The Fleet Reserve Association (FRA), Branch 307 of the Armed Forces Retirement Home presented the Harrison County Sheriff’s Office with a check on February 20, 2018. The check was given to the sheriff’s office after FRA Vice President Ms. Faye Jefferson and Master at Arms Diana Dopp met the Harrison County Sheriff’s Office K-9 Division at the Harrison County Fair in 2017. At the fair, the K-9 deputies were conducting a public demonstration using their assigned K-9 partners. During the demonstration, Ms. Jefferson asked why the K-9 was not wearing a vest. After the deputy replied that the K-9 did not have a vest, Ms. Jefferson decided to raise money so K-9 D’Ablo could have his own personal vest. The Harrison County Sheriff’s Office thanked the Fleet Reserve Association and the Armed Forces Retirement Home for their donation, and everyone who contributed to the cause.

The Armed Forces Retirement Home (AFRH) is working with the General Services Administration to issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) in the spring of 2018 and select a master developer whose submission best meets the RFP’s criteria and objectives. The latest information about development activities is posted online at www.afrhdevelopment.com.

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Visiting Washington, D.C. and Gulfport, Mississippi

Marian Ditzler Powers
By Lori Kemn | Librarian

Marian Ditzler was born in 1922 and raised in the rural area of Sparta, Illinois. Named after her father, Marion, she was the second born of five children. Her mother, a seamstress, began teaching her how to sew at the early age of five. She mastered her lessons very quickly. When she was older, she used her skills to get a job working at a branch for a high-end St. Louis dress factory. The dresses they produced sold for $40, very expensive for the 1940s. She was often praised by her supervisors for how quickly and efficiently she worked.

Around the time WWII was heating up, Marian had been dating a young man who decided to join the Navy. She intended to marry her boyfriend so she decided to join the WAVES program, at the minimum age of 20, with the intention that she would be stationed wherever he was sent. Her plan, however, did not work because they went their separate ways. She never saw him again.

Marian went to Cedar Falls, Iowa for boot camp. She reported after basic training to Lakehurst, New Jersey to become a parachute rigger. After her training, she received orders for the inspection department at Naval Air Station Alameda in California. In 1943, she was featured in a Harper’s Bazaar article as one of the women parachute riggers doing her duty for the war effort. She remained stationed there for over three years before she decided to put in a request for Hawaii, but received orders for Texas instead. As fate would have it, she would meet her future husband, Jules, there. The couple fell in love, and Donald married. Around 1946 Marian made the decision to leave the Navy, but not before she and her husband had both risen to the rank of chief, becoming the first two chiefs on active duty in the Navy to be married.

Jules remained in the Navy. Marian and the couple’s two children followed him wherever he was sent on deployment. She was able to raise their children in addition to working mostly civil service jobs where they were stationed. If there were no civil service jobs available, she would use her skills as a seamstress to find work. Their son, Rick, attended school at The Citadel. Upon his graduation, he went on to serve in Vietnam as a helicopter pilot for the Army. Their daughter, Betty, fell in love and married one of her brother’s classmates from The Citadel. The couple had three children, one of whom carried on the military tradition by serving in the Navy.

Marian and Jules were happily married for 58 years during part of which they came to retire in Naval Home in Gulfport back in 1997. Marian stayed busy by working in the mailroom, editing the Home Port newsletter, painting, and continuing to sew. She lost her beloved husband in 2003 but remained living in the Home until she was displaced by Hurricane Katrina. She went to live briefly at AFRH-W before moving to Texas to await the opening of the new AFRH-G. Marian came back for the Home’s reopening and has since been enjoying a relaxing retirement by spending time with friends and attending the various events held at the Home. It is quite interesting to mention that when Marian was in the Navy, only the male parachute riggers were allowed to make jumps. Marian made the decision that she wanted to do her own jumps, although these came much later in her life. She made three jumps at the ages of 80, 83, and 90!

Donald Freer
By Christine Baldwin | Librarian

Donald Freer was born in Pennsylvania. He had two older brothers, who were drafted in WWII. One was in the U.S. Army, seeing combat in both France and Germany, and the other was in the U.S. Coast Guard. Donald tried to join the U.S. Air Force in 1951, but was told that they were “full,” since the Korean War had started. However, just as he got his draft notice to take his physical, the Air Force had openings and he was able to join.

