



ARMED FORCES RETIREMENT HOME

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Contact: Becki L. Zschiedrich, AFRH-Gulfport Public Affairs
Phone: 228-897-4429
Email: becki.zschiedrich@afrh.gov

Contact: Sheila Abarr, AFRH Public Affairs Officer
Phone: 202-541-7550
Email: Sheila.abarr@afrh.gov

ARMED FORCES RETIREMENT HOME WWII VETERANS TO VISIT JAPAN ON A FRIENDSHIP TOUR

Gulfport, Miss and Washington, DC – (March 27, 2014). A group of eight members from the greatest generation now in their late 80's and 90's will once again represent the United States of America. World War II veterans from the Armed Forces Retirement Home (Gulfport and Washington) will travel to Japan on April 3, 2014. The veterans will tour throughout Japan for seven days with other WWII veterans from the United States. On April 6, 2014 the veterans will play a Friendship softball game at Honkawa Primary School before returning back to the United States on April 8, 2014.

The Armed Forces Retirement Home is proud our WWII veterans were asked to participate in this Friendship tour once again. AFRH will be hosting a send off for these remarkable veterans in Gulfport, MS and Washington, DC.

WHO: World War II veterans from the Armed Forces Retirement Home

WHAT: WWII veterans departing for a six day visit to Japan

WHEN: Thursday, April 3, 2014

WHERE: Arrive Biloxi/Gulfport International Airport at 5:15 a.m. (American Airlines)
Arrive Dulles International Airport at 9:00 a.m. (United Airlines)

HOW: Media planning to attend the send off on April 3, 2014 should contact Becki Zschiedrich at 228-897-4429 for Gulfport, MS and Sheila Abarr at 202-541-7550 for Washington, DC.



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MORE ON AFRH-GULFPORT

The new Home 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 “US Naval Home”, this facility merged with the “Soldiers’ 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.

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. For more information on AFRH and its longstanding commitment to US veterans visit 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.