By Becki Zschiedrich, Public Affairs

For the second year in a row the Armed Forces Retirement Home-Gulfport was voted the #1 favorite retirement community on the Gulf Coast.

AFRH-G Administrator Jeff Eads accepted the award from The Sun Herald’s media consultant Derrick Ivy at the monthly Town Hall meeting on September 20, 2017.

Mr. Eads said, “We are very pleased and honored that the Armed Forces Retirement Home has received recognition for being the #1 retirement community on the Gulf Coast for the second year in a row. The AFRH is a premier retirement community for our veterans. It’s more like a resort here. It is a great honor to be the administrator of a Home that is dedicated to America’s heroes.”

The heritage of the AFRH goes back to the 19th century. The U.S. Navy first established the U.S. Naval Asylum in 1834 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and is the oldest continuing care retirement community in the United States, and then the U.S. Army established the U.S. Soldiers’ Home in 1851. Ever since, thousands of former U.S. military service members have enjoyed a relaxed and secure retirement at AFRH. In 1991, the two distinct Homes merged as one: the AFRH.

Together we have progressed into the leading retirement community for America’s military veterans. We offer modern facilities, dynamic activities, recreational trips, state of the art fitness centers, healthy meals, wellness programs, advanced care and so much more. The AFRH currently has two communities - one in Gulfport, MS (AFRH-G) and the other in Washington, DC (AFRH-W).

The AFRH is a flourishing retirement home with a focus on health and wellness. Our staff is driven to nurture its residents while giving them the respect they deserve. We continually enhance our great programs and services to deliver person-centered care so the residents can stay happy, healthy and get the most out of their retirement. Thank you to all of our veterans for all you have done for us.

To learn more about the AFRH, please visit our web site at www.AFRH.gov.

By Robert W. Mitchell, AFRH-W Volunteer/Activities Coordinator


This year’s show featured stunts and aerial theatrics by the United States Air Force’s Thunderbirds as well as aerial demonstrations by the Golden Knights, an F-22 Demo Team and the GEICO Skytypers.

Other presentations included static displays of a KC-135 tanker, an F-16 Fighting Falcon, NASA’s Super Guppy, the UH-1N Iroquois and other military aircraft.

AFRH-W residents shared their military aircraft knowledge and experience with the flight and ground crews on hand, ready to trade their military stories.

This year’s event commemorated the U.S. Air Force’s 70th year of service.
Grayson Best was born in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. He and his five siblings were raised on a farm about ten miles from Myrtle Beach. The whole family had to pitch in to help the farm to help raise the livestock, such as horses, cows, chickens and hogs, in addition to farming tobacco, corn, cotton and other crops. When Grayson was about ten years old, the family left their farm and moved to the city of Richmond, Virginia for his father to become a truck driver. Moving from a community of about 1000 people to a huge city was a huge culture shock for him. At the age of 12, Grayson’s father decided that he would have to start paying $10/week for room and board. Finding a job at that age was not easy. Eventually he found a couple of paper routes and would work up every day at 4:00 a.m. to deliver his papers and then return home to eat breakfast and go to school. When he turned 16, he found work with Western Union delivering telegrams by bicycle. Feeling confident that he was making enough money, he moved out of his family’s home and rented a room at a boarding house. He lived here for two years until he graduated high school.

The draft for the Vietnam War was occurring around this time. Grayson’s draft number was 11 so he began weighing his options. If drafted, he likely would have been required to give a six-year commitment of active duty. He decided to join the Marine Corps with the mindset that he would only be required two years of service.

At the age of 19, Grayson was sent to boot camp at Parris Island, South Carolina. His next stop was Camp Lejeune, North Carolina to begin his basic training. To finish his training, he attended advanced jungle warfare training at Camp Pendleton, California. With his new skills behind him, he boarded a plane to Vietnam and was taken to the jungle to begin his first tour doing reconnaissance. During this tour, he was shot in his right shoulder. He healed and was sent for another recon mission back in the jungles of Vietnam where he was shot in his right thigh. Again, he healed and was ordered back to the jungle for a third tour. During this tour, he stopped on an anti-personnel mine and nearly lost his leg. Grayson spent seven months recovering at a naval hospital in Key West. Due to his severe injuries, he was granted a disability retirement once he was released from medical care. He retired with two years of service with the Marine Corps and received 24 months from the date of application approval.

