

ELFINDALE

RETIREMENT COMMUNITY

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Honor Flight To Washington, D.C. September 9, 2014

By Charles Gray

*H*onor Flights are one-day trips for World War II and Korean War veterans to visit the war memorials in Washington, D.C. They are now beginning to include Vietnam War veterans on the trips. The Honor Flights are financed by private donations.

Korean War veteran Guy Pollard and World War II veteran Charles Gray were selected for the Honor Flight from Springfield, MO on September 9, 2014. Guy Pollard had this to say at the end of the trip, “A huge day-Huge experience!”

There was a preliminary meeting of the Veterans and the Honor Flight organizers and volunteers on the Sunday afternoon preceding the flight. At that meeting the Veterans were given directions, assigned Guardians, and provided with blue shirts and backpacks. They were also told that they could park in the airport employees’ parking lot when they arrived on September 9th.

The Springfield, MO based Honor Flight began with the arrival of the Veterans at 4:15 am on Tuesday September 9th. They were welcomed by a large group of dedicated, hard-working, volunteers from Honor Flight of the Ozarks. The Veterans were identified, given ID tags, teamed with their Guardians, and quickly ushered through the boarding process onto a Boeing 767. The plane passengers included 75 veterans, 75 guardians and 17 support personnel



(including physicians, nurses, and group leaders). The average age of the Veterans was 87. The group was quite colorful with Veterans wearing blue shirts, Guardians in red shirts and the support personnel in other colors. Also, loaded on the plane were 75 wheelchairs which were always available for anyone in need (a number of Veterans were confined to the wheelchairs).

The flight to Washington, D.C. was uneventful, but did include a light lunch on the way.

Upon arrival at Dulles Airport, the Veterans were greeted by “yellow shirted” Washington,

D.C. volunteers. After that, everyone (including the 75 wheelchairs) was loaded onto 3 large charter buses and the group was off for the 40 minute drive to downtown Washington, D.C. During the tour of the war memorials the 3 buses were escorted by a motorcycle police officer as well as an officer in a police car (with red lights and sirens in operation as needed).

The first stop on the National Mall was the World War II Memorial. The Veterans, accompanied by their Guardians, spread out over the large expanse of the memorial, reading inscriptions, taking photographs and viewing the details of the structure. The World War II Memorial edifice is largely traditional in design with many of the features prominent in earlier D.C. memorials. It is in the form of a large oval with arches, eagles, wreaths, pillars and a water fountain. In many ways it represents the end of an era and is dedicated to those who were called upon to help preserve the best of that era.

The three buses moved on (with escorts)

continued on next page

and stopped in an area near both the Korean and Vietnam Memorials. Many Veterans walked (or rolled) toward the Korean Memorial which includes a polished granite wall containing photographic images of support troops and the nearby 19 stainless steel statues representing a military squad on patrol in rugged terrain. The Korean Memorial is by no means traditional and represents a sharp turn into wartime realism. The faces on the youthful statues do not appear young, but rather troubled, anxious and aging! No doubt the sculptor was attempting to say something about war with this representation!

A short walk further the blue shirted Veterans encountered the Vietnam Memorial. The memorial wall of names could be seen from a distance, but nearby as one approached the wall was the bronze statue called The Three Soldiers (or Patrol Coming In). It is a striking image of not just service men, but clearly a Hispanic American, an African American and a White American. The three seem to be looking at that very long gabbro stone wall with its seemingly never ending list of names (reflecting your own image as you view the names). And nearby is the Vietnam Women's Memorial, depicting woman's role in the war. The Vietnam Memorial has a tremendous message to convey and makes the final break with the traditional style and focus of the World War II era.



The next stop for the procession of escorted buses was the Marine Corps War Memorial (aka. Iwo Jima Memorial), located near the Arlington National Cemetery. This depiction of the raising of the flag on Iwo Jima is huge -much larger than it appears to be in films and photographs. Unveiled in 1954, it is consistent with the theme of the World War II Memorial.

After the Marine Memorial, the 3 buses moved slowly through Arlington National Cemetery and parked in front of the Memorial Amphitheater. The Veterans walked (or rolled) around to the plaza area where the Tomb of the Unknowns is located. After a short wait they were able to observe the very impressive Changing of the Guard ceremony. This memorial is the oldest one visited by the group, established in 1921 after World War I. It is of interest to note that since the development of the DNA testing process there are no longer any "unknown" soldiers,

although there are many who are "missing" in action. (The remains of an "unknown" Vietnam soldier were removed from his crypt in 1998 after being identified as an Air Force officer).

The final Washington, D.C. phase of the Honor Flight was the expressway trip to Dulles Airport for the return trip to Springfield. This turned out to be an extremely exciting adventure for the Veterans. For the 40 minute trip, the three buses were escorted by their motorcycle police officer through Washington, D.C. rush hour traffic! Long lines of traffic were parted as the Honor Flight procession passed through and home bound drivers moved to the expressway shoulders. As the buses drew up to the Dulles Airport bus stop, the Veterans let out a series of loud cheers for the bus drivers and the motorcycle policeman!

After a two hour flight the Veterans arrived in Springfield at 10 pm and were greeted by a vast throng welcoming them home. There was yelling, cheering, flags, hugs, gifts, and the chords of the Shrine Band. WOW, what a welcoming reception! What a wonderful conclusion to a HUGE experience!

