



Veterans Day 2008

Fallen heroes remembered

Residents participate in Wreath Laying Ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery

Approximately 30 residents from the AFRH boarded a bus on Saturday morning, October 10, and traveled across the Potomac River to attend Fort Myer's 50th Annual Retiree Appreciation Day. Two residents, Army retirees Mike Longwell and Dick Robinson, participated in the wreath laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknowns during the visit.

Although Veterans Day originally was held every November 11th, the holiday is now observed on the weekday that falls closest to November 11th every year. It was first incorporated by President Wilson as Armistice Day in 1919 but it wasn't an official American holiday until 1938. Other countries today also still recognize November 11th as Armistice Day or Remembrance Day in honor of the Armistice treaty which ended WWI. In 1954 Congress changed the name from Armistice Day to Veterans Day as most citizens felt that veterans of all wars should be recognized.



Dick Robinson, left, and Mike Longwell, both Army retirees, adjust the wreath during ceremonies held at the Tomb of the Unknowns.



Two members of the Old Guard, the 3rd United States Infantry Regiment, perform the Changing of the Guard at the Tomb of the Unknown in Arlington National Cemetery on October 10, 2008.

AFRH achieves highest level of endorsement

Accreditation received from Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF)-Continuing Care Accreditation Commission (CCAC)

Armed Forces Retirement Home, Washington, DC. This is the first time AFRH applied for and received a five-year Accreditation from CARF-CCAC. The accreditation was awarded in five services and programs at AFRH, an independent Federal agency, which serves over 1,100 military retirees and veterans. CARF is an independent, nonprofit accrediting body whose mission is to promote the quality, value and optimal outcomes of services through a consultative accreditation process. Founded in 1966 as the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities, and now known as CARF, it is the leading accrediting body of human services. CARF-CCAC accreditation represents the highest level of endorsement

achievable. The accreditation, which will extend through August 2013, results from findings during CCAC peer team on-site survey of AFRH.

The following information, in its own words, is from the CARF-CCAC Survey Report, which calls these five AFRH areas exemplary:

- The performance and accountability annual reports to Congress are extensive, clear, timely documents that give an in-depth overview of the organization and its forward-looking and creative pictures of the strategic direction of AFRH.

"...this was a tremendous accomplishment for AFRH. Our dedicated staff put many hours into the accreditation process..."

- AFRH'S Chief Operating Officer has minimized long-term financial threats by developing and seeking implementation of an innovative strategic initiative to lease 77 areas of land and turn them into a long-term rev-

enue stream.

- The Strategic Plan for AFRH is a complete document that is well developed with input from stakeholders who thoroughly research and outline their respective areas with solid recommendations for consideration in the final strategic plan document.

- AFRH's total excess margin ratio, operating ratio, and days cash on hand ratio exceed the 75th percentile for single-site Continuing Care Retirement Community in CARF-CCAC's database.

- There are a wide variety of on and off campus activities. The on-campus activity facilities include a movie theater, bowling alley, and a 50,000 volume library.

AFRH Chief Operating Officer Timothy Cox stated, "this was a tremendous accomplishment for AFRH. Our dedicated staff put many hours into the accreditation process, and they are to be congratulated."

For more information about the AFRH please visit our web site at www.afrh.gov or call the Public Affairs Office at 202-730-3043.

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Notes from the Resident Advisory Council



We are happy to welcome to our home "The Men in Scarlet," the Chelsea Pensioners from their home, the Royal Hospital Chelsea, on Nov. 7-14. The Royal Hospital, founded in 1682 by

King Charles II, still serves its original purpose of the "succor and relief of veterans broken by age and war." I hope that all residents of our home take advantage of visiting these veterans while they are here. The first occasion will be on Nov. 7 during the evening meal in the dining hall. After the evening meal, there will be a social occasion (also in the dining hall) starting at 6:30 p.m.

In keeping with custom, four of our home residents will be taking part in the activities during this period and visiting the Royal Hospital next year. These residents are Curtis Young, John Porter, John Miller, and me (as the RAC Chairman). In addition, two residents were selected as alternates. These alternates are "Woody" Williams and James L. Riordan.

In order to consider the residents who would be selected as HOSTS to our visitors, several notices were placed throughout the home asking for a submission of a letter outlining why they wished to be selected as a host. After that, a board was held to make the final selection. Each person was given a time to appear at the board. With board recommendations I made the final selection. I wish to thank all those who applied to be hosts and members of the board who volunteered to interview the selectees. Finally, I think it important to thank the sponsor for this activity, the Non-Commissioned Officers Association who put up the vast majority of funds.

The new RAC met on Oct. 15 and elected several chairpersons or members of several important committees. First the Resident fund Advisory Board consists of Esker McConnell, Donald Cooper, Henri Gibson and Doris Jones. This committee meets with the other members on a quarterly basis to go over the resident fund and how it is spending the funds that it has generated. We at the Washington home are lucky to have the golf course as the main contributor for the resident fund.

