

DC Firefighters Association, Local #36 sponsors Antique Fire Apparatus Show

By Mary Kay Gominger

On Sunday, September 17, 2006, the DC Firefighters Association, Local #36, hosted an Antique Fire Apparatus Show at the Armed Forces Retirement Home to benefit the D.C. Firefighters Burn Foundation. Starting at 9 a.m., residents spent the morning browsing through the 29 pieces of trucks and equipment on display.

Tim Jones, a lieutenant with the DC Fire Department, along with Ray Sneed, President and member of the Executive Board of Local 36, coordinated the event with Laura Fogarty of



A resident inspects a fire truck during the DC Firefighters Association's Antique Fire Apparatus show held here on September 17.

The proceeds go to pay for summer camp for children that have sustained serious burns...

recall when these trucks weren't antiques, they were working fire trucks," Tim said. "There was one fire truck here from Rockville that a resident remembered from when he lived in that town. He actually remembered seeing that truck going down his street. Its' stories like that we enjoy hearing."

The DC Firefighters Burn Foundation benefits from this antique show and several other fund raisers throughout the year and the proceeds go to pay for summer camp for children that have sus-

tained serious burns.

"These shows are a hobby for us and most of us travel all over the country, showing off our vehicles and equipment but this particular show, we mainly we do it for the children. There are so many expenses involved with burn victims; you have hospital bills and treatments and there's no money left for anything else, much less fun things. And then so many times, because of the extent of the burns, a child isn't comfortable being around

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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.

Editorial views and opinions expressed in these pages are not necessarily those of AFRH or its leadership. Your comments and suggestions are always welcome. Contact any PAO staff member to share your feedback.

AFRH-W Editors' Column



As the days grow shorter and cooler, our thoughts turn to the coming brilliant colors of autumn, and my thoughts turned to, “**The Good Ol’ Days,**” or were they?

Once upon a time in 1952 I was stationed at Fort Gordon, Georgia, and received orders transferring me to Fort Bliss, Texas. My bride and I left for Texas in July. As I recall, in those days before the Interstates, the Augusta, Georgia, temperature was 111° with a humidity of around 99%. I was driving a 1949 Lincoln without air conditioning. **It was HOT!**

The trip was mostly on US-80 which we picked up in Macon. We drove through Selma Ala., Montgomery Ala., Meridian Miss., Monroe and Shreveport La., Dallas-Fort Worth Tx., and finally El Paso.. For the most part US-80 in those days was two lanes and the trip took three days with about 15 hours of driving each day.

We were able to buy a gallon thermos full of ice for a dollar. Driver cooling was accomplished by my wife occasionally throwing ice water in my face.

For the first days my wife kept asking, “When are we going to get to Texas?” Once we arrived in Marshall Texas, the next question was. “When are we going to get out of Texas?”

Usually the last thing that is completed for this newspaper is this column. My justification for this is that I like to look the completed paper over and point my comments at the paper content. However, this time I just reminisced rather than my usual pontificating.

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AFRH is not just a place to live but a place to live more. Our model retirement centers are designed for residents to maintain an independent lifestyle in an environment designed for safety, comfort and personal enrichment.

Eligibility:

Veterans are eligible to become a resident of the AFRH if their active duty service in the military was at least 50 percent enlisted, warrant officer or limited duty officer and who are:

- **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 following office:

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

Message from the Chief Operating Officer



The staff at AFRH is focused on providing exceptional service to our residents in a multitude of areas such as health care, your safety and living conditions, recreational services and resident services. Meeting the needs of our military retirees and veterans is a challenge that is ongoing, ever-changing and is a continuous work in progress; that is, it has no start and end point. Our goal is to not only meet your needs but surpass them. This was the discussion at the offsite the AFRH management team attended this past May. We met for three uninterrupted days and identified certain areas that we as a group determined warranted a closer look to ensure that we were in fact meeting your needs in these areas. In the last several issues of the Communicator I shared with you the progress we are making in health care and recreation. This month, I'll update you on the progress of two departments, Campus Operations and Safety, whose services have not only a direct impact on your standard of living but their services often meet at cross sections making it necessary that they coordinate their services so as not to cause an interruption or delay in processing work requests.

The AFRH has an infrastructure that dates back, in most cases, more than 50 years. The potential for safety concerns due to deterioration, changing building codes, and improved life safety codes is an ever-present concern. To ensure the right resources are applied to correct any of these issues, our Director Ben Laub

relies on input and support from the AFRH Safety Officer Reginald Johnson and the Chief of Campus Operations David Rouse. These three individuals meet weekly to review ongoing work requests and conditions, and determine solutions to ensure that residents, staff, and visitors remain safe.

One of the initial actions completed by this group was a Facilities Condition Assessment of the primary buildings within the AFRH Campus. This detailed analysis of the structural, electrical, mechanical, and life safety issues was performed by an outside Architect & Engineering firm. Their initial estimates reveal approximately \$300M in work is required to correct existing deficiencies throughout the AFRH Campus. Even before this report was completed, we began to work many of the issues. The AFRH streetlight system is actively being resolved with control circuit repairs, lighting fixture replacements, and new wiring is being installed, where required, to enhance nighttime safety and security of the residents. Although the Pipes Building served us well as a short-term solution for housing, due to its age and deteriorating condition, it would not withstand another winter without a major overhaul. As such, a tremendous effort was placed on getting every resident room within Sheridan and Scott Buildings ready for occupancy so that we could move the remaining residents and shutdown the Pipes Building.

Safety and Campus Operations will continue to partner and resolve work requests with priority being given to repairs that involve the safety of our residents and staff. Your cooperation is appreciated and your feedback is always welcome.

Tim Cox

Conversation with the Chief Financial Officer



September has been a busy month for the CFO's office.

