



Armed Forces Retirement Home

# Communicator

VOLUME V NUMBER 4

ARMED FORCES RETIREMENT HOME

APRIL 30, 2008

## Retirement celebration hosted at AFRH for top enlisted senior advisor

*"...what matters is...who did you take care of while you were up there..."*

The residents of AFRH hosted a retirement celebration at the Washington

DC campus for Army Command Sergeant Major William J. Gainey, senior enlisted advisor to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, on Thursday, April 17. Sgt. Maj. Gainey has been making regular visits to the AFRH to visit with residents for the past

year, and he encouraged his fellow active duty service members to do the same.

"If you've never been out there, you have to make time," he said. "They are our past warriors."

Sgt. Maj. Gainey retired from the U.S. Army on April 25 with over 33 years of service. To the residents of the AFRH he said, "You are my second family and I'll do anything for my family. When I'm retired I'm going to continue to put the message out about the AFRH. If we don't take care of our past then how are we going to take care of our future. If we don't look out for our veterans, how are we going to take care of our troops today?"

As for being the top enlisted service member in DoD he commented, "It doesn't matter how far you get in life. How successful you are doesn't matter. What's important is who did you take care of while you were up there."



Army Command Sgt. Maj. William J. Gainey and his wife Cindy receive well wishes from resident Woodrow Senkel.

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# Starting to take shape

From the front gate looking in, one of four tower cranes shows up in the background as the foundation of the new AFRH-G begins to go up. Approximately two-thirds of the cement piles are in place now. Go to [www.afrh.gov](http://www.afrh.gov) to view the live earthcam and for weekly photo updates.



## Notes from the Resident Advisory Council



Well here we are at the end of April 2008 and I am going to go out on a limb by saying that the Scott Lounge is finally open. I know, this is the third time I have said that this would happen but, now I am

sure. In fact, just to make sure I went down to see myself if it did reopen when it was supposed to. And guess what? IT WAS.

Our last Resident Advisory Council (RAC) meeting was well attended and we had the opportunity to meet and hear from the new Director of the Home in Washington. Mr. Watkins we welcome you to our home and wish you the very best in getting to know not only the residents, but the way things work here.

With the arrival of the new director I have taken steps to start the Executive Committee of the RAC as called for in the RAC directives. This committee consists of the RAC Chairman, one member from each of the resident buildings and one member from the long-term care area. The representative from the Scott building is Mr. Gilbert Didriksen and from the Sheridan building Mr. Nelson Jamison. The long-term care representative is Mr. Philip Cardinalis. This committee represents the RAC in its meetings with the Director of the Armed Forces Retirement Home Washington.

One item that was discussed at the last RAC meeting was having home residents present the certificates that are given to the groups that perform here. You know, those bands and choirs from the high schools and colleges that visit our nations capital. The RAC has been granted approval to gather a list of people who would like to do the presentations. If you think that you would like to do this type of work for the residents, please let your floor representative know and they will pass that information on to me.

By now you should have noticed that the floor representatives are sporting a new badge. This new badge tell you what floor and building they represent. In the future, you will notice the badges also on those committee members who are not floor representatives. This is just another method of letting you know who to go to with your problems and concerns.

Soon, you will notice another poster around the home. This one, developed through the assistance of the office that oversees us at the Department of Defense, is called the Community Response Element (CARE) poster and you will notice that it places the first position in taking care of problems on the RAC floor representative, followed by the RAC Chairman, then the Ombudsman, Mr. Mori, and finally the AFRH-W IG, located in the Sherman building. Just remember that if you have a problem let us know first and if your problem is not solved, then take it to the next level. I really believe that there are few problems that cannot be resolved by the RAC.

You may notice some changes in the dining hall menus in the upcoming weeks. These changes are a result of the recent survey that many of you took the time to fill out and make comments on.

Finally I want to take this opportunity to thank all of the workers here at the home. It might sound like a broken record (remember records?) but, it is your work that makes our living here mostly hassle free.

Normally I would have more to say but, I must confess, everything that the current RAC has asked to be done, has been done. There is always room for improvement. And that is what this RAC is all about finding that room, asking for those improvements, and then making sure that they are being done