The new Executive Committee of the RAC consists of Esker McConnell, the LaGarde Ombudsman Bernard Hipchens, the representative for the Scott building Donald Cooper and for the Sheridan Building, Henry Pike. This committee meets on a monthly basis with the Director of the home (usually the day before the RAC meeting) to talk over problems that may have come up regarding the home and the residents.

A new committee that I was asked to start is the Technology Committee and its new Chairperson is Ray Ross. The purpose of this committee is to look for ways to take advantage of technology and how to better utilize it for the benefit of home residents.

Finally, the new Vice-Chairman of the RAC is Mr. John Miller. His job is one of the most interesting of all the RAC positions. That is he just waits for something to happen to me and then takes my place. He is going to be a lonely person waiting, waiting, waiting.

I would like to end with a welcome to all the new residents of our home. You have chosen to become part of an institution that has a long history in the Washington, D.C. area. We hope that you take part in many of the activities that are available to you while you are here. You might even run into someone you knew decades ago.

Now that you know everything that you wanted to know, go out there and help that new resident of the home adjust to their new environment.

Esker McConnell

AFRH COMMUNICATOR

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The AFRH Communicator is an authorized publication of the Armed Forces Retirement Home. Residents and employees are encouraged to submit photos, art, news items, and features. Materials will be edited by the AFRH Communicator staff for journalistic style and length. The articles included in this publication do not necessarily reflect the opinions or views of the management, staff, or residents of the AFRH.

Serving Washington, D.C. and Gulfport, Mississippi



Become a resident today!

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.

Eligibility:

Military veterans from each service branch can live at AFRH.

The following persons who served as members of the Armed Forces, at least one-half of whose service was not active commissioned service other than as a warrant officer or limited-duty officer), are eligible to become residents of the Retirement Home:

- Veterans with 20 or more years of active duty service and are at least 60 years old, or
- Veterans unable to earn a livelihood due to a service-connected disability, or
- Veterans unable to earn a livelihood due to injuries, disease, or disability, and who served in a war theater or received hostile fire pay, or
- Female veterans who served prior to 1948.

To receive an informational brochure please contact the AFRH Marketing Office at 1-800-422-9988, or write to AFRH PAO/Marketing, #1305, 3700 N. Capitol St. NW, Washington DC 20011-8400.

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

Because You - The Veteran - Earned It

Since the late 1800's, retired veterans with disabilities waived their regular retired pay to receive Veterans Administration (VA) disability compensation. This system has been unique to military retirement, since all other Federal service retirees are entitled to receive their full regular retirement and disability compensation.

Enacted by Congress on December 2, 2002, the Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC) program restores military retired pay to eligible retired veterans with combat-related injuries.

The CRSC program is a special part of a larger legislative initiative to restore military retirement compensation that is on par with Federal service benefits.

As a result of this legislation, Congress authorized two programs for disabled retired veterans: Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC) Program and Concurrent Retirement and Disability Program (CRDP).

What is CRSC?

CRSC provides retired veterans a monthly compensation replacing the VA disability offset. Eligible veterans with 20 or more years of creditable service OR permanent medical retirees OR TERA retirees, that have "combat related" VA-rated injuries, will no longer have their military retirement pay reduced by the amount of their VA disability compensation. Instead they will receive both their full military retirement pay and their VA disability compensation.

What is the difference between CRSC and CRDP?

CRSC and CRDP were created to offset the money taken out of military retired pay through a VA waiver. If you are receiving military retired pay, and that retired pay is being reduced by a VA waiver, you could be eligible for one or both of these programs.

CRSC is considered special pay for combat-related (5 May '08) disabilities and is NOT subject to the rules and regulations governing military retired pay. CRDP is restored retired pay for service-connected (5 May '08) disabilities; and is subject to the same taxes and division as your retired pay (i.e. division with a former spouse).

Who can assist you with your claim?

If you have questions about the CRSC claim process or claim form, please refer to the CRSC frequently asked questions (FAQs) section. If you need additional assistance, please call 1-866-281-3254. CRSC service representatives are standing by to assist you Monday through Friday from 8 AM EST to 7 PM EST. In addition, several veterans' service organizations (VSOs) can assist you with your claim, to view a list of Veteran Service Organizations.

Go to <https://www.hrc.army.mil/site/crsc/about.html> for more information. Submit your claim through the branch from which you retired.

Happy Halloween!

Come out to see the Halloween Costume Parade and Haunted Booths today

Message from the Chief Operating Officer



There are many words that come to mind when contemplating today's struggling economy. We can easily say from the affect rising energy costs have had on each of us personally (the balance in our bank accounts are very specific indicators that inflation is rising at a pace unequal to monies generated) that our economy is erratic and predictable only in the sense that things are probably going to get worse...and, unfortunately, stay at that level for an unforeseen time into the future. The best thing you can do at this point is to carefully monitor your personal investments and get financial advice and counseling if you feel you need it. Like anything else, do the research and ask questions. Knowledge goes a long way towards confidence. No one cares more about your own personal financial health than you. Listen to your friends, accept advice but ultimately, your financial decisions are your own.