Certification and Accreditation

AFRH has been inspected by the Bureau of Public Debt (BPD) for Certification and Accreditation of its Information Technology security. AFRH has been working since 2003 to strengthen its conformance to the Federal Information Security Management Act (FISMA), the Computer Security Act and OMB Circular A-130.

In September AFRH went through rigorous technology security controls testing and has completed the Security Certification and Accreditation (C&A) phases as outlined by the National Institutes of Standards and Technology (NIST). The Security Certification phase is a comprehensive assessment of the management, operational and technical security controls in an information system. The Accreditation phase is the final acceptance by an authorizing official of the identified security variables in which the agency IT operations, technical security controls and continuous risk monitoring are at a level of concurrence with FISMA. What that means to you as residents is that our IT systems are fully secure and in conformance with Federal regulations. Congratulations are in order for our IT department!

AFRH User's Fees

In June's Communicator, I informed you that the COO received a letter requesting information about the user's fees here at AFRH. The questions are below. Answers for questions 3 and 4 were available, and the answers for questions 1 and 2 were not available because we were transitioning from one accounting system to a new one. Here are the questions and answers to 1 and 2:

1-What is the average user's fee paid by retired military personnel?

Category 1 (916) Monthly total: \$733,651.92 Average: \$800.93

2- What is the average user's fee paid by non-military retired and those not in receipt of VA disability compensation?

Category 3 (146) Monthly total: \$85,541.77 Average: \$585.90

Category 4 (60) Monthly total: \$30,206.45 Average: \$487.20

Total: \$115,748.22 Average: \$561.88

Note: Category 2 was not part of the questions.

Category 2 (78) Monthly total: \$43,890.33 Average: \$562.70

Overall Monthly total for all categories combined: \$893,290.47

Overall Average for all categories \$744.41

Thanks to Tim Bourgeois for gathering this information for us.

Please continue to contact me about AFRH financial issues of interest to you. I am looking forward to hearing from you soon!

Steve McManus

Office of the Director



The Resident Advisory Council has been elected and I would like to thank the many residents who supported this effort. AFRH had in excess of 40% turnout for the election. That speaks well of the support and acclaim that the newly elected R.A.C. and officers enjoy with our residents.

In my earlier column I commented that elected office is a trust and I feel strongly that under Mr. "Kit" Kitson's leadership, the R.A.C. and the AFRH will make enormous strides. I add my support to the single R.A.C. and its leadership in AFRH.

As a part of upgrading the AFRH and its' facilities, we will be replacing the roof on the Scott Building as quickly as we can assemble the needed resources and contracts. This is a massive undertaking but we are pleased at this juncture to insure that the residents will be safe and secure.

We continue to move forward in upgrading our safety and the upkeep of our Home property. On behalf of all of our staff, I thank our residents for your support and your positive attitude.

In case you were not at my prior Town Hall meetings, I urge you to not feed any of the squirrels or birds that populate our grounds. You share the responsibility in keeping our Home grounds clean by not scattering food about our property.

Ben Laub

This is worth fighting for!!!

Submitted by Mike Haddad

*I saw a peaceful old valley
With a carpet of corn for a floor,
Then I heard a voice within me whisper...
This is worth fighting for.*

*I saw a little old cabin and a river that flowed
by the door
Than I heard that voice within me whisper
This is worth fighting for.*

*Didn't I build the cabin?
Didn't I plant that corn?
Didn't my folks before me fight for this
country?
Before I was born?*

*I gather my loved ones around me
And I gazed at each face I adore
Then I heard that voice within, thunder!
THIS IS WORTH FIGHTING FOR!!*

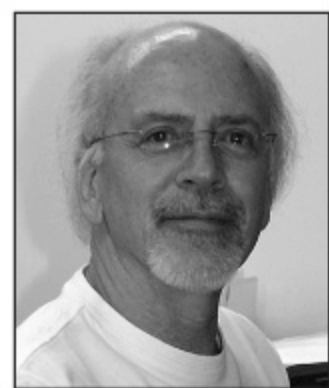
The Veterans History Project: Honoring American Heroes

The Veterans History Project (VHP) is part of the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress, and its mission is to collect and preserve the personal recollections of U.S. wartime veterans, to honor their service and share their stories with current and future generations. Collections may take the form of audio- or video-recorded interviews, memoirs, collections of letters and photographs, diaries, and other historical documents from veterans of World War I through current conflicts. Noncombatant wartime civilians who worked in support of our armed forces (i.e., war industry workers, USO workers, flight instructors, medical volunteers) are also encouraged to contribute their stories.

VHP has embarked on a program called the Retirement Community Outreach Initiative (RCOI), to record the stories of veterans in our nation's retirement communities without draining community resources and without in any way burdening staff and community administrators. Stories are added to the permanent collections of the Library of Congress.

To learn more about the Veterans History Project and request more information about the RCOI plan, contact Jeffrey Lofton at jlof@loc.gov or call (202) 707-6432. Visit the Web site at www.loc.gov/vets. AFRH residents can also contact Sheila Motley, AFRH Public Affairs Officer at ext. 3556.

News from Gulfport



Hello from the Mississippi Gulf Coast. We miss all of you and we hope that this note finds each of you in good spirits and active in your own way. You are

always on our mind and we, as staff, continue to tell wonderful stories about each of you. There are so many stories that continue to “bring the house down” with laughter and there are moments where we simply smile in remembrance of someone that was an integral part of our family.

It is fairly common knowledge that the gates of the Armed Forces Retirement Home-Gulfport (AFRH-G) will be secured on 03 November 2006, and the remaining staff on the ground will move on to other occupations and some employees will simply retire. Mary Kay will continue as the Public Affairs Officer for the Gulfport site and will provide updates to all of you on the status of the new Home. The AFRH agency is working with the General Service Administration (GSA) on the new Home project and hopefully in the not too distant future word on the project will be disseminate to each of you. This certainly will be an exciting time.