Esker F 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.**

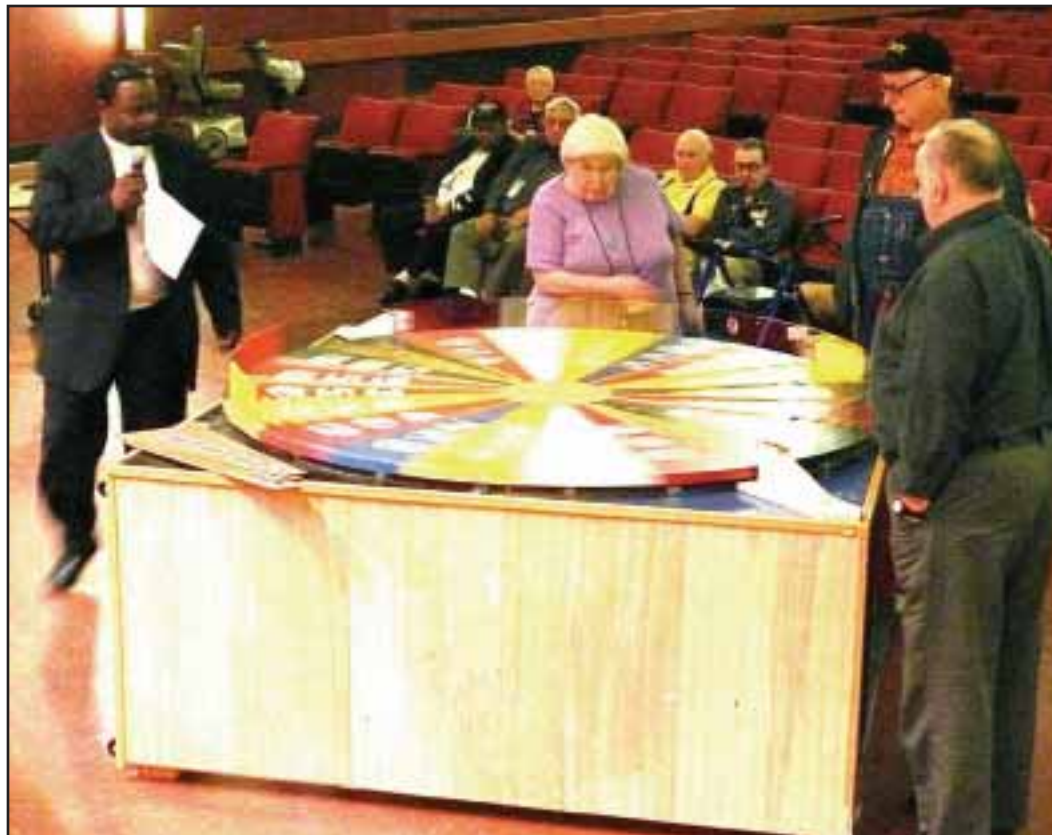
**Visit us on the web at: <http://www.AFRH.gov>**

## Residents spin the wheel to win a fortune

By Howard Turner

Over 30 residents came together in the Scott Theater to either participate or be a spectator to one of the most popular TV game shows called, "The Wheel of Fortune," AFRH's home version of this exciting, mind challenging game is designed with the same equipment from the real game show to make it as real as possible, thanks to

**Howard Turner (far left) watches Edith Ellington as she gives the wheel a spin. Although they weren't trying to win a fortune in reality, the thought of being the final champion for the day was sufficient enough. The residents did take home their 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winnings and were very happy to do so.**



the wood shop.

After some very intriguing rounds during the first half of the show, there were 3 finalist who practically dominated their opponents to make it to the finals. Charles Beebe, Erwin Springer, and Larry Friesel, a group of fierce competitors. The audience eagerly awaited the final match of the day between these warriors. At the beginning of the game

it seemed as if we wouldn't have a winner since everyone who would take the lead by a large sum of money, would spin the wheel and land on "Bankrupt", and even when Mr. Erwin Spinger was just that close to winning, Mr. "Bankrupt" hit him for the final time, giving Larry Friesel (who was hot all evening) the opportunity that he was anxiously waiting for and he made it count by solving the final phrase. Larry took the first place winnings, Beebe took the second place slot, and Erwin closed the door on the third place pot. And the most important point is that everyone really had fun, even the people in the audience with the way it's been designed to receive audience participation during the rounds.

After the show Susan Chubb said, "You all design so many things here that are great ideas and we really love it."

We thank you too because you all deserve our best.

We send a special thanks to Angela Karabatsos from admin., Susan Chubb a resident, Sarah Kenon from KHC, and Jean Turner (Keith Turner's mother), for coming and volunteering their time to put on this special game show performance. Great teamwork everybody!

# Message from the Chief Operating Officer



Last week we hosted the AFRH-W Local Advisory Board here on the Washington campus. The Advisory Board is comprised of representatives

from each branch of service, the Veterans Administration, Walter Reed Hospital, TriCare, and the Office of Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Military Community and Family Policy. Also in attendance were AFRH service chiefs, staff members and the chairman of the Resident Advisory Council. The purpose of the meeting was to provide the Board members with an update on major issues pertaining to the AFRH and to brief them on major accomplishments and milestones achieved during the last six months.