Grayson went back to Richmond to take advantage of the GI Bill by earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Management. He began working in the banking field only to realize that it did not suit him. He found a job in retail working for Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company where he stayed for several years. Using his business degree and experience in retail, he decided to leave Goodyear and open his own business. He moved back to Myrtle Beach and began a Club Car golf cart dealership. After developing and running his business for several years, he decided he wanted to travel. He began touring the U.S. and parts of the world. Some of his most exciting times were when he would stay at the national parks and rough it by living in a tent. Once he became bored with traveling, he decided to go back to school and get his contractor’s license. With his license, he started building residential homes and commercial buildings. His building career lasted for about ten years before he decided it was time to permanently retire from working.

The next chapter in Grayson’s life brought him to work with different Christian organizations. He preached on Sundays as a substitute for pastors that were on leave. He also enjoyed preaching at revivals. However, the work he feels was most fulfilling was his involvement with prison ministry. He volunteered his time with these organizations for about ten years.

About 11 years ago, Grayson decided to move from Myrtle Beach to Bixio, Mississippi. He always knew that the injuries he sustained with the Marine Corps may cause him to need extra medical care. He decided the proximity to Kesler Medical Center and the VA Medical Center in Bixio would be ideal. He also knew AFRH-G was close by if he should decide to live in a retirement community. He finally decided to put his name on the waiting list for AFRH-G. After a three-year wait, he was able to move into the Home. Grayson says he absolutely loves the Home and the people. Living here, he is still able to keep in touch with his son, Patrick, who is a teacher, artist and musician from Myrtle Beach. Grayson also is able to take advantage of “coast life” by golfing several days of the week and fishing for speckled trout and other local favorites in the area. His most recent adventures have taken him on a trip with his golf buddies to Hawaii, where they played golf, ate the local cuisine, and enjoyed the museums and concerts. It’s always refreshing to see our new residents, like Grayson, move in and enjoy their retirement with what “coast life” has to offer.
By Sean Campbell, Recreation Services

are still missing in action: 79,000 from WWII; 7,800 from Korea; and 1,741 from Vietnam. Mr. Oyster asked fellow residents to remember that many service members from our last three wars

gesture of appreciation to CSM Ted Durand and his battalion for their participation in honoring those our POWs

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Never forgotten
By Sean Campbell, Recreation Services
Photos by Tom Peeks, Resident Photographer

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Dear residents, friends, neighbors and staff,

September has proven to be another action-packed month at the Armed Forces Retirement Home. Brown and I have been busy with accreditation activities, hosting distinguished visitors and getting ready for the annual Fall Fun Fest. On September 6-8 was the triennial accreditation survey for the Nursing Care Center, Home Healthcare, and Ambulatory Care Centers. Accreditation is a requirement of Title 24 of the United States Code, Chapter 10. The Home maintains accreditation of its programs by following standards outlined by The Joint Commission (TJC). As a result, the surveys performed were very positive with a lot of reinforcement for the healthcare services provided to the veteran residents. My hat’s off to the dedicated employees who put forth tremendous effort to prepare, perform and correct any recommendations for improvement.

On September 15, the acting Deputy Chief Management Officer (DCMO) Mr. David Tillotson III visited the Home to meet with employees and residents during the Town Hall meeting. The DCMO is the current holder for the AFRH-Agency as delegated by the Secretary of Defense. Mr. Tillotson briefed attendees on his decision to replace the Chief Operating Officer (COO) and respond to questions about plans to increase revenue. Our new acting COO, Mr. Maurice Swinton, AFRH’s Chief Information Officer and Compliance Officer, search for a more permanent COO is underway. In the meantime, we are in good hands with Mr. Swinton.

I’d like to encourage all to attend the annual Fall Fun Fest on October 1st. The event is from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm and is one of only few annual events which open the gates of the Washington Home to the public. The money is scheduled make this a perfect opportunity to plan your visit to our beautiful Washington Home. I hope to see you there!

