



Who Lives at the Armed Forces Retirement Home

The Armed Forces Retirement Home provides a safe and caring haven for enlisted military veterans. The law imposes a number of restrictions upon residency and does not allow veterans to live at the facility with spouses unless those spouses meet the same qualifications.

As a result, most of our veterans are not only elderly but also alone. Most residents have no family or support structure and depend totally on the Home. Our residents take great comfort in living with other veterans and reminiscing about their active duty days. A majority spent their most productive working years in the service of our country as career military. The typical resident is a single Army veteran in his late 70's. More than half are over the age of 80. About one out of every five residents is disabled.

The law restricts residency at the Armed Forces Retirement Home to military veterans who are over the age of 60 and served in a branch of the military for more than 20 years; veterans who served in a war theater who are unable to earn a livelihood because of any disability; veterans unable to earn a living because of a service related disability and female veterans who served prior to 1948. In the future, AFRH hopes to update these conditions to reflect the current reality of a fulltime professional military. For example, it is the hope of AFRH that spouses will someday be allowed even though this will create new housing needs. It is expected that spouses will pay a market rate for housing.

There is a waiting list of several hundred veterans at this time.

AT A GLANCE

- 77 percent are age 75 or older
- 52 percent are 80 or older
- 4 percent are over 90
- 91 percent are men and 9 percent are women
- 85 percent are white (not Hispanic) and 13 percent are black
- 83 percent are single, divorced or widowed and 13 percent were married at the time they moved into the Home
- The average annual income is \$22,000; a large number have little or no income
- 42 percent served in the Army; 32 percent Air Force, 23 percent Navy; 2 percent Marine Corps; 1 percent Coast Guard
- 64 percent of the residents served in the military for more than 20 years
- 18 percent are disabled

(Information based upon a 2005 survey of residents)