Donald did his basic training in Sampson, New York (now a military museum) and was asked if he wanted flying status. He did. So he took the flying physical and was off to school for remote control turret systems. Then Donald went to gunnery school at Lowery AFB, Colorado and went to crew training at Randolph AFB, Texas. However, by this time no more crews were needed because the Korean War was ending. Instead Donald went to Mountain Home AFB, Idaho as a B-29 gunner. One of the other bases that Donald flew out of was RAF Molesworth, England. He later had a nice discussion of this base with Prince Charles, when the Prince and his wife visited the Home in 2015.

Donald wanted to be an in-flight refueler (Boom Operator), so after reenlisting in 1955, he went to his first Strategic Air Command (SAC) assignment in Dyess AFB, Texas in KC-97’s. Later he went to Castle AFB, California for KC-135 combat crew training. The toughest assignment was when the Cuban missile crisis occurred in October 1962. Donald flew three missions a day refueling B-52’s, which were flying 24 hour missions out of Tonkien Air Base, Spain. Later he would have free 90 day tours in U-Tapao, Thailand, where he would only have a break of three days during each tour. Here Donald was refueling F-105s “Rolling Thunder” before and after their bombing missions. In total, Donald spent 19 years in SAC, most during the Cold War. Fifteen of these years were on KC-135A tankers, flying over 6,000 hours and many, many, many days of alert duty.

Donald retired from the Air Force from Plattsburgh, New York in 1974. This is where he stayed for the next 31 years, later moving to Florida. He came to AFRH-W to be near his two daughters, who are still living in New York.

For more information, visit: http://www.AFRH.gov

To receive an informational brochure please contact the AFRH Marketing Office at 1-800-422-9988, or write to: AFRH, PAO/Marketing, #584, 3700 N. Capital St. NW, Washington, DC 20011-6409

Visit us on the web at: http://www.AFRH.gov

AFRH-Gulfport and AFRH-Washington currently have no waiting time for residency.

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.

AFRH Communications
Serving Washington, D.C. and Gulfport, Mississippi
**Story & Photos by Melodie Menke | Volunteer Coordinator**

**Ride along with the Combat Veteran Association 44-1**

It was a beautiful morning along the Mississippi Gulf Coast with motorcycles lined up along the driveway at AFRH-G. Resident Ms. Marion Wolke planned on hopping a ride on one of those motorcycles after she had donned her leather motorcycle vest with patches from many places that held many stories. She rode in the sleek Sling Shot driven by Ray Blanchard "Top." She then climbed on a motorcycle with Sebastian Pelletier aka "Ranger" and they took off. When Ranger went around the circle once and stopped, Ms. Marion tapped him on the shoulder and said "I didn’t climb on here for one time! Keep driving!" And Ranger did! The camaraderie was as outstanding as the coffee and donuts they brought, and many more residents and even one brave staff member took a ride on the wild side that morning! Special thank you to Eric Litrke and Mike Baldwin and the entire team of Combat Veterans Association 44-1 for visiting and making it a truly special day at AFRH-G.

**Story & Photos by Becki L. Zschiedrich | Public Affairs**

**Director of National Guard visits Gulfport**

Colonel Jody Mike Smith, director of the Mississippi National Guard Military Support, visited the AFRH-G on March 14. He met with Administrator Jeff Eads and the leadership team regarding the support the National Guard will provide in the event of a hurricane on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Colonel Smith then toured the facility, spoke to resident HAM operators and visited a resident apartment. Chief of Campus Ops John Cage gave Colonel Smith a tour of the mechanical room, where he talked about the boilers, generators and cooling towers.

Thank you Colonel Smith for visiting the AFRH-G. We are so fortunate to have the assistance of the Mississippi National Guard in the event of a hurricane.

"Always Ready, Always There!"

**By Chris Kelly | AFRH Public Affairs Officer**

**Armed Forces Retirement Home salutes Maurice Swinton upon retirement**

AFRH will lose a valued member of its team on April 3 when Chief Information Officer Maurice Swinton retires. He most recently served as acting chief operating officer from September 2017 to February 2018.

"On behalf of the Secretary of Defense and all the residents and staff of the Armed Forces Retirement Home, I want to express my heartfelt appreciation to Maurice for his dedicated service to the Home and for 30 years of service to the federal government," said Chief Executive Officer Stephen T. Rippo.