The Seabees have completed the fence project at the Home and we now are the proud owners of a new fence line that surrounds over 2500 feet of the Home’s property. Much of the old existing fence remains in place, especially on the east and north side of the Home’s property line. One of the more interesting aspects of the fence project was the involvement of a gentleman who invented, patent pending, a fence dispensing machine that greatly assisted the Seabees in stringing the fencing material. We all wish Mr. Sam Albritton well with his new device and it very definitely saved a significant amount of time and effort. Just ask the Seabees.

We will start next week the process of transporting the older pieces of furniture that remain in the tower rooms to a staging area on the bottom floor. These items will be donated to charity. Terre Lee is working really hard to ensure that we conduct all donation projects in a business like manner. The building should be just about empty of all furniture when this project is completed. All the vehicles that were effected by the storm, including those parked in the downtown garage, have finally been removed from the facility. A “big thanks” goes to Kevin McCombs and Chuck Dickerson for their help in working so closely with the residents on this project.

I recently was involved in a lengthy conversation with General Kitchens (Army retired) about the Chapel. He was a graduating cadet in the Class of 1936 from the Military Academy and he has remained a staunch advocate for the resurrecting of the Chapel to its former glory, post Hurricane Katrina. He and many of the former cadets are really interested in the post Katrina building plans for the Home. He has offered to pen a Chapel story for the next issue of the Communicator.

I am really happy to say that Laura Throop will start her new job assignment with the Biloxi Veterans Administration Hospital in early October. We will miss her smiling ways and caring hands and we all wish her the very best in her new employment. I spoke with Becki Z. this week at the Mayor’s office in Biloxi and she really seems to be happy with her new job. She definitely misses all the residents and the fine friends that she has made while working for the Home. Chris Eaves is managing our office work and she is really doing a wonderful job. We are so fortunate to have Chris on the job.

We wish each of you the very best that life has to offer. All of the employees on the ground in Gulfport wish each of you the very best of health and always remember that you are in our hearts and minds each day.

Robert Locke

Air Force celebrates 59th year



Cake Cutting in honor of Air Force Birthday Celebration

The AFRH celebrated the Air Force’s 59th anniversary on September 15, with a cake cutting ceremony in the Scott Theater. Pictured left to right are: Lt. Col. John Archield, Chief of Education and Advanced Distributing Learning, ANG, RAC Chairman Kit Kitson, Homer Rutherford, Oldest Airman Herbert Simonds and Youngest Airman Steven Bilidew.

Photo by Sheila Motley

Then and Now...

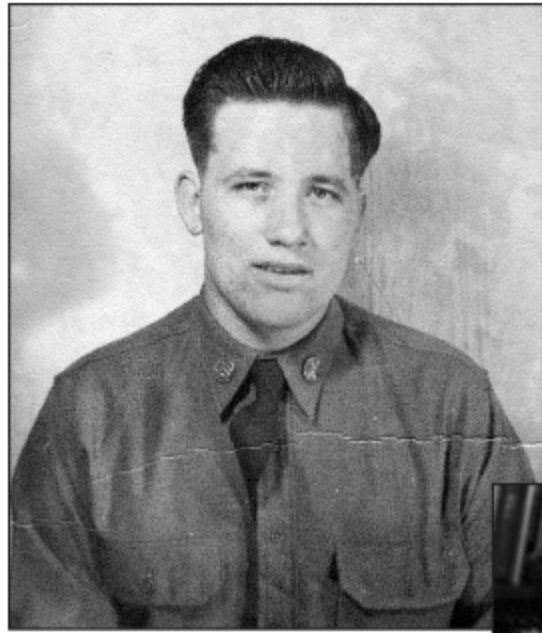
Charles Jones

James Fulton



Robert Armstrong

Nelson Jamison



Two residents carry distinction of holding the Combat Infantryman's Badge

By Bill Tobin

The Combat Infantryman's Badge (CIB) was established by the War Department on October 27, 1943. Lieutenant General Lesley J. McNair, then the Army Ground Forces commanding general, was instrumental in its creation. He originally recommended that

it be called the "fighter badge." The CIB was designed to

enhance morale and the prestige of the "Queen of Battle."

Here at the Armed Forces Retirement Home there are two residents who have the admirable distinction of having earned this award three separate times. They are Steve Hakala and John Wasil, both of whom are now in their eighties.

Steve Hakala

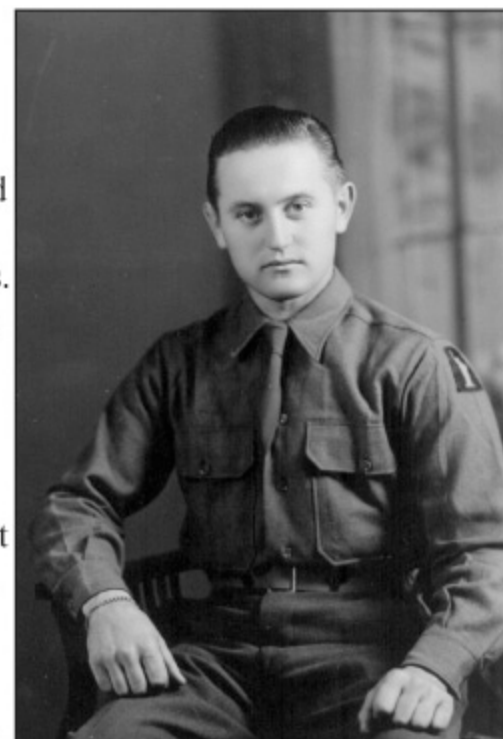
Steve was with the 25th Infantry Division, assigned to the 158th Regimental Combat Team (RCT). They were called the Bushmasters. This group was activated in Ft. Sill, Okla., in 1940. In 1941 the Bushmasters went to Camp Barkley, Texas, starting their journey to the Far East. But first came their Panama campaign in 1942. Next was the Wakde Saomi Islands in 1944, then it was on to Lingayen and Batangas in the PI in 1945. From there it was

on to Japan where they began occupation duty at Utsunomiya until Jan. 17, 1946, when they were deactivated. Steve states that all the campaigns were taxing and difficult but he thought that the campaign at Wakde-Saomi was the hardest of all. And in that fight (as with all the others) the "American Indian" troops really outdid themselves with their bravery and tenacity. Especially noted were those in F Company. He retired from the Army in Germany in 1967.