It is reassuring to be reminded of the large number of people and the wide variety of organizations that support us here at the AFRH. The board members were very interested in hearing about how we are progressing on the many projects we have underway, and, as always, were interested in the welfare of our residents. The sincere concern of the board members about not only the financial solvency of the agency but the general health of the organization and the variety of services we provide to our veterans defines the motto - taking care of its own.

After brief introductions of new members and some administrative issues, board members were updated on the AFRH FY 09 budget submission, which was approved by Congress earlier this year. Board members were given an overview of the Master Plan

for the DC campus and the capital improvements and major renovations planned with the revenue that will be generated from the leasing of this underutilized AFRH property thus maintaining the solvency of the Trust Fund. The group was made aware of the various partnership AFRH shares with other government agencies such as the Bureau of Public Debt, the VA, TriCare and Walter Reed Medical Center. These partnerships save duplication of effort and work for the benefit of the resident.

In campus updates, the group was briefed on Scott building renovations either underway or planned and the challenges we face upgrading out-of-date, antiquated systems while maintaining safety and comfort for the residents. Repairs are underway on the heating and AC in Scott and Campus Ops is presently reviewing and possibly consolidating maintenance contracts that will be expire in 2010.

An update of the progress of the Gulfport construction project was given and all board members were encouraged to visit the AFRH website ([www.afrh.gov](http://www.afrh.gov)) to see the weekly photographic updates and view the earthcam that is in place.

Esker McConnell, chairman of the Resident Advisory Council, spoke briefly to explain the unique role the RAC has in representing the residents and how their goal is to make sure things get done for the residents; to take care of problems as soon as they happen. The RAC chairman works closely with the AFRH-W director to address and dissolve problems as quickly as possible.

Finally, the AFRH Advisory Board members were made aware of the recent change in 2008 NDAA, which tasked the Department of Defense with all bi-annual inspections rather than alternating branches of service. This fall we will be inspected by both the Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations



AFRH-W Local Advisory Board members listen as Chief Operating Officer Timothy Cox shows an aerial display of the Washington campus.

(JCAHO) and the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) and the next DoD inspection is in 2009.

Before the conclusion, smaller break out groups met to discuss marketing and imaging and maintaining the military heritage connection.

We will keep the Advisory Board updated on future accomplishments as well as challenges we face at AFRH and we look forward to follow up meetings and visits to our Home.

*Timothy Cox*



Major General Hawley-Bowland of the AFRH-W Local Advisory Board and Timothy Cox, AFRH Chief Operating Officer.

## Members of SECNAV Retiree Council visit the AFRH



During a tour of the AFRH, members of the Secretary of the Navy Retiree Council listen as Timothy Cox, AFRH Chief Operating Officer, center standing, answers questions about the services available to residents.

Members of the Navy's Retiree Council were in Washington D.C. the week of April 14-18 and made a stop at the AFRH on April 15 to tour the facility and visit with residents. While at the AFRH, the group received a walking tour of residential living areas (Sheridan and Scott building). The tour also included visiting the bowling center, wood shop, fitness center, and AAFES, ceramics, library, theater and wellness center. The final stop was at the dining hall for lunch with the residents.



The SECNAV Retiree Council members on tour of the AFRH during a recent visit to Washington, D.C.

## Black Jack game show a big hit

*By Keith Turner*

If you missed this game show, you missed having a lot of fun filled with plenty of laughs. A total of 24 residents signed up to play the game with many spectators. Mike Longwell who assisted Keith Turner made an awesome team as they kept everyone laughing and into the game from the beginning to the end. Mr. Shapiro, Mr. Robinson, Mr. Barnard, and Mr. Friesel were our four finalist and what a championship match it turned out to be. For the first time in Black Jack history, we had to break a four way tie after the end of the game with an overtime hand that Larry Friesel played perfectly as he walked away with the money and the Championship Title.

Congratulations Larry Friesel our Black Jack Champion.



Larry Friesel plays a hand during the Black Jack game. Larry won the championship match and walked away with the money and the championship title.

# Welcome Aboard



**Name:** James Abell  
**Branch of Service:** US Army  
**Entry Date:** March 1945  
**Separation Date:** November 1951  
**Rank:** E-8  
**War Theaters:** WWII & Korea



**Name:** Bernice Bates  
**Branch of Service:** US Army  
**Entry Date:** May 1971  
**Separation Date:** June 1991  
**Rank:** E-8  
**War Theaters:**



**Name:** Henry Easterling  
**Branch of Service:** US Air Force  
**Entry Date:** September 1946  
**Separation Date:** January 1976  
**Rank:** E-8  
**War Theaters:** Korea & Vietnam



**Name:** Walter Bryant  
**Branch of Service:** US Navy  
**Entry Date:** August 1965  
**Separation Date:** January 1986  
**Rank:** E-6  
**War Theaters:** Vietnam