On a positive note, knowing it is an election year and that historically this political event has caused unease in the economy does spring hope that once the new President is settled into office, the seemingly faltering economy will stabilize. On an even more positive note, be reassured knowing your decision to live at the AFRH, whether your came recently or have been here for years, was an excellent choice for many reasons and now, as the nation faces these dire economic financial challenges, this is a great time to be safe within the umbrella of this organization.

Everyone is feeling the pinch as a dollar buys less and less out in town. Consumers are paying more for things and unfortunately we cannot totally protect you from feeling some of these financial pains. To put it into perspective though, consider this - Last month a staff member's daughter got a 650 square foot apartment here in town for a 'steal' of \$1,300 per month. That does not include utilities, cable, water or phone. The average amount an independent living resident (80% of our residents fall into this category) pays per month to live here at AFRH is \$801 per month and that does include utilities, water, meals, the Wellness Clinic, recreation and fitness programs, free parking and a multitude

of other amenities and social events that are free of charge. Taking the math a step further, when you deduct the cost of meals (\$6 per meal) and subtract that from the total, the average the independent resident pays lowers to \$253 per month to live and enjoy all services of the AFRH. Consider yourselves to be very good investors! That .50 deduction per month out of your paycheck while you served in the military has been returned to you many, many times. And while the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) does periodically increase the monthly cap to adjust to rising prices, it does not increase with the rate of inflation, which is good news for you the resident.

In closing, remember to cast your vote for the candidate of your choice next Tuesday. Your voice, your vote is important. Residents of AFRH-W vote at the Ukraine Catholic National Shrine located at 4250 Harewood Road NE (across the street from Catholic University). Transportation to and from the polls will be provided by the AFRH. Pick up and drop off will be provided throughout the campus. See Recreation Services for a schedule of times.

Timothy Cox

Early voting at King Health Center

Kathy Fairley (left) from the DC Board of Elections and Ethics assists residents Walter Barnes and Stella Shelton as they participate in the 2008 National Election. Representatives from the District of Columbia are visiting Long Term Care facilities in the area to make sure everyone has the opportunity to vote. More than 20 residents at LaGarde participated in the early voting initiative.

For those that didn't vote early or by absentee ballot, don't forget to go to the polls on Tuesday, November 4 and vote for the candidate of your choice.



AFRH-Gulfport Update



Front of building, Pavilion A.



NW corner of building.



Sunrise view.



NE view of Floors 2 through 6, Pavilion A.

Welcome Aboard



Name: David Sampson
Branch of Service: USAF
Entry Date: February 1952
Separation Date: June 1976
Rank: E7
War Theaters: Vietnam



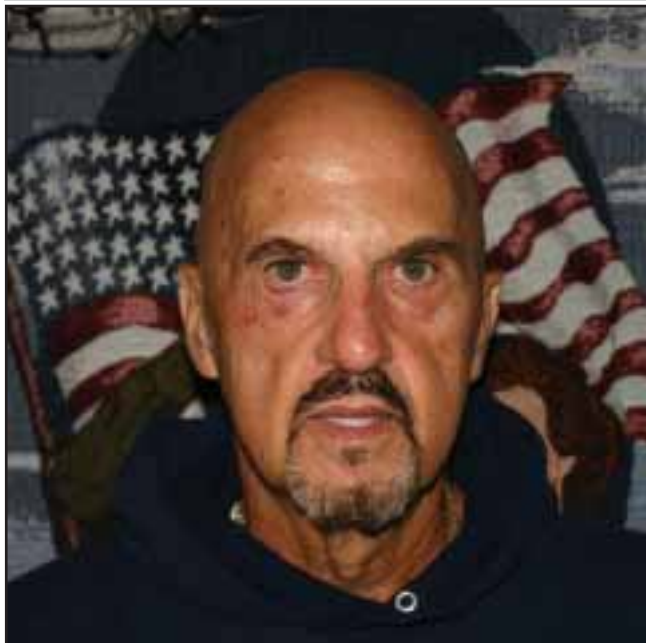
Name: Frederick Debram
Branch of Service: USAF
Entry Date: April 1963
Separation Date: October 1983
Rank: E5
War Theaters: Vietnam



Name: Harold Dark
Branch of Service: USAF
Entry Date: April 1956
Separation Date: May 1973
Rank: E6
War Theaters: Korea



Name: Edward Powell
Branch of Service: USA, USAF
Entry Date: July 1944
Separation Date: September 1966
Rank: E6
War Theaters: WWII, Korea



Name: Edward Thomas
Branch of Service: USAF
Entry Date: January 1959
Separation Date: April 1982
Rank: E8
War Theaters: Vietnam



Name: Alfred Sanford
Branch of Service: USA
Entry Date: February 1951
Separation Date: February 1971
Rank: E8
War Theaters: Korea, Vietnam



Name: Clarence Lewis
Branch of Service: USA
Entry Date: July 1969
Separation Date: July 1989
Rank: E7
War Theaters:



Name: William Cook
Branch of Service: USN
Entry Date: August 1944
Separation Date: September 1946
Rank: E3
War Theaters: WWII



