Home is a beautiful place, made better by the outstanding people who live, work, and thrive within. See you on the 4th!

Shaun Servais

Special visit for Korean War veterans

By Rebecca Newton, Public Affairs

Story & Photos by Rebecca Newton, Public Affairs

Wl Man Kim, Senior Pastor of Thanksgiving Evangelical Church of Washington in Fairfax, VA recently visited the Residents of AFRH-W. Their purpose was to extend their gratitude to those who served during the Korean War.

Pastor Seung Jae Won, along with four women representing a Christian church in Busan, South Korea, chose to express their respect to Korean War Veterans through music and gifts. They bowed and saluted residents. They also bestowed gifts upon them in the Scott Theater, where they sang several songs of blessings in Korean and English.

Some of the gifts included socks, scarves and lapel pins. They also shared stories and photos taken during the Korean War. Resident Linda Hardy, who studies the language, even shared some laughs in Korean, with the visitors.

The day was fitting for a celebration, and the benefit was reciprocal for both the visitors, and the Residents alike.

Bill Shahda received a pair of Korean socks.

Residents admire their gifts.

Pastor Won and his special guests express their thanks to the Residents.

Message from the Chief of Healthcare Services

On Thursday, June 16, the Healthcare Services staff took the opportunity to go out after work with our pharmacy support team from Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. The primary purpose was to thank Dr. Shannon Ford (Major, U.S. Army), for her dedicated service and support to our Residents. Also on hand was her leader, Dr. Aniceto Navarro (Lt. Col., U.S. Army), who has also been a tremendous source of psychological support for our Residents. Both of these superb physicians have additionally been a tremendous support for our staff, assisting with ensuring that we are providing the highest level of person-centered care for our Residents. Dr. Ford will be missed, by all of us, and we wish her well in her new assignment as the Chief of Inpatient Psychiatry at William Beaumont Army Medical Center in Fort Bliss, Texas. Dr. Navarro will continue to provide service to the home on Tuesdays.

Dr. Ford will be around for another week or two, so please wish her well as she embarks on her new journey.

Michael Bayles

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

Before I begin, I want to take time to wish a belated Happy Father’s Day to all fathers at both AFRH-W and RVH-W. What happened? We raised our kids and there was this bright, sunny thing in the sky. Hello... Sunshine... summer is here!! Many of us will soon be taking to the highway and by-ways to vacation or visit friends and relatives. Please enjoy yourself but remember to stay alert and return safely.

The Wellness Clinic is constantly seeking new and better ways to serve the Residents of the AFRH-W. With Mr. Ben Phillips, our new Pharmacy Technician, Residents are receiving the best of care at the Pharmacy Window. Medications are being delivered daily and in a timely manner. We are grateful to have Mr. Phillips on board. Beginning the first of July, the Podiatrist, Dr. Sanford will see our Residents on a “walk-in” basis – no appointment required. These two changes in the care provided by the Wellness Center are a “win-win” situation for us all.

The post office established new hours of operation on the first of June. To date, this change in service has not proven to be unsatisfactory to Residents. The mail is still being distributed in a timely manner.

The recent Resident vs. Staff softball game was enjoyed by both players and spectators alike. Many turned out and cheered for their favorite team and fun was had by all. The final score was ... Too many to Too Few. There will be more activities such as this (like the Fishing Rodeo at the Ponds) throughout the summer. Come join the fun and cheer on your favorite team. Be sure to watch the calendars for a listing of upcoming activities and be sure to join in the fun.

SMOKERS – Please smoke in “Designated Smoking Areas” ONLY!!

In advance, “Happy Fourth of July.”

Marvin greets a Soldier visiting the Home.

Marvin Archer

Thank you Dr. Shannon Ford for your dedication to our veterans.

Shaun Servais and Resident Richard Robinson take a break in the Hall of Honors.
From the AFRH-G Administrator

This month has been a very exciting time for me at the Armed Forces Retirement Home as we celebrated the 241st Army Birthday. It was quite an honor to be the guest speaker on Veterans Day at AFRH-G. Jamie Miller, MDMR Director and COO Joe Spraggins, who served 34 years in the military and attained the rank of brigadier general, were the guest speakers on Veterans Day at AFRH-G. He took a tour of the MDMR. Artwork by Residents Gerry Gorsky, Ray Eckert and Barbara Folk are displayed throughout the beautiful office at MDMR, which overlooks the Back Bay of Biloxi. It all came together to honor our veterans hanging in the conference room. Mr. Miller and Mr. Spraggins met with Gerry Gorsky, Ray Eckert and Barbara Folk in the conference room and discussed with them their time in the military.

The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources is a state agency of Mississippi headquartered in the Eldon Bolton State Office building in Biloxi, Mississippi. It was created by the legislature as a new state agency in 1994 to manage Mississippi’s coastal resources through the authority of the Commission on Marine Resources (CMR). The MDMR is dedicated to enhancing, protecting and conserving the marine interests of Mississippi for present and future generations.