John Wasil, Jr.

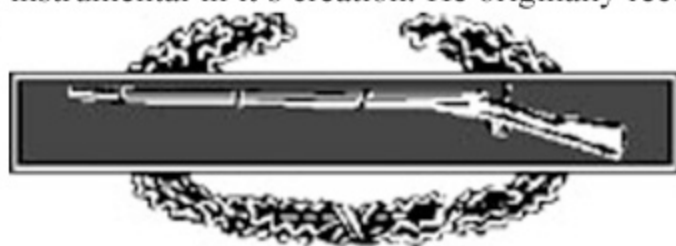
John was born on Jan. 3, 1920, in Czechoslovakia, now

known as the Republic of Slovakia. He immigrated to the U.S. on May 1, 1938, where he lived in NYC. His father was an iron worker and John worked in a butcher shop for two-and-a-half years. In December of 1942 he was drafted into the Army and sent to Ft. Jackson, S.C., for training with Company B, 398th Infantry, 100th Division. From there he went to the 77th Infantry Division at Camp Pickett, Va. Next it was on to Oahu, Hawaii, for three months of amphibious training, and on to a transport ship for the invasion of Guam. From Guam it was to New Caledonia for R&R.



After some "fun in the sun" it was on to Leyte in the PI, where he landed at Tacloban. John, now with the 1st Battalion, 306th Infantry Regiment, then landed at Bataan. Next he received orders from Admiral Spruance for Wasil's "Army Marines" to join Task Force - 77 for the invasion of Okinawa. A landing was made at Kerama Retto followed by one at Geruma Shima to land howitzers in support of further landings on Okinawa. It was there that Wasil became the first American troop to set foot on Japanese soil. He was a BAR man and the first man off the landing craft. Next up it was to Tokashiki-shima. It took seven days to take the island with Kamikazes attacking daily. On that island his group found 4,000 Japanese soldiers and civilians who had committed Hara Kiri. Of that number 1,500 were still alive. So, according to the Geneva Convention these casualties were treated and sent off to hospitals elsewhere.

The invasion of Okinawa was plainly visible as it was only a few miles away. Then it was over to Ie Shima where he wound up in a mine field. Luckily he stepped back "carefully." It also took seven days to take that island. It was on that island that the famed WWII writer Ernie Pyle was killed. Now it was off to Okinawa where his group relieved the 27th Division. It then took two months to take the last 10,000 yards. The island was secured on June 30, 1945. A landing party of admirals and generals coming in for a photo op was fired upon by Japanese mortars and Lt. Gen. Buckner was killed. The large bay at the southern end of the island is now named for him. He was the only three star killed in action by enemy fire. Now it was off to Cebu, PI, for more practice landings in preparation for the landings in Tokyo Bay. On Aug. 14th, 1945, word was received that the Japanese had surrendered unconditionally and soon Wasil was sent back to the USA for discharge at Ft. Dix. Of the 190 men who left Camp Pickett, 120 were killed and 68 were wounded. Only two were never scratched. John Wasil was one of them!



Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers

Army program helps soldiers, entertains veterans

By Melodie Menke

Active duty Army volunteers from the Walter Reed Army Medical Center spent Thursday, September 14, 2006, at the Armed Forces Retirement Home participating in the Army's Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers (BOSS) program. BOSS supports the overall quality of life for single and unaccompanied soldiers. The BOSS program encourages and assists single soldiers in identifying and planning for recreational and leisure activities. It provides an opportunity for single soldiers to participate in and contribute to their respective communities. The philosophical foundation of the BOSS program is based on the entitlement of single soldiers to surface issues and recommend policy changes that will enhance their overall quality of life, to participate in recreation and leisure activities of their choice, and to contribute to and participate in their local communities. This program provides an opportunity to assist in the development of single soldiers as leaders.

The Walter Reed Boss Program was here to provide a fun afternoon of old fashioned bingo for the veterans of AFRH. They provided the prizes except for the grand prize of \$100 Sears gift certificate that was provided by AARP,



Residents enjoy playing bingo with active duty Army volunteers.



Doris Jones picks out a prize during the bingo game sponsored by the WRAMC BOSS program.

which went to Marge Jirak for the overall bingo winner. The BOSS volunteers served refreshments and helped some residents with the bingo cards. The residents and soldiers had a chance to socialize during the change between games and after the bingo.

Command Sergeant Major Jeffrey Miller, who oversees the BOSS Program for WRAMC, attended the event. He said, "We active duty service members have had .50 taken from our pay every pay period and I feel that all service members should come see the historical landmark that we contribute to. I come here to spend time with the veterans that served before me and hope that the troops after me will come to spend time with me as well. I'm just giving back to a piece of history and hopefully I'll receive the same."

Also in attendance was Brenda Hardaway, the Morale Welfare Recreation (MWR) advisor. She said, "I was sent to a meeting and decided that this would be something that I would enjoy and I was right because I enjoy working with the veterans here at the Armed Forces Retirement Home and the active duty volunteers. The interaction and involvement with the veter-



An active duty soldier volunteers to be caller during the bingo games.

ans and the active military soldiers is great. We all enjoy the time we spend with the veterans here at AFRH. Also, we all can learn quite a bit of our history from our veterans."