Name: Donald Erbe
Branch of Service: USAF
Entry Date: September 1945
Separation Date: June 1965
Rank: E7
War Theaters: WWII, Korea



Name: Gerald Ellifritz
Branch of Service: USA
Entry Date: January 1972
Separation Date: July 1995
Rank: E6
War Theaters: Desert Storm



Name: Calvin Adams
Branch of Service: USA
Entry Date: March 1943
Separation Date: January 1946
Rank: E1
War Theaters: WWII

You are invited to
 the
**Marine
 Corps
 Birthday
 Celebration**

on
**November 6
 1:30
 Scott Lounge**

Maximum Fee Change:

On January 1, 2009 some resident fees will increase as a result of Fiscal Year 2002 legislation. The legislation requires the Agency to adjust the limitation on maximum monthly amount by the same increase in retirement pay (5.8 percent) that takes effect on the preceding December 1. The fee increase should only apply to those residents currently paying the maximum monthly amount. Beginning January 1, 2009, the following adjusted limitations on maximum monthly amounts are effective:

Washington

- A. Independent Living -
from \$1,170 to \$1,238
- B. Assisted Living -
from \$1,754 to \$1,856
- C. Long-term care -
from \$2,924 to \$3,094

Help us keep our roads safe

In cooperation with the Fort Belvoir Police, who has graciously loaned us a portable radar trailer, SID is increasing efforts to provide for safer streets in our community.

The radar unit will be moved throughout the campus in the coming weeks.

The primary purpose of the trailer is to alert drivers if they are exceeding the speed limit, which in most areas is 15 MPH. As a vehicle passes the unit; if the speed is over 15, the unit will display the actual speed in red.

While we have this and other means to maintain a safe community, please be mindful of your speed and driving behavior at all times; you are the first line in keeping us all safe on the roads.



From the Director



I've been reading some of the study or science of war. I've discovered it is a mammoth field of study. Entire colleges, military schools and our academies teach the discipline.

The oldest reference of anything related to war dates back to 4000 B.C. It was in an area called Mesopotamia, literally the "land between the two

rivers," a reference to the Tigris and Euphrates basin. That is where historians find the first records of war. In the Bible, the area is called Sumer, the original word for the southern part of Iraq.

The history of war is a study detailing the armed conflict in the annals of humanity. In Sumer, the first historical data was written on clay tablets which described military battles. No society of the Bronze Age was more advanced in the

design and application of military weaponry and technique than was ancient Sumer, and they held that legacy for 2000 years.

The period from 3000 to 2316 B.C. was when all of Sumer was united into a single state. Sargon the Great was an ancient Mesopotamian ruler who reigned for 80 years in this time frame and was the earliest of the world's great empire builders. This period was marked by almost constant wars against foreign enemies, namely the Elamites, the peoples of northern Iran. These first "Iran-Iraq wars" were fought in the same area around Basra and the salt marshes that have witnessed the modern conflict of the last two decades between the same two states. In one account, the Elamites were fearful and ran from Sargon's forces and the Sumerians "carried away as spoil the weapons of Elam."

There is an interesting story in the Bible of a war which took place around 1260 B.C. It tells of the Israelites being oppressed to the highest degree for seven years by the Midianites. In the book of Judges it tells of the great fear the enemy held over the nation of Israel. The eventual leader, Gideon, was terrified and hiding in a wine press. The account shows him in almost a comical light, but one that I can relate to as I recall "fears." Later the army of 22,000 showed fear

and was whittled down to only those most courageous, leaving just 300 men. The story ends with that army of 300 defeating the enemy of 120,000 because they followed God's leading. Aside from being an interesting read, it is revealing of human nature.

I am certain that you, Mister or Miss Veteran, had fears at one time. Thank you for serving our great nation. What a privilege for me to thank you for serving in the military even when you had to have faced fears at one time. You overcame. Perhaps you have come to agree with President Franklin D. Roosevelt who said in 1933 in his inaugural address, the "only thing we have to fear is fear itself."

Veterans Day is a holiday honoring military veterans. It is an American holiday that is always celebrated on November 11th. President Woodrow Wilson first proclaimed as "Armistice Day" for the date in 1919, following the ending of World War I. And in 1954, President Dwight Eisenhower signed a bill from Congress that all veterans, not just those who served in WW I and the name was changed to "Veterans Day."

May you have a great Veterans Day. Thank you for facing your fears and thank you for your service to the United States of America.

David Watkins

A historic look at AFRH-Washington

Grant Building - an imposing structure with an impressive history

By Ray Colvard

In the meeting of the USSAH Board of Commissioners in February 1901, the Governor emphasized the need for a new mess hall for Home members. The projected population was estimated at 2,400 residents and the previous kitchen and messing facilities in the Scott building (now the Sherman building) were inadequate.

The Board approved plans for a new building, which would provide for both messing and dormitory facilities, and would "conform in style and material to the Scott building (now the Sherman building)."