"Maurice’s warm and engaging personality brought a needed sense of stability during recent leadership transitions. His willingness to delay his own plans for retirement and private sector opportunities by ensuring a thorough transition to the new chief operating officer is a testament to his character and commitment to the Home’s mission. We will certainly miss him.”

Maurice has served at AFRH since 2006, with responsibilities at the Agency level that included oversight of multiple administrative functions. He most recently helped shepherd the Home through The Joint Commission re-accreditation process and the DoD-OIG assessment.

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This month at AFRH-W we were visited by the Sergeant Major of the Army Daniel A. Dailey, who was given a tour of the campus by our Chief of Resident Services Ron Kertz. This was SMA Dailey’s first visit to AFRH-W and while there we will make a lasting impression.

The first day of spring came in like a lion with Winter Storm Toby fromicky blowing in off the north. An estimated snow fall of three to five inches was expected in the Washington, D.C. area and anywhere around AFRH-W a snow storm will not shut us down, we just keep rolling along.

This Month in History

-April 2, 1862 - The beginning of the Falkland Islands War as troops from the USA and the UK invaded the islands.

-April 3, 1948 - President Harry S. Truman signed the European Recovery Program, better known as the Marshall Plan.

-April 6, 1917 - Following a vote by Congress approving a declaration of war, the U.S. entered World War I.

-April 10, 1942 - During World War II in the Pacific, the Bataan Death March began as American and Filipino prisoners of war were forced to walk 60 miles under a blazing sun without food or water to the POW camp, resulting in the deaths of 5,000 American soldiers.

-April 10, 1945 - The Naal concentration camp at Buchenwald was liberated by U.S. troops. Located near Weimar in Germany, Buchenwald was one of the first concentration camps to be liberated and was one of the last major concentration camps. It later housed Jews and homosexuals and was used as a slave labor center for nearby German companies. Of a total of 238,980 Buchenwald inmates, 56,549 perished. Following its liberation, Supreme Allied Commander, General Dwight D. Eisenhower, and other U.S. commanders visited the site and demanded that Germany be held accountable for its crimes against humanity.

-April 15, 1912 - In the icy waters off Newfoundland, the luxury liner Titanic with 2,224 persons on board sank at 2:27 a.m. after striking an iceberg just before midnight. Over 1,500 passengers drowned while 700 survived.

-April 17, 1961 - A U.S. backed attempt to overthrow Premier Fidel Castro of Cuba failed spectacularly in what became known as the Bay of Pigs fiasco. About 1,200 anti-Castro exiles invaded the island’s southern coast and were defeated by 20,000 Cuban soldiers and joined. Trained and guided by the U.S., the exiles had expected support from U.S. military aircraft and help from anti-Castro insurgents on the island. Instead, due to a series of mishaps, they had received for themselves in support.

-April 19, 1775 - At dawn in Massachusetts, about 70 armed militiamen stood face to face on Lexington Green with an overlawn British advance guard unit. An unordered shot heard around the world began the American Revolution. A volley of British rifle fire was followed by a charge with bayonets leaving about 100 Americans dead and ten wounded.

-April 19, 1995 - At 9:02 a.m., a massive car bomb explosion destroyed the entire side of a nine-story federal building in Oklahoma City, killing 168 persons, including 19 children inside a day care center. A decorated Gulf War veteran was later convicted for the attack.

-April 21, 1836 - The Battle of San Jacinto between Texans led by Sam Houston and Mexican forces led by Santa Anna took place near present day Houston. The Texans decisively defeated the Mexican forces thereby achieving independence.

-April 22, 1850 - The Library Congress was established in Washington, D.C. It is America's oldest federal cultural institution and the world's largest library. Among the 145 million items in its collections are 28 million books, 53.5 million photographs, 12.5 million maps, 6 million pieces of sheet music and 63 million manuscripts. About 10,000 new items are added each day.

-April 27, 1865 - On the Mississippi River, the worst steamship disaster in U.S. history occurred as an explosion aboard the Sultana killed nearly 2,000 passengers, mostly Union soldiers who were prisoners of war and returning home.

-April 27, 1865 - The Civil War General and 18th U.S. President Ulysses S. Grant (1822-1885) was born in Point Pleasant, Ohio. During the war, the war, he earned the nickname "Unconditional Surrender" Grant and was given command of the Union armies. He served as President from 1869 to 1877 in an administration plagued by scandal. He then went on to write his memoirs and died in 1885, just days after its completion.