**Name:** Peter Dounis  
**Branch of Service:** US Army  
**Entry Date:** December 1943  
**Separation Date:** April 1946  
**Rank:** E-3  
**War Theaters:** WWII



**Name:** Gene O'Donnell  
**Branch of Service:** US Air Force  
**Entry Date:** November 1943  
**Separation Date:** September 1965  
**Rank:** E-6  
**War Theaters:** WWII & Korea



**Name:** Gloria O'Flarity  
**Branch of Service:** US Navy  
**Entry Date:** July 1945  
**Separation Date:** November 1970  
**Rank:** E-6  
**War Theaters:** WWII, Korea & Vietnam



**Name:** Thomas Keating  
**Branch of Service:** US Army  
**Entry Date:** May 1937  
**Separation Date:** November 1945  
**Rank:** E-4  
**War Theaters:** WWII



**Name:** Robert Matthews  
**Branch of Service:** US Army  
**Entry Date:** June 1985  
**Separation Date:** November 1992  
**Rank:** E-5  
**War Theaters:** Desert Storm & Iraq



**Name:** Garland White  
**Branch of Service:** US Army  
**Entry Date:** August 1941  
**Separation Date:** March 1964  
**Rank:** E-8  
**War Theaters:** WWII & Korea



**Name:** Richard Thrasher  
**Branch of Service:** US Navy  
**Entry Date:** June 1942  
**Separation Date:** October 1962  
**Rank:** E-7  
**War Theaters:** WWII & Korea



**Name:** Valentine L. Ramos  
**Branch of Service:** US Army  
**Entry Date:** April 1957  
**Separation Date:** April 1979  
**Rank:** E-8  
**War Theaters:** Vietnam



**Name:** Lawrence Cleaver  
**Branch of Service:** US Air Force  
**Entry Date:** January 1954  
**Separation Date:** October 1980  
**Rank:** E-6  
**War Theaters:** Vietnam

## Third Annual Veterans Appreciation Day

Saturday, May 10, 2008

Izaak Walton League of America - Wildlife Achievement Chapter  
 2640 Mullinex Mill Road, Mt. Airy, MD 21771

Military veterans from WWII to Iraq will have the opportunity to enjoy the comradeship of fellow veterans and their families in friendly atmosphere filled with:

- static displays including military vehicles, equipment, combat gear and gadgets from WWII to present
- WWII reenactment activities including live fire exhibitions and interactive displays
- the opportunity to shoot firearms from WWII through Vietnam to Iraq on the rifle and pistol ranges. Hearing and eye protection will be provided to all participants.
- food and refreshments will be provided

All displays, reenactments, activities, food and refreshment are provided at no cost to veterans.

## From the Director



I am reading Colonel Paul Goode's book *The United States Soldiers' Home*. This book documents the story of the Soldiers' Home first

hundred years in its effort to care for those who had given the country so much. Colonel Goode tells of the long struggle it took to establish the Home, originally called Military Asylum. Now today, the word "asylum" carries with it a very negative association because we think of it as a place of restriction for the mentally ill. But in the 1800's the word meant a place of safety, a refuge and security. I think it good that the name was changed but the objective must be carried out, that the Armed Forces Retirement Home will always be a refuge and place of safety for all who make this their home.

As I was walking to the office from my quarters this morning, I stopped for a moment and talked to a smiling guy named Marcus who has worked here for a year. He was cleaning trash up around a building. We chatted a bit about how long we had worked here and he asked me, "How do you like it?" Before I could reply, Marcus went on, "It's the greatest job in the world - helping people, huh?" Marcus is right and demonstrated a great attitude.

Command Sergeant Major Gainey spoke after being recognized for his friendship and contributions to the Home at his award ceremony on the 17th of April. In his address he "charged" me, or as I understood it, he imposed a duty on me to do everything to see that the Armed Forces Retirement Home flourishes in its main purpose. That purpose is what Brevet Major Roger Anderson wrote on February 12, 1840, "Let the soldier know that a home is prepared for him where he will be kindly welcomed and well taken care of." That quote is taken from Colonel Goode's book *The United States Soldiers' Home*.

I will do my best to carry out my responsibility as I was charged by Command Sergeant Major Gainey.

David Watkins

## It was an IRS Super Saturday



A team of tax specialists from the Internal Revenue Service made a visit to the AFRH on Saturday, March 29 to assist residents with their income tax returns. Here, William Gray gets assistance from an IRS employee. The IRS called it Super Saturday and their goal was to assist veterans that normally do not file annual taxes to do so this year so that they are eligible to receive the economic stimulus payment. Some national media (ABC Evening News, FOX National) and local Ch-9 WUSA covered the event from AFRH. Approximately 70 residents received assistance with their tax returns on IRS Super Saturday.