Plans called for "an imposing building

of white marble, rock faced." The building would be three stories, with the upper stories providing dormitory space for 400 men. It would be equipped with the best, modern facilities, including electric lighting and passenger elevators. Designed by the architectural firm of Baldwin and Pennington of Baltimore, Maryland, the style was a popular turn of the century favorite for public buildings called Renaissance Revival.

Although the building's interior was patterned after that of the Cadets' Mess at West Point, consideration was given to the differences in age and physical health of the population of the Home versus that of the Academy.

As the building neared completion, the Deputy Governor revisited West Point "for the purpose of examining into the equipment of large masses and to enable him to make a comprehensive estimate of what is

required in order to equip the Home dining room with service suitable, in every way." Occupied in 1910, the total cost of the building was \$1,700,000.

Although the original plans for the building specified, "to conform in style of architecture with the Scott (Sherman) building, one sees the Sherman as representative of an 11th Century Norman castle and the Grant as a 16th Century Renaissance palace.

A recent report furnished by the USSAH Engineering Directorate points out certain unique features of the Grant building:

"...an innovative structural system which combines masonry bearing walls, reinforced concrete with structural clay tile, and structural steel framing. The building's massive solid masonry exterior walls are supported on corbeled brick foundations with concrete footings.

"In the basement, brick piers support the first floor beams. The beams, which bear on exterior masonry walls, are poured in-place concrete, reinforced with rectangular steel bars and round stirrup bars. Typically spanning 12 feet and spaced approximately 16 feet apart, the beams support the old dining hall and kitchen floor system. Structural clay tiles are laid in rows perpendicular to the beams with approximately 3-inch-wide spaces between rows. Reinforcing bars were laid in the space between the rows and then



The Grant building was completed in 1909.

concrete was poured on top of the clay tile, thus filling the space and creating a concrete floor joist between the tile.

"To provide a 48-foot clear span over the dining hall the architect devised a unique structure system, whereby the beams of the second, third and attic floors were hung on steel straps from steel trusses located in the attic. These, presumably steel, floor beams support the steel joists and concrete structural clay tile floor system. The trusses also support the steel framing and the concrete and structural tile roof deck.

"The first floor kitchen structures have an almost independent structure system with masonry bearing walls and a steel roof framing."

The unique and historic architecture is evident in the vast 20-foot overhead of the first floor, the vaulting and coffered ceilings. The Grant building is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.



An L shaped area on the main floor was designed in order to provide a large mess area for the inmates.

A historic look at Gulfport

Moving in...32 years ago

Reprinted from the Homeport

September 1976

"The Navy Hilton"

The new Naval Home in Gulfport, Miss., opened on Aug. 3 when 97 residents flew in from their old home in Philadelphia, the historic Biddle Hall designed in 1826 by the famed architect Strickland. The old building was designated in 1976 as an historic landmark under the aegis of the Department of the Interior, U.S. Government.

Another 42 residents arrived by car, bus and train. On

August 12 the final contingent arrived in an Air Force Medivac plane. The Naval Home population is now 285 with a capacity of 600 in the new quarters.

"They ought to call it the Navy Hilton," said Nick Mark as he sat in the spacious lounge.

Bill Murphy, the Naval Home

librarian said, "Waldorf Astoria in technicolor."

James Montgomery agreed. "Whoever designed this place knew what he was doing," he declared with a grin.

When the DC9 arrived at the Gulfport Municipal Airport about 1330 Tuesday afternoon, the residents were greeted by the Governor, RADM D.J. VanArsdall, Jr., the Mayor of Gulfport, A.W. Lang and two Gulfport Area Chamber of Commerce officials.

The Naval Home is a great talking point for the Navy recruiter who is interested in developing career personnel for the new Navy.

The residents speak highly of the laundry and mail service, the climate control, the half-bath in each room, the carpeted halls, the modern and tasty food service.

Residents Lucke and Kincaid summed it: "Rating is 4.0. It's just great."

Brief Impressions

It would take a longer column than this to give an adequate summary of the early impressions that will no doubt be expanded in later issues. The first impression is that it is cool and quiet; also of the brand new cleanliness, with tasteful furnishings and deep wall-to-wall gold carpeting in the halls. The lounges are circular and from them the A and B wings radiate.

The mess hall and canteen bar were ready for us. The barber shop, snack bar and bowling alley will be ready by the time this issue is out.

In the bedrooms, a nice touch was the fact the beds were made up and ready; there was tissue, a towel and a bar



The lobby of the Naval Home in 1976.



Photo of the Naval Home in Gulfport, Mississippi, in the early years.

of soap in each semi-bath.

The only things missing were the drapes and some lounge chairs. Also not all the pay phones had been installed. These are on the way and will arrive shortly.

However, the Administration, the staff and the helpers were ready with refreshments and food.

To coin a cliché, you can well imagine that we slept without rocking on the night of August 3.

The memories of the old historic buildings in Philadelphia persist, but we could not help welcoming the cleanliness and beauty of the pine filled grounds with their oaks and rose gardens; we paused for a moment at the family grave of Colonel Thomas Oswald, whose history is still somewhat a mystery.