-April 29, 1709 - George Washington became the first U.S. President as he was administered the oath of office on the balcony of Federal Hall at the corner of Wall and Broad Streets in New York.
From the AFRH-G Administrator

March was a very exciting month starting with the celebration of Marion Ritchie’s 101st Birthday celebration on March 6. Our recreation department really had a great idea when they came up with the theme of “101” Dalmatians for the birthday cake and ice cream social. The Community Center was flooded with residents, employees, dignitaries and the media. I would like to wish Miss Marion a very Happy 101st Birthday and I am honored to have celebrated this special day with her.

The Director of the Mississippi National Guard Military Support, Colonel Jody Mike Smith, visited the AFRH-G on March 14. This was a very important and informational visit from Colonel Smith. In the event of a hurricane he will be in charge of making sure our residents are safe and that we have everything we need. He will be coming back to the home soon for another visit before hurricane season which starts on June 1, 2018. Hopefully we will not need his assistance this year.

Our Chief Operating Officer Jim Branhim visited us on March 26-27. His visit was very positive. He met with the Commander of the 81st Medical Group at Keesler Air Force Base Colonel Ryder. He also visited with residents and held an Employee Town Hall Meeting.

Mr. Gibson previously held several senior leadership positions with Beechcraft including Senior Vice President of Global Mission Support, Vice President of Special Mission Aircraft, and Vice President of Finance (CFO), Government, and Defense Business. Mr. Gibson also served as the Acting Deputy Chief Management Officer of the Air Force (Financial Management/Controller and CFO), as well as Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Management Reform). In addition, Mr. Gibson has held numerous other leadership and management positions in the private sector.

Wordin launched the first Ride 2 Recovery (R2R) Challenge event in 2008 with fourteen riders and no support staff. By 2010, the organization was producing six challenge events across the U.S. with an average of 170 participants per ride and a full support staff including the Texas Challenge from San Antonio to Dallas, the Memorial Challenge from Washington D.C. to Virginia Beach, the Rocky Mountain Challenge from Cheyenne, Wyoming to Colorado Springs, the Great Lakes Challenge from Minneapolis to Milwaukee, the Golden State Challenge from San Francisco to Los Angeles; and the Florida Challenge from Tampa to Jacksonville.

In 2011, R2R grew to seven challenge events including Texas, Memorial, Florida, Golden State, Great Lakes, the 9/11 American Challenge on the tenth anniversary of 9/11, which began at Ground Zero in New York City, rode through Shanksville, PA and finished at the Pentagon and The Normandy Challenge, the first European Challenge event which traced the steps of D-Day and subsequent battles. In 2012, R2R’s Battle of the Bulge Challenge hosted 147 riders as they rode through Belgium and Luxembourg, in addition to Texas, Memorial, and Golden State Challenges, the organization added the Gulf Coast Challenge from Tallahassee to New Orleans, the Minuteman Challenge from Boston to New York and the Bluegrass Challenge from Cincinnati to Nashville. The Challenge events became so popular the organization established a limit of 200 participants per event and today they sell out early and have lengthy waiting lists, attesting to the power of the Ride 2 Recovery programs.

Project Hero has helped tens of thousands of our Healing Heroes at no cost to participants through Ride 2 Recovery cycling events, community-based programs in more than 50 cities throughout the US and by supporting research. To paraphrase Paul Harvey -- "now you know the rest of the story." (https://projecthero.org/about)

As always, I am open to any suggestions of topics you would like me to discuss, or to answer questions in this column that may be of importance to you. If it is on your mind it must be important to you, and chances are it is also of importance, or at least informative, to other residents to hear the answer.

Till next month I wish you all the best,

Phil Ford

---Due to space limitations this month’s meeting minutes are not highlighted. Please contact me directly at Racchair@gmail.com if you would like a copy.***

Bikers from Project Hero take a break by the reflecting pond in front of AFRH-G.

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On December 28, 1941, Rear Admiral Ben Moreell, Chief of the Bureau of Yards and Docks, requested specific authority to activate, organize, and man a unique, very special organization that would support the Navy and Marines in remote locations and defend themselves if attacked — the Naval Construction Battalions. On January 5, 1942, he was given that authority and the original Battalions were formed at a new Naval base in Davisville, Rhode Island. On March 5, all Construction Battalion personnel were officially named Seabees by the Navy Department. Admiral Moreell personally furnished them with their motto: Construmus Batumius, or We Build, We Fight.