Shawn Servais

AFRH-W Administrator

Shawn Servais presents the AFRH challenge coin to CCMSgt Perry.

Greetings from the RAC Chairman!

This month at AFRH-W we celebrated the 70th anniversary of the U.S. Air Force. The celebration was held in our Hall of Honors with guest speaker Command Chief Master Sgt Perry from Joint Base Andrews and the U.S. Air Force Color Guard. CCMSgt Perry gave an inspiring speech covering the history of the U.S. Air Force from its early days to WWII on the war to terrorism today. Later, Administrator Shaun Servais presented CCMSgt Perry, A1C Marshall Robinson and Air Force veteran and resident Herbert Simonds the AFRH-W challenge coin. After the traditional cake-cutting ceremony there was a meet and greet with the residents and Air Force guest. Happy 70th Birthday U.S. Air Force.

This Month in History

- October 1, 1908 - Henry Ford’s Model T, a “universal car” designed for the masses, went on sale for the first time.
- October 2, 1863 - President Lincoln issued a proclamation designating the last Thursday in October as a federal holiday.
- October 3, 1990 - After 45 years of Cold War division, East and West Germany were reunited as the Federal Republic of Germany.
- October 4, 1871 - The Great Fire of Chicago erupted. According to legend, it started when Mrs. O’Leary’s cow kicked over a lantern in her barn on DeKoven Street. Over 300 persons were killed and over 100,000 were left homeless.
- October 5, 1813 - Shawnee Indian Chief Tecumseh was defeated and killed during the War of 1812. Tecumseh was one of the most powerful leaders of the Native American tribes who fought against white settlement of the West. After Tecumseh’s death, the British, as a brigadier general and was killed at the Battle of the Thames in Ontario.
- October 8, 1918 - The Great War ended. The war ended on November 11, 1918.
- October 9, 1990 - After 45 years of Cold War division, East and West Germany were reunited as the Federal Republic of Germany.
- October 10, 1863 - The Space Age began as the Russians launched the first satellite into orbit. Sputnik I weighed just 184 lbs. and transmitted a beeping radio signal for 21 days. The remarkable accomplishment by Soviet Russia sent a shockwave through the American political leadership and the European and the world.
- October 12, 1861 - The American Civil War began with the Battle of Manassas, also known as Bull Run.
- October 13, 1775 - The United States Navy was born after the Second Continental Congress authorized the acquisition of a fleet of ships.
- October 13, 1792 - The cornerstone of the White House was laid by George Washington. The building, located at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, is three stories tall with over 100 rooms, and was designed by James Hoban.
- October 16, 1980 - President Jimmy Carter and his family moved into the White House, making it the first residence in the United States.
- October 28, 1886 - The Statue of Liberty was dedicated on Bedloe’s Island in New York Harbor. The statue was a gift from the people of France commemorating the French-American alliance during the American Revolutionary War.
- October 30, 1863 - The Saturday Night Massacre occurred during the Watergate scandal as President Richard M. Nixon fired Special Prosecutor Archibald Cox and Deputy Attorney General William Ruckelshaus. Attorney General Elliot Richardson resigned. A freestorm of political protest erupted over the firings leading to widespread demands for Nixon’s impeachment.
- October 30, 1938 - The Caribbean island of Grenada was invaded by the U.S. to restore “order and democracy.” Over 2,000 Marines and Air Rangers seized control after a political coup the previous week had made the island a “Soviet-Cuban colony,” according to President Ronald Reagan.
- October 22, 1962 - President John F. Kennedy appeared on television to inform Americans of the existence of Russian missiles in Cuba. The President demanded their removal and announced a naval “quarantine” of Cuba. Six days later, the Russians announced they would pull out the weapons.
- October 23, 1983 - Troopers drove a truck loaded with TNT into the U.S. and French embassies in Beirut, Lebanon, exploding it and killing 241 U.S. Marines and 58 French paratroopers.
- October 24-30, 1983 - The Caribbean island of Grenada was invaded by the U.S. to restore “order and democracy.” Over 2,000 Marines and Air Rangers seized control after a political coup the previous week had made the island a “Soviet-Cuban colony,” according to President Ronald Reagan.
- October 26, 1881 - The shoot-out at the O.K. Corral in Tombstone, Arizona, occurred between the feuding Clanton and Earp families. Wyatt Earp, two of his brothers and “Doc” Holliday gunned down two Clantons and two others.
- October 28, 1986 - U.S. Marines dedicated a statue of Leatherneck dedicated to Bedloe’s Island in New York Harbor. The statue was a gift from the people of France commemorating the French-American alliance during the American Revolutionary War.
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- October 31st - Halloween or All Hallow’s Eve, an ancient celebration combining the Christian festival of All Saints with pagan autumn festivals. Have a safe and happy October, and remember if you are able to please volunteer. Your volunteer coordinator for details.