Colonel, we thank you and also all the local people who made us welcome upon our arrival. The campus of William Carey College now adjoins our compound on the site of the Military Academy which closed in June.

Career in submarine service is Navy veteran's dream come true

Former AFRH-G resident advances through the ranks from E1 to O4 in 29 year Navy career

By Mary Kay Gominger

Former Gulfport resident Richard Halloran, a retired Navy veteran, borrowed a little phrase from the Army - 'Be All That You Can Be' - and during his 29 years in the Navy, did he ever. Going against his father's wishes, Richard joined the Navy in 1938, at the age of 17. It was a combination of the overwhelming desire to serve his country and the reality of surviving in the final years of the Great



Richard Halloran in 1939, at Newport Rhode Island Boot Camp.

It was a roof over his head and three squares. About a year later he saw a note in the POD looking for men to volunteer for submarine duty. He was fascinated with everything

Depression that led Richard to the Navy. His father angrily signed his approval as Richard was underage and shortly he was off to do his part and make his way and he exceeded at both, in a very big way.

It was January 1939 before Richard actually left for boot camp and the young seaman recruit diligently went about beginning his career in the Navy, though he had no idea at the time what all that would involve. It was a roof over his head and three squares. About a year later he saw a note in the POD looking for men to volunteer for submarine duty. He was fascinated with everything

about submarines and weeks later a submarine tied up to his tender and he remembers looking over at it and thinking, "That is what I want to do. I want to serve on a submarine."

Richard got submarine duty and a lot of it. He started as a torpedoman and throughout his career served on six submarines: the USS S-37 (SS-142), USS Scamp (SS 247), USS S-20 (SS-125), USS Sea Owl (SS-405), USS Bergall (SS-320) and the USS Flying Fish (SS-229).

He progressed through the enlisted ranks of the Navy until he achieved the rank of chief petty officer. It was at this point that he applied to the Navy's chief warrant officer program and was accepted and promoted to the rank of CWO2. From there, he applied to the Limited Duty Officer (LDO) Program and progressed to the rank of Lieutenant Commander before retiring with 29 years.

Richard saw a lot of action during WWII and made many submarine war patrols. On the USS Scamp's fourth war patrol, in the New Guinea-Bismarck Archipelago Area, Richard received the Bronze Star Medal. The commendation he has cites him for his "outstanding skill and inspiring leadership of torpedo personnel in maintaining torpedo and torpedo tubes in a constant state of readiness, and his excellent supervision of firing of torpedoes, contributing materially to the successful attacks which resulted in the sinking of 14,600 tons of enemy shipping and in the damaging of 500 tons," signed by Rear Admiral A.R. McCann, Commander Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet.

He has many memories of shipmates and faraway places, of firing torpedoes into the abyss and witnessing the volcanic explosion of a hit. He's also experienced the jolt of being hit, scrambling in dark tiny spaces, surviving and crew members working together to get back for repairs. He faced the challenge of raising three young children as a single dad and acknowledges that this was his greatest feat and how appreciative he is for help from his Navy family.



Richard Halloran, 1942, USS S-37 (SS 1142).

Now, 87 years old, Richard lives in Gulfport with his son, waiting for the reopening of the AFRH-G, his home for 10 years prior to Hurricane Katrina in 2005. He walks everyday at the Seabee base to keep up his strength and looks forward to moving back into his home when it reopens in 2010.

The following poem, written by Richard Halloran, is inscribed on a plaque and is on display at the Admiral Nimitz Museum in Fredericksburg, Texas. He wrote it for his fellow shipmates of the USS Scamp. As fate would have it, he had received orders to transfer just days before the Scamp set out on her eighth war patrol on October 16, 1944, never to return. From records available, it appears the Scamp was sunk sometime around Nov. 11, 1944.

Won't Somebody - Please - Relieve The Watch

*This submarine's still on patrol
Carrying 83 weary souls.
Some are on watch and some are asleep
But all are encased in the mighty deep.
Won't somebody - please - relieve the watch?*

*This patrol is a long one
Fifty full years to be exact.
Does anyone care that we are here?
Does anyone ever shed a tear?
Won't somebody - please - relieve the watch?*

*Do you know of our dreams and aspirations?
And how desperate we were to achieve them?
What of our families and what of our foe?
How did they fare and where did they go?
Won't somebody - please - relieve the watch?*

*Does anyone remember our last dive?
Do you know that we are still inside?
We ran silent and we ran deep.
Hoping and praying our souls to keep!
Now we are tired and all worn out - -
Won't somebody - please - relieve the watch?*

Richard Halloran

Residents enjoy viewing Wet Plate Photography demo

By Katie Derr, Lincoln Cottage

Robert Szabo, a professional wet plate collodion photographer, visited President Lincoln's Cottage on Saturday, October 11, 2008, to demonstrate the photography techniques used during the Civil War. This program was provided free and to the public by President Lincoln's Cottage.

