



“GREAT SCOTT!”

A Capital View of the Future | August 29, 2013



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THE AFRH WILL COMMEMORATE A MODERN NEW COMPLEX FOR VETERANS IN WASHINGTON AUGUST 29 WITH AN OPEN HOUSE CELEBRATION: “GREAT SCOTT!”

Washington, DC – August 23, 2013: The Armed Forces Retirement Home (AFRH) will showcase its innovative new resident building to the public at an Open House on August 29. The new Scott Building, which opened in February, is a modern wonder in senior health and housing. Moreover, it features spectacular, panoramic views of our Nation’s Capital. As such, the event is called **“GREAT SCOTT!” A Capital View of the Future**. Key partners that are helping the AFRH present this unique event include General Services Administration (GSA), DoD (Department of Defense), President Lincoln’s Cottage, and the Friends of the Soldiers’ Home.

“Since 2008, we have worked alongside GSA to manage every detail of the “The Scott Project”—a comprehensive plan to design and build a new complex while reprogramming housing and services during the old building’s demolition”, said Steve McManus, AFRH COO. “The new design reflects input from resident focus groups, vast research in senior care, and new ideas in environmental design and green energy. We are excited to showcase the new Scott, which was managed superbly by GSA, Jacobs Engineering, and Hensel Phelps with strong oversight by DoD”, McManus said.

The Scott Building has a “small house” design where Long Term Care and Memory Support residents share common living and activity spaces. Also, they are in much closer proximity to friends in Independent Living and Assisted Living, which builds a stronger community. The design further empowers staff to deliver “Person-centered Care”, where extensive support revolves around each resident’s individual needs. Now, instead of traveling to doctors, therapists, or nutritionists, the residents receive care right in their own homes.

The Open House event, **“GREAT SCOTT!” A Capital View of the Future**, will have esteemed guests such as GSA and DoD officials, DC dignitaries, US service members, the press corps, AFRH community partners, and more. Guests will enjoy live patriotic music, carnival games, military exhibits, a resident-guided tour of the new Scott, a military ceremony and a historical stroll through President Lincoln’s Cottage, the Sherman clock tower, and Governors’ Quarters. Also, guests will enjoy a BBQ luncheon with the residents, including a live band.

The Scott Building features a modern Health & Wellness Center with medical, dental, and optometry services. It has contemporary architecture, creative art studios, activity spaces, and LEED Gold certification for energy-efficiency. Like its namesake General Scott, who possessed a flair for the dramatic, this new complex has wall-to-wall windows with sweeping, picturesque views of DC’s skyline, the Washington Monument, and US Capitol.

The new Scott sits opposite the renovated Sherman Building (c. 1850s) and President Lincoln’s Cottage (the original Soldiers’ Home, now a National Landmark). From many activity spaces in the building, people can see different historical sites. Looking east, one sees Catholic University’s Dome and the historic AFRH Rose Chapel. Looking south, one sees a dramatic vista of the DC city center and Washington Monument. Looking west, one sees historic living Quarters lining MacArthur Drive that date back to the 1800s. Each event attendee will enjoy a tour through history and see the fulfillment of General Scott’s early vision to care for America’s veterans later in life.

“Residents are enjoying the new Scott, which we have been fine tuning since February”, added AFRH Public Affairs Officer Sheila Abarr. “The new amenities are just rewards for their years of sacrifice in serving America”, she said. AFRH residents are a mix of war theater veterans and career military retirees from WWII to Afghanistan. Abarr noted how the new complex is just one aspect of the AFRH-W renewal, which includes refurbishing the Sheridan Building (residence modernization) and Sherman Building (earthquake repairs) as well as beautifying the entire campus.

The new Scott Building is named after General Winfield Scott, founder of the original Soldiers’ Home established in 1851 (now AFRH). Scott was a Mexican-American War hero who was revered by his soldiers. That devotion sparked a catchphrase in the 1850s, “Great Scott!”, which embodied the troops’ sincere admiration for the General. That saying has endured as an expression of awe to this day.

“**GREAT SCOTT!**” will be a landmark day as it culminates five years of intensive renewal at AFRH-W and a decade of strategic planning for the entire organization. Since 2002, McManus and staff have been transforming the AFRH into a progressive retirement community that rivals the care in private homes. The new Scott Building, like the new AFRH-Gulfport facility that opened in 2010, offers the modern amenities and personal care that is simply expected by today’s retirees.

Open House Festivities

Location:	AFRH-Washington: 140 Rock Creek Church, Rd. NW, WDC 20011
10:00 a.m.	Processional and opening remarks
All Day	Military displays, exhibit booths, food vendors, petting zoo & carnival games
10:30 a.m. tours begin	Scott Building tour by residents President Lincoln’s Cottage tour Sherman clock tower visit Campus historical walk
10:45 & 12:45 a.m.	Military Ceremonial Performance
Noon	Luncheon featuring a live band. Food may be purchased in Scott Dining Hall, or from vendors outside the building
2:00 p.m.	Conclusion

ABOUT AFRH-WASHINGTON

In 1851 a Trust Fund was formed to establish the Soldiers’ Home so that it would not rely on taxpayer dollars for daily operations. Ever since, US enlisted and warrant officers have made small monthly paycheck contributions so they may enjoy a comfortable and affordable retirement. The original Soldiers’ Home is now President Lincoln’s Cottage, a National Landmark and museum, as it once served as Lincoln’s presidential retreat during hot summer months. Today, AFRH-W houses 568 residents across five levels of care (Independent Living, Independent Living Plus, Assisted Living, Long Term Care, and Memory Support). AFRH-W sits high on a hill near the US Capitol in a wooded, rural setting. The Home offers former military a range of amenities such as a 9-hole golf course, walking trails, hobby shops, weekly entertainment, and bus trips. The AFRH also has a new auxiliary home in Gulfport, MS with similar amenities. Learn more about our commitment to US veterans at www.afrh.gov.

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