## AFRH Library hosts 'Poem in Your Pocket' Day at AFRH

On Thursday, April 17, residents of AFRH participated in the nationwide 'Poem in your Pocket' Day. Sponsored by the Academy of American Poets, 'Poem in Your Pocket' Day, held during National Library Week, encouraged staff and residents to carry a short poem around all day and read it aloud to someone

they pass in the hallways at work. In observance of the day, the AFRH library hosted a morning of poetry which invited residents, guests, and staff to read aloud their favorite poems or poetry they



Resident Joseph Frogge plays his guitar prior to the poetry reading at the library.



A group of residents listen as poems are read aloud in the AFRH library. The poetry reading was part of the 'Poem in Your Pocket' observance which was held on April 17.

had written. The library chairs were filled with residents as they gathered around to listen to the poetry.

## Residents have flag flown in their honor for Iraqi Freedom

### Patriotism runs deep in the Logan family

By Mary Kay Gominger

Residents Ed and Elizabeth Logan were surprised one evening last month when their daughter and grandson came to the AFRH to have dinner with them. The surprise wasn't in the visit, it was what their grandson gave them that was so unexpected.

The Logans' grandson, Sgt. Aaron Thompson, is in the Army. He recently returned from Iraq. He brought home with him a U.S. flag that was flown over one of Hussein's administrative embassies. He drove over from Maryland with his mom to present it to his grandparents.

The citation with the flag read:

**Ed and Elizabeth Logan**

*This certifies that the accompanying flag was flown over the Headquarters of the Multi-National Corps-Iraq in your honor during Operation Iraqi Freedom.*

26 January 2008

"It was such a nice surprise," Elizabeth said. "We had no idea they even did anything like this," she said.

Ed Logan served in the Army during World War II. Elizabeth enlisted in the Navy. The end of the war brought them both back to their hometown of Philadelphia, Penn.

"I've known Ed my whole life," Elizabeth said with a laugh. "He says he doesn't remember the skinny little freckled

girl...he was 17 and I was 12...but I remember him. We met again when he came home from the war, on St. Patrick's Day. We were married six months later," Elizabeth said. The Logans have been married since 1946.

Two characteristics that run deep in the Logan family are patriotism and giving

back. In addition to their time in service during World War II, they had a son that served in the Navy in Vietnam, Elizabeth had two brothers that served in World War II and two brothers that served in Korea. Her father also served in World War II. Ed and his three brothers all served in the military. And in addition to their grandson Aaron in the Army, they also have a grandson, Daniel Nevitt, that served in the Marines and was injured in Iraq. He is attending college on a new scholarship for disabled veterans.

Ed and Elizabeth have been residents of the AFRH for a year. Prior to their move here they lived in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. They actually heard about the AFRH through the VA Clinic where they did volunteer work.

"We volunteered for eight years at the VA clinic in Myrtle Beach," Elizabeth said. "Before that, we volunteered at the hospital. We asked the VA about somewhere we could go live as we got older and needed assistance with cooking and things. They gave us a brochure that mentioned the AFRH. This place is perfect. We both love it," she said.

The flag given to the Logans' by their grandson is proudly displayed and will always be treasured.



Elizabeth and Ed Logan proudly display the flag and certificate given to them by their grandson Sgt. Aaron Thompson, U.S. Army. The flag was flown in Iraq in their honor.

## Resident served aboard namesake ship being built in honor of New Yorkers

Story by Mary Kay Gominger

"Don't scratch the paint," was the advice AFRH resident Robert Mattox good-naturedly gave to the prospective commanding officer of the future New York (LPD 21). Mattox, a resident of the AFRH since 2006, served aboard the USS New York (BB 34) during World War II and was attending a crew reunion last month in New Orleans, which happened also to be the same time the new ship was being christened.

"The commander laughed and shook my hand," said Mattox. "Once he found out that I was a former crew member he asked me all kinds of questions about my rate, the ship and my different tours in the Navy. I was glad I got the chance to meet him and hear him speak."

Mattox left Washington, D.C., on

Former crew members of the USS New York (BB 34) have a group photo taken in front of the future New York (LPD 21) at Northrop Grumman in New Orleans, La., on March 1, 2008.



February 20 to travel south to New Orleans, La., to attend the USS New York reunion. He served aboard the USS New York from September 1942 to September 1945 and was looking forward to visiting with former crewmates and their spouses.

"We had about 150 of our crew on hand at the reunion and then with spouses, it was quite a crowd," Mattox said.

"I caught up with one of my shipmates that I haven't seen since we walked off the ship in 1945," he continued. "I picked him right out of the crowd. There were several of



An old photograph taken of the USS New York (BB 34) during World War II.

my other close shipmates there too. It was

good to get together again."

Former New York crew members also attended the christening ceremony, held later during the week, and many plan on attending the commissioning ceremony which will be held in New York City in 2009.