Residents enjoy a performance by the D.C. Fire Department Emerald Society Pipes and Drums Corps on Sunday, September 17, during the D.C. Fire Fighters Association, Local #36's annual Antique Fire Apparatus Show



'DC Firefighters, from page 1

other kids. So this burn camp is just for children who are recovering from burns," Tim said. Last year, the DC Firefighters Burn Foundation raised \$12,000 for the children's burn camp.

In addition to the Antique Show, residents were also treated to a performance by the D.C. Fire Department Emerald Society Pipes and Drums Corps.

"This is just an amazing group to watch and I knew the residents would enjoy their show," Tim said. "They just played at the Pentagon for the Chairman, Joint Chief of Staff for the 911 Memorial Service. Having them here each year is a real treat."

This is the third year the DC Firefighters Association, Local #36, has sponsored the Antique Fire Apparatus Show.

"We will definitely continue this annual event," Tim said. "It's our way of giving something back to this group of veterans that have given our country so much. It's a nice social event that the residents enjoy and just watching them inspecting our trucks and seeing their eyes light up as they recall their younger days is just a thrill for us. We are already making plans and are look forward to being back next year for our fourth show."



Resident Bill Conrad, an ex volunteer fireman and his son Mark, check out a fire truck.

Saturday, September 16

Volunteers welcomed at AFRH, make a difference in residents' quality of life

By Melodie Menke

It was a very busy and productive Saturday on September 16, at the AFRH. Three different volunteer groups worked on various projects and interacted with residents throughout the day.

Forty college students from all over the United States were here as part of the 2nd Annual National College Leadership Forum, learning about the AFRH plus they chose the library as their major project. They shelve read the books, re-organized, and scrubbed the shelves and front desk to a beautiful wood glow. Thank you to resident J.C. Fitzpatrick and our new librarian, Mary, for all their assistance. They also helped rearrange furniture in the Volunteer Team Room and then handed out goodies at the front of the dining hall. Thanks also to all the residents that took the time to stop by and chat with these students. They were a great group and we look forward to having them back next year.

A group of 10 students and two leaders from Archbishop Carroll High School freshmen took on two volunteer projects on Saturday also. These young high school students put up huge tents for the fire truck show scheduled for the next day and they also took on the huge task of disinfecting all the chairs in the theater. We are now lemon fresh in the theater, thanks to this group. Thanks to resident volunteers Chuck Felders, George Lang and George Orawski for being team leaders with this group.

Finally, the much-anticipated and very popular group of PAL volunteers (People Animals Love) were here with 19 dogs, the biggest turnout ever! Everyone had a doggone good time! The dogs and their owners seem to enjoy visiting with the residents as much as the residents enjoy seeing the dogs. A huge thank you to resident Joe Williams, Bill Murray and Don Fishback for hosting the dogs and their owners on this visit. We look forward to a continued partnership with PALs.

Also thank you to Jesse James for running bingo and to the mystery resident who stepped in to call bingo on Saturday. You did a great job, please stop by Volunteer Services so we can sign you up!

Also thank you to Stan Sagura for being the host to the Lion's Club president on Saturday. Look for more news on the Lions Club to be here in October.



Students from Archbishop Carroll High School help put up a tent that will be used during the Antique Fire Apparatus Show the next day.



This photo of Annelise Albert, taken by resident Don Fishback during the PAL's visit, captures the enthusiasm residents have towards the monthly pet visits.



A group of students from the National College Leadership Forum take a break from their volunteer projects and visit with a resident. Forty college students from all over the U.S. were here on Sept. 16 learning about the AFRH, meeting residents and working volunteer projects.



A volunteer from the National College Leadership Forum visits with a resident as she passes out snacks in front of the dining hall.



A student from the National College Leadership Forum re-shelves books in the library.

AFRH Gulfport

Active duty chief selectees provide much-needed community support

Story by Mary Kay Gominger

Photos by Laura Throop

The group of 22 Navy chief selectees from Millington, Tenn., that traveled to Gulfport, Miss., recently as part of their chief's initiation brought the meaning of community support to a new level as they were able to give so much to a hurricane stricken community still badly in need of help.

The chief selectees arrived at the Naval Construction Battalion Center on Aug. 27, a mere two days from the one-year anniversary of Hurricane Katrina. The next morning they were quickly dispatched to work at two sites. Half of the group reported to the Armed Forces Retirement Home to assist in recovery efforts. The selectees spent the day cleaning the grounds and recovering salvageable items from the damaged building.

The other group went to the home of a former Navy chief that also received



Navy chief selectees from NAS Millington, Tenn., gathered for a day of community service at AFRH-Gulfport as part of their chiefs' initiation.

extensive, almost total, damage to his home. Phil Maimone spent 25 years in the Navy and retired with a 100% disability. His house, actually a cabin, located two blocks from the beach in Long Beach, had no roof, no insulation, no siding and had taken about two feet of water. But Maimone, in his usual 'put others first' fashion set out to assist neighbors and friends in recovery efforts, too over-

whelmed to tackle the rebuilding of his own home.

Now, a year later, Maimone is still struggling with rebuilding his home though progress has been made. Friends and volunteers have been an enormous help but the majority of the work has been done by Maimone, who has relied on the skills he honed as a builder with the Seabees.

"I couldn't believe my eyes when these white vans showed up in my front yard and the chief selectees started piling out," said Maimone. "I'm thinking...what in the world...then they told me they were there to help me finish my house. I was floored."

Maimone's daughter, Tiffany, had tears in her eyes as she too watched in disbelief as the group began organizing work crews.

ETC(SWC)(SW) Ben Stearns, a detailer in Millington, contacted the chiefs community in Gulfport and made the arrangements for the chief selectees' visit to Gulfport.