Sheldon Shorthouse

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

Greetings from the RAC Chairman!

This month at AFRH-W we celebrated the 70th anniversary of the U.S. Air Force. The celebration was held in our Hall of Honors with guest speaker Command Chief Master Sgt Perry from Joint Base Andrews and the U.S. Air Force Color Guard. CCMSgt Perry gave an inspiring speech covering the history of the U.S. Air Force from its early days to WWII on the war to terrorism today. Later, Administrator Shaun Servais presented CCMSgt Perry, A1C Marshall Robinson and Air Force veteran and resident Herbert Simonds the AFRH-W challenge coin. After the traditional cake-cutting ceremony there was a meet and greet with the residents and Air Force guest. Happy 70th Birthday U.S. Air Force.

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The Air Force Color Guard from Joint Base Andrews.

AFRH-W Administrator Shaun Servais presents the AFRH challenge coin to CCMSgt Perry.
From the AFRH-G Administrator

Greetings!

I would like to begin by thanking each and every person who works here and especially thank each resident for choosing to make AFRH your home, because each day brings so much joy and numerous blessings to me. This is a special place with special people who make a huge difference in lives of so many people. I have worked in senior housing and long-term care for more than 20 years and there is no other place I would rather be than AFRH Gulfport.

In addition, I would like to share that the AFRH-G had a very productive and beneficial inspection with The Joint Commission (TJC) as they surveyed our Home Care, Ambulatory Care, and Nursing programs earlier this month. We learned a lot about ourselves and TJC also gave us a few recommendations so we can continue to improve our processes to make AFRH-G better. We strive to keep this the premier retirement community for our veterans while making it a vibrant place in which to live, work and thrive.

We not only survived TJC accreditation process but we also passed with flying colors. We will formally receive our accreditation paperwork later this year. This month we also had a visit from the House Appropriation Survey and Investigation staff on Thursday, the September 14th. That meeting went well and the facilities, Ms. Hollingsworth and Ms. Garcia, were highly impressed with the Home and with everyone they met.

We are still awaiting the final visit of the DoD Office of Inspector General to conduct the final phase of the inspection they started earlier this year. We are hopeful the DoD IG will be here in October to complete their inspection.

God bless you, and God bless America.

Jeff Eads

Breaking barriers for 70 years

By Sean Campbell, Recreation Services

Since September 18th, 1947, courageous Airmen have refined the Air Force mission to Fly, Fight, and Win through the blood and sacrifice. As a service with joint origins, the Air Force is the foundation for multi-service, inter-agency, and coalition operations. It provides the joint team the ability and freedom to fight in the air, on the ground and at sea. The theme for this year’s birthday celebration is “American Airmen: Breaking Barriers since 1947.”

On September 18th, AFRH-G residents gathered to celebrate the 70th Anniversary of the founding of the United States Air Force. Special guest speaker Colonel J. Martin “Marty” Destazio emphasized the Air Force’s commitment to excellence with a very informative presentation. Colonel Destazio is the Commander of the Second Air Force Tactical Training Operations Center and 602d Training Group (Provisional), Keesler Air Force Base.

In cutting the cake were some of AFRH-G’s oldest USAF residents: Clayton Hiss (98) and Thomas Adams (98). The youngest active duty on site was Staff Sergeant Willis (30). After the ceremonial cutting of the cake and singing of the Air Force Song, attendees enjoyed cake, coffee, and refreshments provided by dining service.

