



## ARMED FORCES RETIREMENT HOME

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### *AFRH receives accreditation from The Joint Commission*

**Armed Forces Retirement Home, Gulfport, MS and Washington, DC.** The Armed Forces Retirement has received Accreditation from the Joint Commission in Ambulatory Care and Nursing Care standards. The Joint Commission (TJC) is an independent, not-for-profit organization that accredits and certifies more than 20,500 health care organizations and programs in the United States. The Joint Commission accreditation and certification is recognized nationwide as a symbol of quality that reflects an organization's commitment to meeting certain performance standards. The Joint Commission's mission is to continuously improve health care for the public, in collaboration with other stakeholders, by evaluating health care organizations and inspiring them to excel in providing safe and effective care of the highest quality and value.

The Joint Commission Accreditation certificate is valid for 36 months and is designed to assist AFRH in continuously providing safe, high-quality care, treatment, and services by identifying opportunities for improvement in AFRH processes and an implementation plan for these improvements.

Benefits of Joint Commission Accreditation:

- Helps organize and strengthen patient safety efforts – Patient safety and quality of care issues are at the forefront of Joint Commission standards and initiatives.
- Strengthens community confidence in the quality and safety of care, treatment and services – Achieving accreditation makes a strong statement to the community about an organization's efforts to provide the highest quality services.
- Provides education to improve business operations – Joint Commission Resources, The Joint Commission's not-for-profit affiliate, provides continuing support and education services to accredited organizations in a variety of settings.
- Provides professional advice and counsel, enhancing staff education – Joint Commission surveyors are experienced health care professionals trained to provide expert advice and education services during the on-site survey.

- Provides a customized, intensive review – Joint Commission surveyors come from a variety of health care industries and are assigned to organizations that match their background. The standards are also specific to each accreditation program so each survey is relevant to your industry.
- Enhances staff recruitment and development – Joint Commission accreditation can attract qualified personnel who prefer to serve in an accredited organization. Accredited organizations also provide additional opportunities for staff to develop their skills and knowledge.

AFRH Chief Operating Officer Steven McManus stated, “The Joint Commission’s vision statement is that all people always experience the safest, highest quality, best-value health care across all settings. We are honored that AFRH is in alignment with this vision.”

#### MORE ON AFRH-GULFPORT

The AFRH-Gulfport facility is located on 47 acres of prime waterfront land on the Mississippi Sound. It features a multi-tower complex with full amenities such as dining, social, recreational, and therapeutic activities, plus a swimming pool, hobby shops, a wellness center with basic dental and eye care, a bank, a barber and beauty shop, bowling center, movie theater, a computer room, library, and a pedestrian bridge to the beach. Formerly called the “U.S. Naval Home,” this facility merged with the “Soldiers’ and Airmen’s’ Home” in Washington in 1991 – and both were renamed AFRH. Prior to 1976, the Naval Home was located in Philadelphia, PA, and from 1833-1899 it was called the “Naval Asylum.” To learn more about AFRH-Gulfport contact Becki L. Zschiedrich, Public Affairs, at 228-897-4429 or [becki.zschiedrich@afrh.gov](mailto:becki.zschiedrich@afrh.gov).

#### MORE ABOUT AFRH-WASHINGTON

In 1851, a Trust Fund was created to establish the Soldiers’ Home so it would not rely on taxpayer dollars. Since then, US enlisted and warrant officers have made small monthly paycheck contributions so they may live at the Home and enjoy a comfortable retirement. Today, the Trust Fund is the Home’s primary source of funding. Both communities house residents in five levels of care (Independent Living, Independent Living Plus, Assisted Living, Long Term Care and Memory Support). AFRH-Washington, like AFRH-Gulfport, offers residents a range of amenities like a 9-hole golf course, fitness center, walking trails, hobby shops, weekly entertainment, bus trips, and more. AFRH is operated exclusively for war veterans and retired service members from all branches of the US military who meet eligibility criteria. For more information on AFRH and its longstanding commitment to US veterans visit [www.afrh.gov](http://www.afrh.gov). To learn more about AFRH-Washington contact Sheila R. Abarr, Public Affairs Officer, at 202-541-7550 or [Sheila.abarr@afrh.gov](mailto:Sheila.abarr@afrh.gov).

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