"When I heard the chief selectees were coming to Gulfport and were looking to do community work, I knew these projects would be perfect," said CMDCM Joe Perrone, the Naval Construction Training Center's Command Master Chief. "What a great lesson this teaches these selectees about 'once a chief, always a chief' and that being a Navy chief is forever. The chief community looks out for each other and this group experienced this first hand."

The Millington chief selectees spent two full work days on the community support projects.



With most of the large debris already removed by Seabees, these chief selectees pick up the remainder of the debris at the front of the property.

National Museum of the Marine Corps prepares for November opening ceremonies

A Monument to Honor, Courage and Commitment...

Currently under construction and scheduled to open in November 2006, the National Museum of the Marine Corps will be a lasting tribute to the U.S. Marines - past, present and future. Situated on a 135-acre site adjacent to the Marine Corps base in Quantico, Virginia, the museum's soaring design evokes the image of the flag raisers of Iwo Jima and beckons visitors to its 100,000 square foot structure. World-class, interactive exhibits using the most innovative technology will surround visitors with irreplaceable artifacts and immerse them in the sights and sounds of Marines in action.

The building features a 210-foot tilted mast and a glass atrium houses a massive Leatherneck Gallery containing suspended aircraft and various other large artifacts. Era galleries will surround the Leatherneck Gallery and take visitors through the 231 year-history of the Marines, including pivotal battles and other vital contributions to the preservation of America's freedom.

The finest museum technology and multimedia effects in the exhibitions will re-create pivotal moments in history, like the landing on Iwo Jima on D-Day in 1945, and the 1968 Khe Sanh siege during the Vietnam War. Visitors will be able to experience the intensity of boot camp...or test their rifle skills with a M-16 at the Marine Corps rifle range...engulfing themselves in the sights and sounds of Marines in action. Thousands of artifacts, including the flag raised over Iwo Jima, pay witness to the Marine Corps' contribution to our Nation's security.

Other Museum facilities include a restaurant, gift shop, large-screen state-of-the-art theater (planned), class rooms, and office spaces. Eventually totalling some 230,000 square feet, the building will blend with the landscape, using environmentally friendly design and construction.



NMMC looking west - August 2006

Finally, as it will be engraved above the Museum's entrance, people will be able to...

"Enter and experience what it means to be a Marine."

The National Museum of the Marine Corps is a team effort between the Marine Corps and the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation. The building will eventually be donated to the Marine Corps, and the Foundation will assist in its future operations by managing all the Museum's revenue centers, such as the restaurant, gift shop and simulators. Profits from these activities will be used to support the Marine Corps historical program.



Back painting engraved names at Founders recognition wall - July 2006

Schedule of Events

November 10, 2006

Dedication Ceremony of the National Museum of the Marine Corps at 2 p.m. Tickets are required.

November 11, 2006

Timed Entrance Ticketed Tours of the National Museum of the Marine Corps. Tickets are required.

Dedication of Semper Fidelis Memorial Park at 5 p.m.

November 12, 2006

Timed Entrance Ticketed Tours of the National Museum of the Marine Corps. Tickets are required.

Results of the elections:

W.R. (Kit) Kitson
Chairman

Floor Representatives are:

Scott

Woods, William D 1
1302
Pellkoffer, Andrew F 2
2104
Sullivan, Edward L 4
4031
Grubb, William J 4
4207
Jones, Doris M 5
5020
Carter, Pete 5
5322
Smith, Henry R 6
6050
Macy, Robert E 6
6051
Malcomb, Billy 7
7013

Sheridan

Smith, Russell 1
1209
Gray, Charles W 1
1306
Barnard, Donald W 2
2409
Hayes, Hollis (Holly) 2
2412
Cole, Jerry W 3
3036
Grizzard, Suzanne M 3
3311
Kepreades, Charles G 4
4204
Brown, Roger R 4
4208
Anderberg, William(David) 5
5307
Rutherford, Homer (Bud) 5
5410
Conley, Francis J 6
6208
Ellington, Edith A 6
6418

New RAC chairman ready to serve

By Mary Kay Gominger

W. R. Kitson (Kit) was elected as the Resident Advisory Council (RAC) chairman in elections held earlier this month. Kit has been a resident of AFRH for only seven months but has been extremely active in his short time here.

“Right when I got here I went and found out how I could be a volunteer and help out wherever they needed me,” Kit said. “By getting involved in our community here at AFRH I have met a lot of people in a short time and I feel I’ve been able to help some residents that didn’t know where to go for help. So running for RAC chairman was the next logical step,” Kit said.

Kit sees his role as the RAC chairman as one of being a liaison between management and the residents.

“From talking with the residents, I have several areas that I want to focus on initially,” Kit said. The areas include medical, food and safety.

“The main thing I need residents to understand is that I need them to help me help them. In other words, they need to use their floor reps to funnel their concerns to me and then we can work on solutions to any problem areas they may have. Together, I know we can only improve the community we live in and create a wholesome environment where everyone feels safe and content,” Kit said.

Kit spent 27 years in the Air Force and has experience in club management, food service and billeting. After retiring, he moved to Ocean Spring, Miss., and



W.R. Kitson (Kit), the new RAC Chairman, leaves the Sherman building after his interview for the paper.

spent time at the AFRH-G attending dances and other special activities. When he decided to join fellow veterans at AFRH, he did so that he could spend time with comrades.

“I just thought I had some experiences in Korea and Vietnam until I started talking to some of these World War II vets and hearing some of their stories, Kit said. “Now they have some stories to tell.”

Kit invites everyone to attend the RAC meetings the third Wednesday of every month in Al Mori’s office.

Residents turn out in record numbers to vote

The Resident Advisory Council election generated more votes than ever before and the RAC now has 22 members who are all actively ready to represent us. “Kit and his Kaboodle” are tops!