The story behind how an amphibious transport dock ship came to be named after a state is out of the ordinary. In 2002, the Governor of New York made a special request of the Secretary of the Navy that the Navy revive the name USS New York in honor of September 11's victims and to give it a surface warship involved in the war on terror. State names are traditionally reserved for submarines but Governor Pataki asked for special consideration to honor the heroes who died on September 11, as well as to honor the courage and compassion shown by countless New Yorkers in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks.

The Navy approved and the ship keel was laid for New York on September 10, 2004, at Northrop Grumman Ships Systems, Avondale Operations, greater New Orleans area, Louisiana.

"Steel salvaged from the World Trade Center was used in the construction of the hull," Mattox said. "I was glad I had the opportunity to witness and take part in the ceremony."

On Monday, March 3, before heading back to Washington, Mattox planned a stop by the Gulfport facility, to check on the progress of the construction. Just so happened, that was the day of the ground break-



The crew of the USS New York (BB 34) pulls a downed aircraft from the water.

ing ceremony, so he witnessed that as well.

"I didn't know when I stopped by that I would get to see the ground breaking. That was nice to get to see," he said.

Mattox retired from the Navy with 21 years of service. Of life at the AFRH Mattox said, "there are no watches, the chow is great and nobody bothers you...it doesn't get any better than that."

## At AFRH

# Wounded veterans build a driftboat

By Mary Kay Gominger

It was more than a perfect fit. In a way, it was something resident John Colburn had been preparing for his whole life...since he was six years old, using a cane pole and patiently waiting for a hit on his line. He fished out of necessity back then, food for his family (he was born eight months and seven days before the Great Depression) and he just happened to have fun doing it. Nowadays, John donates his time and finely honed talents helping rehabilitate wounded veterans at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. He is Executive Vice-President of the Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing, Inc., and has been involved in the organization from its beginning in 2005.

"I heard Ed Nicholson (Captain, USN-R) talk about it at the 2005 National Angling Show and thought I could do some good by teaching fly tying to those with wounded hands and arms at Walter Reed," said John.

"I've been in it knee deep ever since," he said.

Currently, wounded veterans of Walter Reed are building a drift boat right here at AFRH, in Bldg. 77 in the Maintenance Yard. It is a project of Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing, Inc.

"The drift boat is being built by a crew made up of

wounded active duty service personnel from Walter Reed Army Medical Center and volunteers from the Washington area headed by Dr. Dale Harman (CDR, USN, stationed at Indian Head Naval Surface Warfare Center)," John said.

The boat was donated to Project Healing Waters by Montana Boatbuilders, Inc., and their suppliers, including System Three Resins and Allied Veneer. The Freestone Skiff, designed by Jason Cajune, is a 15'9" flat-bottom boat ideal for seated casting for two with a guide at the oars. According to John, the approximate cost for the boat kit, outboard motor and a trailer kit would be in excess of \$5,000. The PHWFF hopes to have the boat ready to launch at the end of the month at Fletcher's Cove on the Potomac River. That will be the National Casting Call sponsored by the American Fly Fishing Trade Association and is attended by representatives of the fly fishing trade, fly tackle shop owners, guides and outfitters, and fly fishing clubs.

"Project Healing Waters is an organization like no other I've been associated with," John said. "Our financing comes from tax-free donations of money and equipment, grants from foundations and businesses, and sale of excess equipment and materials. Volunteers donate their time and use of their vehicles and

equipment. They pay for their own travel and lodging and receive reimbursement only when it's for special expenses for the good of PHWFF."

"There are no 'members' of PHWFF Inc.," John said. "The officers, Board of Trustees, the regional coordinators, and the volunteers come from the local fly fishing clubs that sponsor the PHWFF programs at military and VA hospitals and interested citizens. The hospital patients who participate in the program do so as a part of their occupational and

## A brief look at residents' military bio

John's life-long passion for fishing really did start at an early age but it was just as much fishing for food as it was having fun.

"I learned to fish at a pretty young age...six years old for serious fishing with a cane pole," John said.

"At 12 years my granddad gave me an old bamboo fly rod and I used that to fish with garden hackle (worms). At 15, I started fishing with flies...our family motto was 'you got to hunt and fish for meat. If you ain't lucky, we don't eat.'"

Fishing took a back seat to the U.S. Army when, at 17, John signed up and took Coast Artillery Corps Anti-Aircraft Artillery basic training. He did a three-year hitch and got out to take some college course using the GI Bill.

In January 1951, John reenlisted and first spent an unbearably cold two years in Michigan on an AAA gun and then on to Korea, then two years as an instructor at the Far East Anti-Aircraft Artillery Specialist School, which according to him, was the best assignment he had in the Army.