Jeff Eads (left) and Chris Alexander (right) present the cake.

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

There are so many moving pieces that go on behind the scenes to keep the Home operational and the services to residents uninterrupted. Fortunately we did not have to experience any of those pieces that would need to be put in place after a hurricane on the Gulf Coast. I hate that Harvey hit the West and Irma to the East but sure am grateful they did not come visiting us!

I had what I would call a most unfortunate-fortunate opportunity over the Labor Day weekend. I sat with one of our recently deceased residents. He had requested someone be with him as he sensed his time was nearing. I arrived the compassion exhibited to them, by all mentioned previously, was heartfelt, immersive and with true caring as they tended to their loved one. The caring and commitment to this resident’s well-being and comfort was literally 24-7. When it became apparent that perhaps it was time to have hospice involved, the delicacy that would need to be put in place after a hurricane on the services to residents uninterrupted. Fortunately we did not have to experience any of those pieces that would need to be put in place after a hurricane on the Gulf Coast. I hate that Harvey hit the West and Irma to the East but sure am grateful they did not come visiting us!

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 know the answer.

P.S. Where are the minutes? A RAC meeting was not held in September as there were no items for the RAC to consider.

P.P.S. Dr. K – You indicated a desire to work with the RAC Chairmen and keep them informed; you did so with aplomb. I hope you know how appreciated you were by me, and a significant number of residents. I extend my best wishes to you in all your future endeavors and in true Navy fashion bid you Fair Winds and Following Seas, Sir.

Phil Ford sings ‘Happy Birthday’ to Edith Haslam as she celebrates her 94th birthday.

Phil Ford
**AFRH-W Activities**

**Girl Scouts follow-up**
By Christine Baldwin, Librarian

As a follow-up from their discussion in July on the book “I am Malala” several Girl Scouts from Troop 6014 came to join residents in viewing the documentary “He Named Me Malala.” This story about the Afghanistan girl, who was shot while going to school and later won the Nobel Peace Prize, was quite moving. Afterwards, while eating Girl Scout cookies, many residents stayed to talk about the story with the youth. We are eagerly waiting for the next book that is chosen by the scouts for a book discussion.

**Fall into poetry**
By Christine Baldwin, Librarian

During the week that we say hello to Fall, a group of AFRH-W residents enjoyed a few moments of poetry and recitations in the Scott Theater. It started with a poem written by resident William Sorince, “Fall2017.” After a brief introduction of the history of his poem, Bill Opferman read “6 Blind Men and the Elephant.” Next, Charles Setzer read a poem that he had written titled “Matie.” Another original poet, Emmy Lu Daly, read five of her poems from a book she had published. Three poems written by John O’Donohue were read by Martin Cody. Next, Ernest Janes recited some humorous poetry from Cassius Clay before he fought Sonny Liston in the early 60’s. “The Old Brown Schoolhouse” was read with lots of emotion from Norma Rambow. Rick Walk followed with two poems from his favorite poet, Robert Frost. Larry Hountz added some humor with his poem, on “Fleas.” A wonderful reading by Paul Grimes of the powerful Robert W. Service poem, “The Cremation of Sam McGee” finished the official program. What a wonderful variety of poetry!

**Korean War descendants honor veterans at AFRH-W**
By Robert W. Mitchell, AFRH-W Volunteer/Activities Coordinator

Military cadets from ROTC 218 at Sungshin Women’s University, Seoul, Korea, descended on the campus of the Armed Forces Retirement Home recently to honor and pay tribute to American military veterans for their role in liberating the people of South Korea.

“The Korean people have continuously demonstrated their appreciation to the U.S. military for what they did, their service and sacrifice,” said AFRH-W Administrator Shaun Servais. “I think it really helps the veterans who were there (in the Korean conflict) to see the generations that have followed along from the days they were in country. It helps the residents feel good.”

The cadets sang songs, performed drill and ceremony maneuvers and presented residents with medals, coins, gift bags and framed photos of their previous visit to AFRH.