Congratulations to Laura Fogarty on her retirement. Thank you for your service to the AFRH-W.

On a Friday afternoon in March, using some painter’s tape and decorative flags, we transformed our dance floor in the community center into a Pickleball court. Pickleball is a sport that has been around for over 50 years, and is played at many retirement communities. The Sports and Fitness Industry Association estimates that there are over 2.5 million Pickleball players in the United States currently. Using wooden paddles and a wiffle-type ball, our ten players enjoyed learning the game. It is a great game for people who think they can no longer play tennis or badminton, but still enjoy racquet sports. The court is smaller than a tennis court, therefore involves less running. The ball travels more slowly than a ping pong ball. This was a new court sport for all but one participant, but an easy transition for our ping pong players.

The enjoyment of the sport was evident from all the laughter while we played. One resident said, “This should be called tickle ball, not Pickleball.” Look for Pickleball to be featured again on the April calendar.
National K-9 Veterans Day
By Carol Davis | Recreation Assistant

March 13, 1942, the United States Army began training dogs for the newly-established War Dog Program or ‘K-9 Corps.’ Dogs suddenly became a critical part of the armed forces. To celebrate the day, I asked a personal friend for a synopsis about his time in Vietnam as a handler. Craig Lord was a United States Air Force Sentry Dog handler at Phan Rang Air Base in Vietnam in 1968-1969. His dog’s name was Winston and their mission was Air Base Defense. They patrolled a circular perimeter of approximately 26 miles at night. Winston and 70 other dogs were used to detect any infiltrators approaching the base. The dogs gave early warning of anyone trying to penetrate the fence line so the enemy could be stopped.


Mystery Tournament
By Dennis Crabtree | Recreation Specialist

On February 22, 2018 Recreation held its second Mystery Tournament with 17 participating residents. There were 17 residents who participated. The Mystery was Dice Count. Residents were given instructions on how to play. The way to win was to get through the double elimination bracket with the highest score combined after five rolls. There could only be three winners for this Mystery Tournament with 17 participating residents. The Mystery was Dice Count. There were 17 players that played in the tournament but there could only be four winners for that day. Wayland Webb took 1st place, Gary Pedigo took 2nd place, Doris Denton took 3rd place and Mike Longwell took 4th place.

On Monday March 19, 2018 residents were competing in the Corn Toss Tournament in the Bocce Room. Steve Crowes and Woody Hilliker are seen competing against each other. Gary Pedigo and Fredi Van Pelt are comparing notes to improve their throwing skills. Sitting in the cheering section is Frank Baker, Mike Longwell, Sandra Gann, Ernie Fowler and Wayland Webb. There were 17 players that played in the tournament but there could only be four winners for that day. Wayland Webb took 1st place, Gary Pedigo took 2nd place, Doris Denton took 3rd place and Mike Longwell took 4th place.

Corn Toss Tournament
Story & Photo by Dennis Crabtree | Recreation Specialist

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Cooking with Recreation
Story & Photos by Dennis Crabtree | Recreation Specialist

On February 20, 2018 Recreation held its second activity called Cooking with Recreation. The recipe was crab cake appetizers. The two main ingredients were sour cream and guacamole. This was all put into pita pocket bread. Dorris Jones, with the help of Carol Davis, added the ingredients to the pita pocket bread. The flavor in the dish comes from parsley, garlic-pepper blend and red bell pepper. The best thing about this was there was not any cooking involved in this dish.

On Friday, February 23, 2018, residents from Valor, Loyalty, and Allegiance Halls were joined again this month by our amazing AFRH resident volunteers and military volunteers from the Naval Construction Group Two (NCG2) and United States Coast Guard (USCG). Both stationed in Gulfport, LS1 (AW) Raven Davenport (Logistic Specialist, Aviation Warfare), 7 other NCG2 military members along with USCG, BM1, Nick Sheppardson (Boatswain’s Mate) took residents on their shopping adventures through Wal-Mart in Pass Christian and then onto Italy for a feast at Joe’s Italian Ristorante in Long Beach, MS. A surprise visitor, Binnie Jamison, and friend of a NCG2 military volunteer who attended last month’s outing, pulled out several handmade crochet wheelchair/walker bags, and allowed residents to pick their favorite color, and attached them to their chairs. Residents were invited! Next to come was the hot bread, large salads, and generous portions as the group savor a mix of Italian specialties. We greatly appreciate and thank the many volunteers, recreation, nursing, and restaurant staff for their assistance in making this trip a surprise filled adventure!