Photographer R. Szabo conducted a demonstration of Civil War photography techniques at President Lincoln's Cottage

Bearing a "portable" dark room and old-style camera, Szabo showed Cottage visitors and residents of the Armed Forces Retirement Home the processes involved in 19th century photography by photographing the 1905 Robert H. Smith Visitor Education Center and 1842 President Lincoln's Cottage. Szabo demonstrated how to prepare glass plates for use in his camera and "developed" the glass plate negatives on site. Observers were captivated by the process and excited to see the developed images. As Szabo moved



Robert Szabo, right, explains the procedures for processing photos to a resident.

his camera equipment around the Cottage for various shots, curious visitors and local residents trailed him, asking questions as they watched the same photography techniques from 150 years ago in use once again at President Lincoln's Cottage.

For more information on wet plate collodion photography and Robert Szabo, visit his website at www.robertszabo.com.



Residents and visitors to Lincoln Cottage listen as professional wet plate collodion photographer Robert Szabo explains how photos were taken during the Civil War era.

Navy 233rd birthday celebrated at AFRH

Taking part in the traditional cutting of the birthday cake are, from left, Seaman Darris Davis, Marion Ritchie, Captain Timothy Fox and AFRH Director David Watkins.

Below - Captain Fox meets residents during the social following the cake cutting.



Residents, staff, volunteers gather

Perfect day for fall picnic



Above - Resident Francis Stueve shakes hands and welcomes active duty volunteers.

Right - Residents, volunteers and staff members enjoy the good food and fellowship during the fall picnic held on October 3.



STILL A TRUE WARRIOR

By Howard Turner

The Home has many great warriors here on the grounds who have contributed a lot to society, but there is one retired veteran who lives on the grounds who brings nothing but laughter and smiles to even the moodiest person's face. You see, a warrior battles thru the bad days to make everyone else's day around him/her just a little better even when they might not be feeling good themselves. Mike Longwell is a great example of this type of warrior, who tries to help new residents coming into the home as well as the Vets who already live on the grounds, and is always an inspiration to the people he's around. He participates in every activity that is put before him and still finds time to help someone with their bags up to their room.

Recently, Mike competed in our "Speed Math" contest game show. The competition wasn't easy but Mike Longwell walked away with the trophy, the 1st place prize, and the title of the "Speed Mathematics Genius" for the year 2008. Congratulations Mike Longwell, you represent us well and you deserve all of the goodness that comes back to you.

Saving a slice of history

By Marny Malin, Photo Editor

911th Technical Rescue Engineer Soldiers

A crew of eight 911th Technical Rescue Engineer Soldiers and one of their sons helped to scrape, preserve and paint the 19th century Victorian courting gazebo on the grounds of the Armed Forces Retirement Home Saturday, October 18. They were part of a contingent of military volunteer crews who, over the course of several weekends,

have refurbished the lattice-paneled, copper roofed, wooden structure that once was located behind the Lincoln Cottage.

To preserve the modest wainscoted structure and maintain historical accuracy, it was moved closer to the residential structures on the grounds. Now former Soldiers are able to enjoy the fresh air within the graceful gazebo and wonder about the stories those walls could tell.



Sgt. Michael Holt, 911th Technical Rescue Engineers, paints a portion of the 19th century courting gazebo on the grounds of the Armed Forces Retirement Home. Eight Soldiers from the 911th and one of their sons spent Saturday refurbishing the gazebo.

A Day at the Races

By Carol Mitchell

On Wednesday, September 24, 2008, the residents of King Health Center and Assisted Living headed for Laurel Park for live horse racing!



Residents of the AFRH share the winner's circle at Laurel Park on September 24.

The residents enjoyed buffet lunch overlooking the track. Resident William Palmer intently reviewed the odds for the first race, placed his bet on Tropical Ridge to win... AND WON!

It was a gorgeous and sunny day so some of the residents headed outside to watch the races up close. The third race of the day was named in honor of the Home and called the "Armed Forces Retirement Home Classic." The residents even had the opportunity to watch a photo finish race from the winners circle and have their pictures taken with the winning jockey. The residents and staff that attended had a wonderful time and look forward to going on another trip to the races in the future.

Finding your focus

A NEW CHAMPION TAKES THE TITLE

By Keith Turner

The Armed Forces Retirement Home recently held its yearly "Concentration Game Show" competition. The game is strictly based on competing against others using a deck of cards and relying on your strong memory.

Many residents came out to participate or to watch the masters at work. Mr. Cavanaugh, Mr. Powers, Ms. Scott, Mr. Bronfman, Mr. Longwell, Mr. Pierce, Mr. Dozier, and Mr. Smith were among the many who showed up to walk away with the title of having the strongest memory, at least for that day, but only one could claim the throne.

The battles were very intriguing and as the contestants were eliminated one by one, they still wanted to continue competing against others who were eliminated. By the end of the day, the championship round was set and Ms. Scott was ready to battle Mr. Longwell. The two went with the best out of three games and Mike Longwell made sure he wouldn't lose his second chance at being crowned "The King" this time. With complete focus and a no non-sense approach, Mike Longwell didn't give Francis Scott much of a chance in either round as he walked away with the 1st place prize and the title of having the best memory to close out the 2008 year.