It was very impressive to get off the elevator at the MDMR and the first thing you see is a huge painting such an extraordinary job keeping this home beautiful and making it look like a resort on the Gulf Coast. They do such a great job serving our community.

I was very happy to meet Frances Scott, who is a veteran of our Armed Forces. I have and always will be a fan of our military service during the night crew service and the afternoon shift service. Cortez Simms, also earned the nickname “Multi-tasker” for being able to accomplish multiple jobs at once. He was given this nickname for being able to accomplish multiple jobs at the same time.

Our beautiful salt water pool. We have had many residents and guests enjoy the pool every day. We are so proud of our beautiful salt water pool. Thank you Recreation for putting on such a special Flag Day Celebration, Army Birthday Celebration & Spring Game Awards Ceremony. Congratulations to all you who participated in these events. We would like a panoramic view.

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National Park Service gives talk about places that commemorate the Civil War

By Christine Baldwin, Librarian
Photo by Rebecca Newton, Public Affairs
AFRH-W invited the National Park Service to give a talk to Residents about the monuments, statues and special places that commemorate the Civil War. A National Parks Ranger came with his slide show of the areas. With his in-depth knowledge, this Ranger shared the many places that the Park Service maintains for visitors. This includes areas little known to the average tourist, such as Scott Circle (along with a sculpture named for General Winfield Scott), which was erected in 1874 and is located in Northwest DC. After taking questions from Residents, Ranger O’Brian promised to come again and talk about other National Park places.

A one man band

By Carol Mitchell, Recreation Therapy
James Quakenbush has a true musical gift. A Marine Corps veteran, he volunteers with Bugles Across America. This non-profit group provides free “live” music. James began playing trumpet at age 12, and hasn’t looked back since. After leaving the Marine Corps in 1991, he continues to play music, professionally, as a studio musician, in symphonies, teaching and traveling on his solo gig, “JQ’s One Man Band.”

Residents in the Upper Levels of care were pleased to be serenaded by JQ, who played a mix of traditional songs and Big Band tunes. There were more than fifty residents on the Scott Terrace enjoying great music and temperatures in the mild 80’s.

Our Residents thoroughly enjoyed JQ’s visit and would be honored to host another visit again, soon!

Author visits AFRH-W

By Christine Baldwin, AFRH-W Librarian
Photo by Rebecca Newton, Public Affairs
Thomas Ryan came to AFRH-W in late May to give a talk on his newest book Spies, Scouts and Secrets in the Gettysburg Campaign. The reason he came was that in February, his brother-in-law, Resident Victor Mosesso, gave him a tour of the facility. While at the library, he talked with the librarian about his book and said he would love to return and present a book talk. Mr. Ryan’s program was very informative, with detailed Power Point slides demonstrating the movements of the intelligence operations for both sides. Many Residents stayed and talked with him and his wife about the book’s topic, while enjoying cookies and iced tea. The couple live in Delaware, so it is easy to come visit here. Mr. Ryan graciously donated a signed copy of his book, along with another, Essays on Delaware During the Civil War to the library.

Another Great Year with Norwood!

By Sarah Kenan & Carol Mitchell, Recreation Therapy
Monday, May 16th ended our Intergenerational Bowling League with the 8th grade students of Norwood Middle School. Residents and Students had a blast bowling together and learning to adapt to each other’s needs. AFRH-W Healthcare looks forward to next year and a new group of students to bowl with throughout the school year.

4th of July Celebration in Washington D.C.

By Christine Baldwin, Librarian
Photo by Rebecca Newton, Public Affairs
Recreation Therapy continually provides interesting activities like this one for Healthcare Residents.
Memorable moments

By Susan Bergman, MT-BC, Recreation Services

Last month, the 255th Air Control Squadron assisted with the ice cream socials as arranged by LtCol David A. Kendrick, Commander and SMSgt John D. Turner, Support Systems Supervisor. Military members of the group escorted healthcare Residents to the community center, served ice cream and toppings, and another part of the group visited with Residents on Loyalty Hall for their ice cream social. Residents were all smiles, shared memories, and expressed how nice it was to reminisce with other members of the military.

Residents enjoyed a shopping trip to Wal-Mart followed by a view to remember lunch at the Great Southern Club located on the 15th floor of the Hancock Bank building in downtown Gulfport. The staff were very attentive, the view was fantastic, and the attention to detail was impeccable. We look forward to visiting again in the future.

Blue Star Salute

By Susan Bergman, MT-BC, Recreation Services

Rene Armbruster, daughter of Independent Living Resident, Ron Persing, donated twelve lap activity quilts to Recreation Therapy for Residents living on Loyalty Hall. The “Fidget Quilts” were made especially for the memory support area to help keep hands busy and laps warm.

Several Residents were thrilled to meet Rene and lit up with smiles when presented with a special quilt of their own. It was a small world when Ron Persing reminisced with and about his 1961, Kansas City, C124 Flight Engineer instructor who now lives on Loyalty Hall. Ron said, “He was the best teacher I ever had.” We greatly appreciate the time, creativity, and thoughtfulness brought to our veteran Residents through three months dedicated to creating one lap quilt a week before coming to visit her father at the AFRH.