John spent 20 years and 2 days in the Army and retired as a CWO 3. Seventeen of those years were spent in AAA and according to John he never fired a shot in anger, but spent much of it ready to shoot in 5 minutes or less and shooting at practice targets.

John spent 20 years and 2 days in the Army and retired as a CWO 3. Seventeen of those years were spent in AAA and according to John he never fired a shot in anger, but spent much of it ready to shoot in 5 minutes or less and shooting at practice targets.



John Colburn demonstrates fly tying.



Diane Lopes helps sand 'Mending,' the drift boat that veterans of Walter Reed Army Medical Center are building. The drift boat was dedicated on Monday, April 28 at the National Casting Call at the Boathouse at Fletcher's Cove on the Potomac River.

recreational therapy treatment. When they leave the hospital and return to active duty or are discharged or retired from the service, they are welcome to participate in any PHWFF activities. We do try and keep contact with them after they leave the hospital. Also, families of the patients and former patients area welcome to participate. Once a PHWFF fly fisher, always a PHWFF fly fisher."

John moved into 'The Soldiers' Home' in August 2000. "Back in the good old days when you reported for pay, saluted the paying officer, and signed the pay book, there was a column in the book marked "OSH" with "\$0.10" marked after each name. I asked the First Sergeant what that was for and learned it was for the Old Soldiers' Home in Washington, DC. That's the name I prefer to use."

**With help of U.S. Army**

**Endangered horses survive WWII**

By Mary Kay Gominger

The Lipizzan horses, famous for their agility and strength, beauty, grace, and uncanny ability to perform precision movements in the dressage arena, have roots that trace back to the 16th century. The Lipizzan is a breed of horse closely associated with the Spanish Riding School of Vienna, Austria. Almost exclusively gray or white in color, Lipizzans, through the years, have etched a spot in horse lovers hearts all over the world with their inspiring talent and showmanship in the riding ring.

One of our residents, Army veteran Raymond Chatterton, has a connection with the Lipizzan horse that goes beyond being a spectator of their world famous performance.

Ray, in 1945 while serving with General George S. Patton's 2nd U.S. Cavalry Group, was instrumental in the rescue of the Lipizzans which were threatened by bombing raids, starvation and slaughter, had the Army not stepped in and evacuated the herd from Austria.

"I was part of the 2nd Cavalry Reconnaissance," Ray said. "I was positioned in the point vehicle that cleared the roads for the horses to be transported. At one point, about 20 miles inside Czechoslovakia, we got hit by platoon of German marines. We captured the platoon and got the horses moved through. We kept the horses safe until they could be returned to Austria after the war."

Ray recalled feeding and exercising the horses as they waited to safely return the horses to the people of Austria and the Spanish Riding School. It is estimated that approximately

250 Lipizzans survived the war and today, that number exceeds 3,000. His units' efforts saved the horses as well as an equestrian tradition.

Born in rural upstate New York, Ray, now 86, spent most of his childhood, when not working on the farm tending cows, on a tractor, or in the vegetable garden, in the woods. So when he joined the Army in 1941, reconnaissance work was the perfect fit. In the shadow of the woods was where he felt

most at home.

Ray earned two Purple Hearts (1945 and 1951) and a Bronze Star (1945) and numerous other awards during his 24 years in the Army. He is the survivor of not one, but two, vehicle explosions. One he has no memory of whatsoever.

"I came to in the hospital and I couldn't remember what happened," Ray recalled. "What I did know was that I didn't have any teeth. The explosion blew my teeth out of my mouth."

The Army fixed him up and sent him back to the front sporting a new pair of teeth.

Ray has lived at the AFRH in Washington since 1986.

**The Lipizzan horse is famous for its graceful and strong movement in the show arena. The Army helped save the breed during World War II.**



Ray Chatterton has a display of his many awards on his wall in his room. Ray served with an Army unit that is credited with helping to save the Lipizzan horses during World War II.

**And speaking of horses....**

Does anyone remember hearing or reading about the ghost of Dexter?

Seems Dexter was a horse, not just any horse mind you, but the only retired horse in the Navy (according to the April 1978 issue of the Home Post, the official Naval Home publication). He pulled the cart about the



grounds of the Naval Home in Philadelphia for years and, according to the article, at chow time would stick his nose in

the back window and beg for apples.

Here's the story on Dexter, the Navy Home horse:

Dexter served in the Army as a young colt. On July 4, 1946, he was transferred to the Naval Home where for the next 20 years he earned his keep by pulling a two wheel cart.

On June 16, 1966, Dexter received his Honorable Discharge and was retired to a farm for old horses in Exton, Pa.

Dexter lasted only two months on the retirement farm. He was so homesick the doctor (vet?) ordered him back to the Naval Home. "As soon as he came home," declared resident Brennecke, "his appetite improved and he enjoyed being back home."