Congratulations to Mike Longwell, one of our most fun-loving, entertaining veterans on the grounds. All Hail the King!!

Get ready for the
Military Trivia Game
Show
Nov. 17
1 p.m. Scott Lounge
Teams of three

AFRH Bowling News

By Ed Crump

Gene Allison saved his best game for last to win the GEICO Tournament and in the process earned Bowler of the Month for September. He edged out Buron Noel 2300 to 2288 but it took a big last game to do it. Mr. Noel all but had first place locked up going into the final game of the tournament as he held a 65 pin lead over Bob Schonherr who eventually finished third in the tournament after being the lesser going in the final day while Eugene Allison trailed by 70 pins going into the last game. All of a sudden the tide turned toward Mr. Allison who started stringing strikes while Mr. Noel was having all kinds of problems that last game and could only muster a 125 game which was his low game of the tournament. Mr. Allison had the high game of the tournament with a 203 in his first game of the final day so while Mr. Noel was sitting patiently watching the rest of the bowling finish up he never had any idea that Mr. Allison had a chance to overtake him and win the tournament. Mr. Allison had to beat Mr. Noel by at least 63 pins that final game to win it which meant he needed to bowl at least 188 to wrap up the top spot. It all came down to the final two frames of the last game. He proceeded to throw a strike in the ninth frame which was big, but he still needed another strike on his first ball of the tenth frame and at least an eight count on his second ball in the tenth frame and then pick it

up to clinch first place. So it was all up to him to decide whether he had a chance to win. He had no idea he was in that position to win the tournament. I didn't say a word to him until he finished that third game. He then proceeded to roll two more strikes in the tenth frame and a nine count to finish with a 199 game and a 12 pin advantage over Mr. Noel to win the tournament. So he waited right to the very end to do his best and when it counted the most. For Mr. Noel it was a bit of a setback not to win that tournament after having a big lead going in the final game, but those things do happen. It was just unfortunate that he bowled his worst game on the tournament on the final game while Mr. Allison bowled his best game of the tournament on his final game. So my congratulations goes to Mr. Allison.

The only downfall of the GEICO Tournament for me was the fact that we were only able to have 11 bowlers finish the whole four days of the tournament which I thought took some glamour out of the competition. Different bowlers had to drop out of the tournament for one reason or another which included the top two average bowlers. Other than that every thing went pretty smooth. Hopefully when the tournament rolls around next year we'll have a better turnout than we did this year. We're still looking for more bowlers to join us in the shootout every Thursday. We have a lot of fun which is what it's all about.

USO-Metro and Wounded Warriors Hold First Bass Classic Fishing Tournament for Wounded Veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan

Lake Anna, VA— September 27, 2008

The USO of Metropolitan Washington (USO-Metro) partnered with Fort Meade's Warrior Transition Unit (WTU) to host the first Wounded Warrior Fall Bass Classic at Anna Point Marina, Lake Anna, VA.

Almost 50 wounded warriors from Fort Meade and Walter Reed Army Medical Center competed in the fishing tournament. Local anglers both professional and amateur donated their boats and time. USO-Metro and the Fort Meade WTU raised more than \$26,000 in donations, gifts, and prizes from event sponsors. The fishing tournament is one example of the many services USO-Metro provides to more than 500,000 service

members and their families each year throughout the Washington DC, Virginia, and Baltimore regions. The Fort Meade WTU worked with USO-Metro to plan this event as part of their effort to assist service members who have been severely injured during the conflicts in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other locations around the world.

"This event was a unique way for the community to come together and thank our local wounded warriors for their immeasurable sacrifices," said Elaine Rogers, President of USO-Metro. "We are thrilled to join the Warrior Transition Unit out of Fort Meade for this year's event and will hopefully continue to be a part of it for years to come."

"This was truly a tangible way the community was able to demonstrate their appreciation of our soldiers and their families during a time of war," said Chaplain Jeremiah Catlin a wounded warrior and event coordinator. "By allowing the anglers to spend time learning about these heroes individually, the patriotic appreciation grew immensely."

USO-Metro and the Fort Meade WTU intend to make this an annual event for recovering service members in the area. For more information, please visit www.usometrodc.org.



SGT Chris Villalobos from Walter Reed shows off his catch during the Wounded Warrior Fall Bass Classic.



From left - Chief of Resident Services Chuck Dickerson, Mike Longwell and Antique Car Show winner Al Iagnemmo.

AFRH hosts 51st Antique Car Show

The Armed Forces Retirement Home enjoyed its 51st Antique Car Show on October 5th, which turned out to be another beautiful sunny day. Keith Turner and David Brown worked together with many volunteers to put this huge project together. Over 85 cars joined in to make the show a total success.



Residents check under the hood of an antique car on display during the Antique Car Show.



Antique Car Show winner Al Iagnemmo (left), shows his car to Frank Nelson and Emil Byke.



Residents Frank Farr and Charles Gray take part in the activities held in conjunction with the Antique Car Show.