I want to express my appreciation and affection for all the cooperative, caring RAC members who served with me. I also wish to thank the members of the administration for being receptive to our needs.

We had a good time being representatives because the residents really supported and encouraged us. So our special thanks go to the residents from all of us. See you around,

Mimi Rivkin

Resident receives top award at Fly Fishers' President's Awards banquet

Colburn is honored for his efforts in teaching fly tying to wounded vets

At the Federation of Fly Fishers' President's Awards Banquet, R.P. Van Gytenbeek, FFF President and CEO, presented the Lew Jewett Memorial Life Award to AFRH resident John Colburn, editor of the Mid-Atlantic Flyfisher, for his service to the Federation of Fly Fishers in several capacities in the Western Rocky Mountain, Oregon, and Mid-Atlantic Councils. Some of his services were representing each council on the FFF Board of Directors; editor of the Magic City Fly Fishers' Hackle Bender in Billings, MT, and the Mid-Atlantic Council's Mid-Atlantic Flyfisher; Oregon Council's Legislative Chair; and is presently the Fly Tying Program Director for Project Healing Waters (PHW), teaching fly tying as therapy to the Walter Reed Army Medical Center patients with wounded and artificial arms and hands.

The award included a life membership in FFF, but since Colburn is a life member, he gave the second life membership to retired Navy Captain Ed Nicholson, for his service as the founder of PHW and



A passion for helping others...

John Colburn, left, demonstrates fly tying to a patient at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. John volunteers his time working with patients with wounded and artificial arms and hands.

director of its Fly Fishing Program. In 2005 Nicholson saw the need for a program using fly fishing and fly tying to help the wounded military personnel from Afghanistan and Iraq regain the use of their damaged arms and legs and relieve the emotional stress

caused by their wounds and started Project Healing Waters.

Both Colburn and Nicholson also received FFF President's Pins in recognition of their work with Project Healing Waters.

Military Historical Milestones

U.S. Air Force

1 September 1953 – The U.S. Air Force announces the first instance of aerial refueling of jet-powered aircraft by jet-powered aircraft, in which a standard B-47 Stratojet received fuel in the air from a KB-47B Stratojet.

U.S. Army

11 September 2001 – Terrorists hijack four airliners, crashing two in New York City and one into the Pentagon. A fourth crashes in Pennsylvania during a struggle between the terrorists and passengers and crew. Nearly 3,000 are killed in the attacks. At the Pentagon, 74 Army uniformed and civilian personnel died in the attack, including LTG Timothy Maude, the highest ranking Army general to die in action since World War II.

U.S. Marines

1798 – President John Adams signs Act establishing the United States Marine Corps.

U.S. Navy

4 September 1962 – The successful completion of Initial Trials Phase of Board of Inspection and Survey Trials had also been accomplished at NATC, Patuxent River, Maryland

Attention

If you are new to the AFRH and would like to meet our Chief Operating Officer, Mr. Tim Cox, he will be greeting new residents on Monday, October 2 in the Scott Building Theater at 10 a.m.

Welcome Aboard!



Resident: Harvey A. Stackpole
Branch of Service: USA
War theaters:
Entry Date: February 1972
Separation Date: September 1993
Rank: SSG-E6



Resident: Harold C. Fillyaw
Branch of Service: USA
War theaters: Vietnam
Entry Date: August 1950
Separation Date: January 1971
Rank: SFC-E7



Resident: Donald Gallagher
Branch of Service: USN
War theaters: Vietnam, Cuban Blockade
Entry Date: October 1959
Separation Date: May 1979
Rank: E6



Resident: Albert Passmore
Branch of Service: USAF
War theaters: Korea & Vietnam
Entry Date: June 1948
Separation Date: June 1970
Rank: TSGT-E6



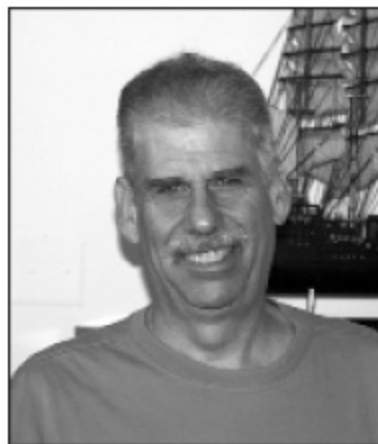
Resident: Joseph F. Taylor
Branch of Service: USAF
War theaters: Granada, Korea, Vietnam
Entry Date: February 1952
Separation Date: March 1975
Rank: E-6



Resident: Charles T. Jones Jr.
Branch of Service: USAF
War theaters: Vietnam
Entry Date: November 1946
Separation Date: June 1972
Rank: TSGT-E6



Resident: James Fulton
Branch of Service: USN
War theaters: Vietnam, Asian Pacific
Entry Date: August 1944
Separation Date: February 1966
Rank: E7



Resident: Louis M. Bose
Branch of Service: USN
War theaters: Vietnam & Korea
Rank: E5



Resident: Rudolf Liskovec
Branch of Service: USN
War theaters: WWII & Korea
Entry Date: April 1941
Separation Date: April 1961
Rank: E-7

Welcome Aboard!



Resident: Solon J. Goodno
Branch of Service: USAF
War theaters: Vietnam
Entry Date: July 1956
Separation Date: May 1979
Rank: E7



Resident: William J. Heard
Branch of Service: USN
War theaters: WWII, Korea
Entry Date: May 1944
Separation Date: Feb 1956
Rank: E5



Resident: Robert S. Smith
Branch of Service: USAF
War theaters: Vietnam
Entry Date: April 1951
Separation Date: June 1971
Rank: E6



Resident: Joseph C. Parsons
Branch of Service: USA
War theaters: Vietnam
Entry Date: October 1959
Separation Date: October 1981
Rank: E-7



Resident: Joseph R. Wachter
Branch of Service: USA
War theaters: Korea and Vietnam
Entry Date: January 1953
Separation Date: June 1974
Rank: SP7



Resident: Thomas J. Larkin, Sr
Branch of Service: USN
War theaters: WWII
Entry Date: January 1944
Separation Date: May 1946
Rank: E-6



Combined Federal Campaign Kick Off

Carla Roberts, the Campaign Manager for this year's CFC provides Tim Cox, Chief Operating Officer, AFRH, with his 2006 charity offering booklet. This year's campaign slogan is "Be a star in somebody's life."