When he died in 1968, he was given a funeral at the Naval Home and was buried with honors in the grave site known as Dexter Park. A suitable plaque was erected over his grave.

It is said that the ghost of Dexter transferred with the residents of Philadelphia to Gulfport and still rides the range in Mississippi. Perhaps the ghost of Dexter is still about...



**Residents featured**

**Fictional book is story of life for veterans in post-war America**

When local author Richard Haddock began visiting the AFRH a year and a half ago, he envisioned interviewing many of the veterans here to write a story about their exploits in World War II. But as he met dozens of residents and listened to their stories over lunch, in their rooms or on walks around the grounds, Richard's book idea expanded to post-war America and eventually to life here at the AFRH.

As the book nears completion Richard has coordinated with Sheila Abarr and Deborah Rittenhouse to organize a book signing day here at AFRH where Richard will sign free copies of his book for those residents who wish to have them. An article in next month's Communicator will announce the time and day of the book signing ceremony and all residents are invited to hear a short reading from the book and to receive their signed copies.

The story and the characters are fictional but are inspired by the many visits, conversations and friends Richard has made here at AFRH. If you would like a free copy of the book, autographed by the author, please sign up in the AFRH library. Copies of Richards' eight other books will be donated to the AFRH library as well.

**Summary of *Closing The Circle* written by Richard Haddock**

Tommy Marshall was eighteen when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. Like thousands of young men he enlisted, anxious to seek revenge and adventure. But the Army assigned him to a finance job in London where he languished as others fought the enemy on the battlefield. A chance encounter with Eisenhower landed Tommy in a combat unit and he found himself amongst those storming Omaha Beach on D-Day. What Tommy witnessed would change him forever; the loss of comrades creating a killing frenzy and heroics that won him the Congressional Medal of Honor during the Battle of the Bulge.

After the war Tommy tried to fit back into an America that was distancing itself from the scars of war. He married, started a family and a career, and pursued his newly won

American dream. But that dream ultimately became a nightmare as his wife and son died and his career ended in bitterness. Thirty years of love, devotion and hard work and he was broke and alone.

When Tommy entered the old soldier's home in Washington, D.C. he was bitter and resolved to spend his final years as a recluse. But when he returned to France for the 50th anniversary of D-Day, his perspective changed when he found the graves of his wartime buddies in Normandy and challenged himself to enjoy a life they had been denied.

Tommy's renewed life was filled with energy and purpose; helping fellow veterans adjust to "retirement," becoming a roving reporter for the AFRH newspaper and enjoying

his beloved game of golf again. He and his "musketees" became a campus fixture; enjoying humor and outspoken opinions on the state of the world. But as Tommy's buddies slipped away, he had to deal once again with the specter of death.

Tommy's story is about a unique generation of Americans, subjected to the unimaginable horrors of war, struggling to blend back into society, then spending their golden years reflecting on life's meaning amongst their fellow veterans. This is a story of the hope and promise wrought from war, of how its lessons changed those who fought it, and how a new generation has much to learn from those who sacrificed for our prosperity and freedom.



**Sharing a meal**

Telling tales over lunch from right to left: Carrol Collins, Woodrow Williams, Mac McCarty, Richard Haddock, William David Anderberg, and Lindsey Brothers.

# Road trip

## Residents enjoy day touring Baltimore's historic surroundings

With a 52 passenger bus filled to near capacity, residents of the AFRH headed off to Baltimore, Maryland, on Saturday, April 19, for a day of fellowship, sightseeing and dining. One of the special interest areas enjoyed during the outing was a tour of Fort McHenry.

Founded in 1776 but best known for its role in the War of 1812 when it successfully defended Baltimore Harbor from an attack by the British navy in Chesapeake Bay, Fort McHenry, through the years, has become a popular tourist attraction. It was during this bombardment of the fort that Francis Scott Key was inspired to write *The Star Spangled Banner*; the poem that would eventually be turned into our country's national anthem. The fort was made a national park in 1925 and was redesignated in 1939 a National Monument and Historic Shrine, the only such doubly registered place in the United States. It was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1966.

Residents were free to roam and pick their areas of interest once they arrived at the harbor. Many roamed the shops around the harbor while others boated over to Fort McHenry. It was a great day for an outing.



Gigi Malone (left), Marion Ritchie and Gesidio Salerno take in the sights in and around the Baltimore Harbor during the Recreation Services sponsored day trip on April 19.



Buzz Bazylewicz and Ed Zoromski sit and talk on a bench in front of Baltimore Harbor.



It was a perfect day for sailing and many residents enjoyed watching this sailboat from the harbor.



Tourists stroll along one of the sidewalks at Fort McHenry enjoying the beautiful landscape.



We all need our own space...seagulls enjoy a view of the harbor.