

Public Affairs Office  
Armed Forces Retirement Home  
3700 N. Capitol Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20011-8400  
Contact: Sheila R. Abarr  
202-730-3043

***American Legion Post 227 makes donation to veterans of Armed Forces Retirement Home***

***By Mary Kay Gominger***

A group of five members of the American Legion Post 227 from Brandywine, Maryland, made a special delivery to the Armed Forces Retirement Home, Washington, D.C., on July 20, 2006. They delivered, much to the delight of residents that work in the Wood Hobby Shop, two truck loads of lumber and a collection of router bits. The donated material is used by residents in making plaques, flag boxes and special interest items that they present to organizations that help out at the AFRH.

“These guys were tickled to death to see the lumber and router bits,” said Wayne Manuel. “There’s a mixture of mahogany, oak, white cherry, maple and pine and just over 20 router bits. The guys were so happy, they couldn’t believe it,”

Manuel has been a member of the American Legion Post 227 for a number of years and since Hurricane Katrina has become extremely involved in helping out at the AFRH.

“After the storm there were just so many veterans that were displaced that needed our help,” he said. “We did fund raisers which allowed us to provide residents with things they needed.”

According to Melodie Menke, AFRH’s Volunteer Coordinator, the American Legion Post 227 has, for the past year, more or less adopted the AFRH.

“These guys have really been great,” Menke said. “In addition to this amazing donation for the Wood Hobby Shop, they have also provided a seemingly never-ending supply of coffee, nuts and popcorn for our residents and they donated a printer for our volunteer room. They were a tremendous help right after the storm helping to get the Gulfport residents settled in.”

In addition to volunteer work at the AFRH, the American Legion Post 227 helps out in other areas as well.

“We made a \$2,500 donation to the Fisher House at Walter Reed,” Manuel said. “We also have a boys’ camp in town we help out with and we support the Boy Scouts.”

Manuel is a veteran that served in the Navy during Vietnam. The American Legion Post 227 has 108 members. They raise money throughout the year sponsoring golf tournaments and raffles.