Thank you so much Rene!

Fabulous fidget quilts

By Susan Bergman, MT-BC, Recreation Services

The annual tradition of the Gulf Coast Symphony Orchestra performing patriotic music at Jones Park in Gulfport was continued this year as they hosted a bus full of AFRH veterans for the annual concert. The AFRH Veteran’s arrival was announced over the PA system as a standing ovation from the crowd ushered them in. Residents enjoyed complimentary snacks and refreshments during the show from the VIP seating. Following the concert the sky lit up with fireworks to celebrate Memorial Day.

Troop 5308 donates Girl Scout cookies

By Dennis Crabtree, Recreation Specialist

Troop 5308 donated Girl Scout Cookies to the AFRH-Gulfport Home. On May 27th, Troop 5308 arrived right before dinner time and found the Residents lined up for dinner. The Residents were eyeing those cookies before the girl scouts could get them out. They knew when there are girl scouts there would be cookies. The girl scouts gave out the cookies to any Resident that they could find. When it was all over there was not even a crumb of a cookie that could be found.
Story & Photos by Jen Biernacki, Recreation Therapy Assistant

Brian Mason and TJ Mareno are very special volunteers who bring happiness, smiles, comfort, excitement and good health to all the Residents here at AFRH-G through the pet therapy program. Brian and TJ own and have shared their dogs on each second and fourth Saturday of every month for the last 4.5 years. They began their pet visits with Prince and Charlie, two of their four Cavalier King Charles Spaniels. Patch, a male Lab/Afghan mix, was added to the visits but has since retired. Now, their four Cavalier King Charles Spaniels: Prince, Charlie, Riley and Bella, make their way down the halls of the health care floors. “It’s all about watching the Veterans’ faces light up,” says Brian Mason. “We are honored and blessed for what the Veterans have done for us, this is little compared to that,” adds TJ Mareno.

The “Royal Pet Visit” begins as soon as the elevator doors open. The dogs “walk slowly” to the independent living Residents who wait for them in the lobby to arrive promptly at 1400. Don Johnston is there each visit with plenty of treats for the “Royal Paws” to begin their adventures into the heart of our Veterans. John Marine and Kitty Gill are more Independent Living Residents who share in the experience of the visit. “You are a fine little girl,” says Kitty Gill to Bella. Bella is the newest addition to the pet visits. She is an eleven month old girl, the only girl besides TJ in the Mason/Mareno household. Bella easily crawls up into everyone’s heart.

After a visit with the Independent Living Residents, the “Royal Paws” head up to Allegiance Hall, Valor Hall and Loyalty Hall. “Seeing these dogs keeps me going,” says Edward Clark. “I love seeing these dogs,” he adds. “They just make my day,” says John Deming. The visits on the upper levels of care consist of a special time with the animals, a non-interrupted special moment with the pets and the Resident. The dogs lead, while Brian and TJ hold on to the leashes, down each hallway on the C-Tower second floor and the D-Tower to ensure all the Residents have had an opportunity to enjoy what no man can do.

We thank you, Brian, TJ and the many paws for providing a special experience to our Veterans here at AFRH-G. You two are very special people.

WASHINGTON

Margaritaville at AFRH-W

By Constance Maziel, Lead Recreation Specialist

In lieu of Cinco de Mayo, Residents at AFRH-W joined together on Friday May 6th for the Margaritaville Social! Red, green and white traditional colors covered the Defender’s Inn Bar and some Residents dressed in traditional colors as well! Mr. Sheldon Shorthouse was the bartender for the event and Mr. Brian Dowd assisted with serving. Residents enjoyed pretzels, peanuts, tortilla chips, and salsa along with their favorite margarita! The fiesta had a variety of margarita flavors including, strawberry, lemon, lime, mango, and peach. Some enjoyed one or two tasty flavors while others indulged in every flavor available! DJ Billy White played a variety of classic tunes along with a few cultural records, which set the perfect tone for dancing. Residents rejoiced and sang along to the music as they danced to the hits. A few even attempted some Merinque and Salsa dance moves! The social concluded with residents on the dance floor, toasting to the jubilant event. Muchas Gracias to Brian Dowd, Billy White, and Sheldon Shorthouse for making the Margaritaville Social muy bueno!!!

Sheldon Shorthouse not only mixes and pours, he also serves.

GULFPORT

Crawfish Festival concert

By Sean Campbell, Recreation Services

The Mississippi Coast Coliseum played host to over 30 AFRH Veterans this summer at the Annual Crawfish Festival held on the grounds of the Mississippi Coast Coliseum. Residents were treated to reserved seating for national country artists Neal McCoy and Travis Tritt. Thousands in attendance enjoyed the classic sounds of country music and the delicious smells of crawfish in the nighttime air.

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Richard Walk, Chuck Felder, and Keith VanDoren enjoy the flavored margaritas.

The Royal Paws, A very special experience

Story & Photos by Jen Biernacki, Recreation Therapy Assistant

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