The campaign booklets will be given out in mid-October.

Recreation Therapy wraps up the summer season - gears up for a busy fall

By Carol Mitchell

The residents of King Health Center have had an exciting summer! KHC Recreation Therapy kicked off the summer season with a traditional Hawaiian Luau with authentic Hawaiian dancers and a special visit from 'Mr. Blue Hawaii' himself... Elvis!

During the luau the residents enjoyed a traditional Hawaiian meal fit for a king and ended the event with a rousing limbo contest that had everyone joining in.

A few of the other Recreation Therapy programs included: mouth watering cooking groups, summertime cookouts, happy hours at the Lagarde Fountain, a 101st Birthday Celebration for Lorenzo Senires, a hot dog roast on Independence Day, National Strawberry Sundae Party, National Psychic Month with Tarot Card readings by Madame Carola, numerous performances by the one and only "Oyster Lady," a fabulous show by the Greenbelt Dog Training Association, Pablo and company lunch & show, and a Steak Feast with a wonderful meal provided by our KHC Food Services Department (special thanks to Mr. O'Neil for seasoning the steaks to perfection) and entertainment by the Tower of Talent Trio which had everyone clapping, snapping, tapping and dancing to the beat!

That was just a taste of summer time programs at KHC and watch out, here comes the fall season!



Dr. Linda Radar, Health Care Services Chief, talks with a resident during an event this summer.



The KHC Recreation Therapy Department offered many cookouts this summer.



The King Health Care Center offered a variety of events this summer. Here, a resident gets a Tarot Card reading by Madame Carola.

AFRH Golf Pro available to teach golf, improve skills

Story and photos by Mary Kay Gominger

Summer has slowly faded away, the days have grown shorter, nights cooler and the leaves are beginning to change colors. Fall is in the air and according to AFRH's golf course manager and PGA golf pro Matt Kayson, there is no better place to be this time of year than out on the golf course.

"Playing golf is not only a great sport but it's the perfect way the residents can enjoy the fresh air and beautiful scenery we have in and around our golf course," Matt said.

Matt has worked at the golf course here for over two years.

"I enjoy talking to and getting to know the residents that play golf and I also enjoy the low-key atmosphere we have here," Matt said. "I especially like working with the beginner golfers. They are the best. I can mold them into my own image."

Matt offers two clinics a month, the second and fourth Wednesday of every month. There is no charge to attend one of his clinics.

"I also give individual lessons with a reduced fee for residents. All they

need to do is stop by and sign up and we'll work out the best times they can come," Matt said. And if you don't have clubs or shoes, there's no need to worry. "We have clubs and sneakers are just fine to wear on the course."

The AFRH 9-hole golf course is open year round, weather permitting, from 7 a.m. until dark. If you are an old 'pro' yourself, come on out and get a round in with some of the other resident golfers. If you've never golfed, there's no better time than now to try your hand (or swing) and enjoy the outdoors.



Above - AFRH Golf Pro Matt Kayson gives a tip to Roy Webb as he is teeing off at the golf course.

Left - Matt Kayson talks to a resident about plans for an upcoming tournament.

Below - Taking a swing....Andrew Pellkoffer hits the ball and Matt observes to provide tips for improvement.



15th annual event well attended

Fun Fest 2006

By Mary Kay Gominger

The staff of Recreation Services was busy the first week of September sponsoring the 15th annual Fun Fest, which, due to the weather, required some last minute changes. This year, the flea market and karaoke was held on Saturday, September 2 and the Fun Fest was held the following Friday.

“We had a good turnout for all three events this year,” said Jerry Carter, the coordinator of this year’s events. “This year I saw new faces as more people came out to participate. The comments I heard from many residents was that they enjoyed the ‘fun’ atmosphere that the events inspired.”

On Saturday, September 2, the Flea Market opened in the lobby of Scott Dining Hall. According to Jerry, there were a lot of interesting items on sale, at good prices.

“The residents had ceramics they’d made, old DVDs, VHS tapes, some arts and crafts – just about anything you can think of. We had a lot of traffic coming and going all morning as the residents came through the area browsing.”

At lunch, because of the rain, the cook-out was moved indoors but still offered an ample supply of hotdogs and all the trimmings of a good ole’ summer cookout.

After lunch is when the entertainment began. Joe Clay, a regular AFRH volunteer, had the karaoke machine cranked up and students from Catholic University got the singing started and before you know it, residents were reaching for the microphone singing along with the beat.

“We probably had over a dozen residents participating in karaoke,” Jerry said. “It was fun and Joe always does a super job for us.”

The rain cleared and on Friday, September 8, the friendly competition of the Fun Fest began with a 1.5 mile walk at 8 a.m., followed by a putting contest, a bucket toss, horseshoe throwing and a basketball free throw. Gold, silver and bronze medals were given out in each division and t-shirts were given out to every participant.

“Everyone enjoyed the activities and didn’t really look at the events as competition, just good ole fashioned fun,” Jerry said. “There was a lot of laughing and joking around as residents took their turns at the different events. We all had a good time.”



Alice Garrymore proudly shows her 1st place finish gold victory medal in the bucket toss.



A resident browses over items for sale during the flea market.



Richard Heinrich takes aim during the horseshoe tossing contest held during the Fun Fest event.