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Wounded veterans stop at AFRH-G during their 400 mile ride
Story & Photos by Becki L. Zschiedrich | Public Affairs

A large group of wounded veterans rode more than four hundred miles, all on bikes, across the Gulf Coast. It’s all part of non-profit organization Project Hero, which benefits veterans and first responders, who are injured, by providing hope, recovery and resilience to America’s finest.

Starting from Tallahassee, Florida all the way to New Orleans, Louisiana, the group of riders took a rest break in Gulfport at the AFRH on Friday March 9 to mingle and meet retired veterans. The ride celebrates the tenth anniversary of Project Hero, a non-profit that benefits veterans and first responders who are injured, suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder or traumatic brain injury.

These riders are on the road to recovery and on the journey to overcome. These veterans continue to inspire and continue to push forward. We are so glad they decided to stop at the AFRH-G for a visit with our veterans.

Rapiscan Systems Classic PGA Champion Tour Golfers and spouses
Story & Photos by Melodie Menke | AFRH-G Volunteer Coordinator

PGA Champion Golfers Glen Day and Jodie Bryant paid a visit to the AFRH-G, led by our own resident golfer, Chip Wall. They enjoyed visiting with resident artists Ray Eckert and Gery O’Kosky and especially viewing their painting of the thirteenth hole at the Augusta National Golf Course. Later in March, Jennifer Day and other spouses of the PGA Champion Golfers toured AFRH-G and enjoyed talking to residents. Special thank you to Whitney Day for coordinating the fun visits.

Italian trip brings surprises!
By Susan Bergman | M B C, Recreation Services
Photographs by Jen Biernacki & Susan Bergman

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GULFPORT

WWII resident turns 101

Story & Photos by Becki L. Zschiedrich | Public Affairs

On March 6, 2018 the Armed Forces Retirement Home in Gulfport celebrated a colossal milestone for one of our veterans, Ms. Marion Ritchie, who turned 101. Our recreation department came up with the theme of “101” Dalmatians for the event. The Gulfport Fire Department picked up Ms. Ritchie and drove her around the grounds of AFRH. After a ride on the fire truck with her family, friends and news media, Ms. Ritchie was escorted back into the building where employees lined the hallways into the Community Center for a birthday cake and ice cream social.

Win Ellington from Senator Thad Cochran’s office, Andrew Hinkebein from Senator Roger Wicker’s office, and TJ Moran from Congressman Steven Palazzo’s office were on hand to wish Ms. Ritchie a very Happy Birthday. Mayor of Biloxi FoFo Gilich stopped by to join in on the festivities. Ms. Ritchie daughter, grandson and great-grandson flew in from California for the special occasion.

Thank you to everyone for helping make this such a magnificent event for a very special and beautiful WWII veteran. We love you Ms. Ritchie and Happy 101st Birthday!

WASHINGTON

A great day for the Irish (and everyone is Irish on St. Pat’s!)

By Linda Bailey | Recreation Specialist and Amanda Jensema | Recreation Therapist
Photographs by Carolyn Haug, Public Affairs Specialist

No matter which country your family claims as their ancestral home, at a celebration for St. Patrick’s Day, everyone is Irish. With 10% of the U.S. population claiming Irish ancestry, and large celebrations held on St. Patrick’s Day from Boston, Mass. to Savannah, Ga. to Chicago, Ill., songs and stories brought from abroad by Irish immigrants have become a part of our American culture.

For our celebration of St. Pat’s at AFRH-W, held on Friday, March 16th, we had Irish songs to sing along with, varying from the fighting song O’Donnel Abu to popular favorites like When Irish Eyes Are Smiling. Jokes and toasts were offered by residents and staff. Enjoyed along with the song and humor were Irish coffee, beer, soda, and snacks. The Irish coffee was by far the most requested item.

Some residents told stories of their family who emigrated from Ireland to find a better life in the U.S. Those who answered trivia questions correctly were awarded CDs of Irish music. Those who attended had a great time being Irish for the day.