Students praised the residents for their invaluable contributions and extraordinary sacrifices made during the Korean War which shaped their current way of life.

“Thank you for inviting and greeting us. First, we all admire you. Last semester we learned bravery, loyalty, honor and sacrifice is the main virtue of a soldier. As we learned, we were filled with gratitude and patriotism. We all can stand here because you and your bravery,” Cadet Jaeyeon Kim said during the ceremony held in the Scott Theater.

“We have guarded liberty and defended the capability of English with an alliance between Korea and the United States. I am honored that I can meet you all, who represent the starting point of this alliance. Today, we renew our admiration and appreciation to you,” she said.

Commander of the 218th ROTC, Lt. Col. Kisung Park appreciated being invited back to AFRH and offered warm wishes and good health to the staff and residents.

“We are very proud of this event and we are eager to share this experience with others,” Park said through a translator.

**Opening day at FedEx Field**

It was a beautiful day at FedEx Field for a football game. Unfortunately the Skins couldn’t pull off the win. Thank you Purple Heart for the tickets!

**GEICO bowling challenge**

AFRH-W residents participated in the annual bowling tournament sponsored by GEICO. Volunteers from the Friends of the Soldiers’ Home and Catholic University helped out.
AFRH-G Activities

Beauty and butterflies a-plenty on cart ride
By Susan Bergman, MT-BC, Recreation Therapy Services

On Friday, September 1, 2017, residents from Loyalty Hall jumped on the golf cart as the sun was shining, the breeze was gentle, and the butterflies lit up the sky. Lew Wehunt said, “Sure…let’s go” spotting a clear, blue sky after so much rain related to Hurricane Harvey. He grabbed the front seat along with Lois Hogan who sat right behind him. Recreation staff’s, Carol Davis drove the golf cart, and stopped to highlight the relaxing sights and sounds as she circled the AFRH-Gulfport grounds. Residents watched a variety of butterflies along the flowering purple bushes on the front of the grounds and listened to the rolling stream over the bridge in the back of the property. On her first golf cart ride, Lois Hogan said, “I could do this all day.” She also admired the variety of nature saying, “If these old trees could talk…oh, they could tell us some stories.” We look forward to our next adventure and exploration on the golf cart.

Outdoor Shuffleboard Tournament
By Dennis Crabtree, Recreation Specialist

On Friday, September 8, 2017, residents were competing in the Outdoor Shuffleboard Tournament at the Basketball Court. The morning was cool, crisp and the bugs were not biting. Ernie Fowler is seen looking for that perfect slide to get his hole. Doris Hopper is getting pointers from Ernie Fowler to knock his disc off the court. Doris Denton, Mary German, Carol Harmes and Frank Baker are waiting for their turn. There could only be three winners that day. Doris Denton took 1st place, Ernie Fowler took 2nd place and Doris Hopper took 3rd place.

Putting Tournament
By Dennis Crabtree, Recreation Specialist

On Tuesday, September 5, 2017 residents were competing in the Outdoor Putting Tournament. It was a beautiful day outside to have a tournament. Franklin (Rosie) Rosenburgh is seen taking his time aiming for that beautiful shot to make that hole-in-one. The rest of the players are seen taking mental notes on how to master the form from Franklin (Rosie) Rosenburgh. Franklin (Rosie) Rosenburgh and Frank Baker had a shootout for 1st and 2nd place. Franklin (Rosie) Rosenburgh took 1st place, Frank Baker took 2nd place, and Doris Hopper took 3rd place.

Neshoba Navy Junior ROTC
By Melodie Menke, Volunteer Coordinator

Neshoba Central High School Navy Junior ROTC from Philadelphia, Mississippi under the leadership of Capt. Regan Keiff (ret) and AWC-Keith Page (ret) and 24 students toured the Home and met with residents on Sept 8, 2017. Lead tour guides were residents Tony Landgon and Rick Eyman.

Residents Claire Dimler Smith, Charlie Jenkins, and Tom McNamara greeted the yellow school bus and answered questions throughout the tour. Resident photographer Tom Peeks captured all the moments. The ROTC capped off the visit with an impromptu marching precision drill on the grounds to the delight of the residents.

