

**Public Affairs Office
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Retired Air Force veteran receives prestigious award

Gulfport, Miss. -- Armed Forces Retirement Home resident and Air Force retiree Pete Carter recently received notification of his selection of the Blue Cross/Blue Shield Mississippi Ageless Hero Award. Carter was selected as the 2006 Southern Region Honoree in the New Beginnings category of the Ageless Heroes Program.

The Mississippi Heroes Program was created by Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Mississippi to honor Mississippi residents beyond the age of 65 whose lives are filled with activity, vitality and accomplishments and who serve as role models for us all.

Carter was nominated by the AFRH and the nomination package reads, in part, "Pete is devoted to educating the youth and the general public about the proper handling and display of the American flag. He has taught flag etiquette at elementary, middle and high schools up and down the Gulf Coast area...his involvement and dedication to preserving the tradition of the American flag has made him the "flag expert" to organizations and governments (city, state, and military) all over the Gulf Coast...last year Pete collected and replaced over 300 soiled and tattered flags flying over churches, schools and cities from Bay St. Louis to Pascagoula...Pete's zest for life, commitment to country and love of his community is obvious in the way he conducts himself each and every day."

Pete Carter has been a resident of the AFRH in Gulfport, Miss., for the past 10 years. Though temporarily displaced to the AFRH in Washington, D.C., because of Hurricane Katrina, Carter is looking forward to returning to the Mississippi Gulf Coast and to the AFRH, and continuing his goodwill efforts. He will be honored in an awards luncheon at Lake Terrace Convention Center in Hattiesburg, Miss., on March 28, 2006. The luncheon will recognize five statewide and 15 regional Ageless Heroes.