Cinnamon bread day with cinnamon rolls
By Jen Biernacki, Recreation Therapy Assistant

On the morning of Saturday September 16, 2017, the American Heritage Girls Troop 3230 came for a visit to help make cinnamon rolls to celebrate ‘National Cinnamon Bread Day.’ The healthcare residents and the girls socialized while they rolled out the dough, spread butter, sugar and cinnamon on the dough and then rolled the dough in log shapes to make a delicious treat. While the rolls were baking, the sweet smell of hot cinnamon rolls wandered down the halls. “That smells good, I want one” was heard well after the rolls were done and taken out of the oven. “Nothing like having dessert before lunch,” stated Ms. Helen Bieda, an Allegiance Hall resident. A special thank-you is sent to the American Heritage Girls for a nice visit of fun.

Tripling the odds with the chiefs
By Jen Biernacki, Recreational Therapy Assistant

The FY18 Chiefs Select from NCBC Gulfport, Mississippi volunteered on Saturday August 26, 2017 for a fun game of Bingo to triple the odds of winning for the healthcare residents. The excitement was everywhere in the room as the competition to win accelerated. The Residents pocketed the money as the Chiefs yelled “Bingo.” The Chiefs won five out of the six games played for the residents. Thank you for a fun and entertaining morning.
Sensational smile-filled summer

By Susan Bergman, MT-BC, Recreation Therapy Services

Closing out August and heading through the month of September, Valor, Allegiance and Loyalty residents engaged in a variety of sensational summer events. The highlights begin with Richard Lasher and Maynard Howard enjoying a bus outing to Keesler Air Force Base (KAFB) on Friday, August 25, 2017, for shopping, lunch, and conversation while reminiscing with members from KAFB 602nd Training Group. On Wednesday, September 13, it was all about touchdowns, field goals, and festive food from dining as resident, Anne Whittaker rooted for her favorite team at the football cookout. In the community center on Friday, September 15, residents were enthralled with the Belly Dancers Extraordinaire as they balanced swords on their heads, twirled scarves, and showcased their talents. On Monday, September 18, Selso Sanchez took in a pet visit from Golden Retriever, Chewy and Julie Racchi followed by the evening Air Force Birthday Ceremony. Curtis Young along with KAFB 602nd TRG watched as his “Buddy Clem” - Clayton Hiss, 97 years young and 3rd oldest Airman at AFRH-G, helped cut the cake. Joseph O’Carroll greeted visitors in Japanese, “Konbanwa” (good evening), “Oishii” (delicious), and sang-a-long at the Monthly Birthday Dinner to celebrate other healthcare residents turning 94, 96, 98, and 99 years young.

Wow - what a smile-filled sensational summer!

Funfest Fairgrounds

By Amanda Jensema, CTRS

The patio of the Scott building was transformed into a fair on Friday, September 21st. Residents tried their hand at different carnival games, and were overjoyed with the animals from the Squeals on Wheels Petting Zoo. Residents were able to put their target and shooting skills to the test with the Shooting Gallery. They had the chance to work their trigger finger on the crossbow, which shot Velcro darts at their target. Another popular game was the traditional Coke Bottle Ring Toss. Residents were given three rings to toss and try to ring a coke bottle. Many residents played thinking it was going to be easy, but they soon discovered it was not as easy as it looked. A new carnival game that was tried out was the Hi-Striker. Many tried, only a few succeeded in ringing the bell. Staff even tried their hand at it, and few were successful. After attempting their hands at the games, all residents who participated walked away with their very own Funfest Fairgrounds t-shirt. To help keep everyone entertained, our very own DJ Billy White played music to keep everyone in a festive mood! Residents were dancing and having a grand time.

Our evening would not have been complete without the petting zoo. This year we had bunnies, guinea pigs, ducks, a baby pigt, goats, a llama and a miniature dwarf horse. Everyone joked that we should keep the horse and goats on the golf course and they could help keep the greens cut, but of course that wouldn’t work. We would like to thank the staff and volunteers who came and assisted during this fun event. We look forward to the next Funfest!