Charles E. Gray was in the U.S. Navy for 2 years, 15 months of which were overseas in the Mediterranean area. His naval service included the final year of World War II and the immediate post-war period. The Naval Operating Base in Palermo, Sicily was his first overseas assignment, later serving on 2 cruisers, the USS Memphis and the USS Providence. He was a U.S. Navy Bandsman and was a member of Navy Band #70, the fleet band of the Mediterranean Fleet.

In the last months of World War II and the early post-war period, the USS Memphis and the USS Providence visited all of the major ports in the Mediterranean basin. The most satisfying aspect of Charles' overseas duty was when units of the fleet (including Navy Band #70) were involved in diplomatic missions in southern Europe, North Africa, and the Middle East. The purpose was to cement peaceful post-war relations with the nations throughout the region.

Charles volunteered for service in the U.S. Navy in 1944, while still 17. Upon separation from naval service in 1946, Charles had attained the rank of Petty Officer 2nd Class.

Creekside's Extraordinary Veterans

Twenty five extraordinary Veterans came to a special breakfast at the Lodge on Veteran's



Day in honor of Creekside's gratitude for their service. When making plans to invite our Veterans, it was not immediately obvious who they were. That is because Veterans don't ask for acknowledgement of their service. And that is true of the Veteran's here at Creekside!



Extraordinary Veterans

By Marilise Stamps

What makes veterans extraordinary is how ordinary they appear to be. Veterans might be somebody's uncle, mother, daughter, or brother. A veteran may be a father that teaches his son how to fix his car. A veteran could be a child's grandfather who turns down his hearing aid when he doesn't want to listen to his wife. What you don't realize is that the father's mechanical skills come from repairing a ship's engine for 25 hours straight during the Korean War, and the grandfather lost his hearing from artillery fire in World War I. The quiet, ordinary lives of veterans belie their courage and sacrifices they made for this country.

Not a lot of people could pick a veteran out from a crowd. They don't walk around decked out in medals, or brag about what they have experienced. You can't see what they've seen, or know what they know. All of this seems to be locked in a vault somewhere inside of them, and no one is allowed to see. How, then, are we supposed to distinguish these veterans from ordinary people? How are we supposed to honor them for what they've accomplished for our country through courage and valor? Can it be that veterans don't expect us to recognize them for what they've done? Veterans could just be exceptional people who don't seek exceptional treatment.

Look around you. Look for that ordinary individual that may not be so ordinary. Look for that person who doesn't stand out in a crowd but deserves to. Look for that selfless individual who gave more than most of us dream of giving. Recognize that person who didn't seek recognition.....

You never know, you are more than likely sitting next to one in the dining room, on the bus, at exercise class, or in the lobby at Creekside.

Animal Artists at Work

Dickerson Park Zoo has a unique way of raising money for their foundation.....they sell art work done by the animals at the zoo! It sounds crazy but it is true, our local zoo is home to many animal artists. Our Community Members had seen a gallery of their art work on display at a local business a few months ago.

They were so intrigued that we decided to go see the artists create their masterpieces in person. Our Members were treated to a behind the scenes tour of the zoo with close-up encounters with some of the animals. We watched small apes paint with brushes that they held in their hands and their feet. You could tell how much they enjoyed getting to paint because they begged to keep painting. After the apes we moved the Bengal tiger area of the zoo for our next artist. The Members all got to feed him with hunks of meat on a long stick and have their picture made with him. The tiger did his painting with his giant paws as he paced back and forth through the paint and



onto the canvas. Our last artist we observed was the giant hippo named Harry. The zookeeper covered his snout with paint and then pressed the canvass on his mouth to make a "butterfly kiss" print. His favorite part of the painting experience seemed to be the zookeeper spraying his face with cool water from the hose. We were able to take the art work home with us to begin a collection that Creekside plans on displaying and adding to in the future. Some of the Members bought art work that had been created before our visit and took it home with them to display in their homes. We plan on returning to the Zoo again in the spring to watch a cheetah, elephant and monkey show off their artistic abilities!



Fun Times at the Fall Festival

The smell of a bonfire, hay bales, roasted hotdogs, and cider filled the air at Creekside at our Fall Festival. As the Community Members



arrived to the outdoor party they were greeted by Team Members in

costumes and a band playing wonderful music for dancing.

Some of the Members decided to roast their own hotdogs while others went through the outdoor buffet and filled their plates. After everyone ate the Team Members entertained the crowd with a dance contest. There were seven groups that performed different dances. The Members voted on their favorite group and after



votes were tallied the group that performed "Thriller" by Michael Jackson won the competition.

Grandma's pies were raffled off and everyone danced, laughed, and enjoyed meeting new neighbors



as the Festival continued into the evening!

Fishing Trip to Mountain Springs Trout Park

Just south of Springfield is Mountain Springs Trout Park! In their pond they stock a lot



of trout! A group from Creekside spent an evening fishing; some of us for the first time! Everybody

caught at least two rainbow trout; our total take was 23 fish weighing a total of 36 pounds! As exciting as that was, what was even better was that the trout park cleaned our fish for us!



Dancing Toddlers in Halloween Costumes

Kinder Music returned to our Campus in October for another darling performance. This is the third time these precious children have



entertained for us. The Kinder Music Program teaches toddlers how to follow directions, share, and socialize by using music as the tool to bring it all together. They came in full Halloween attire which made them even more adorable! As



usual, the Community Members filled every seat at the show and enjoyed every moment!

Hugs, Hugs, and More Hugs

On October 29th the Community Members in the Lodge had a surprise visit. The Paul Mitchell Salon and School made an unexpected visit to celebrate National Hug Day. The students and employees visited with our Members in the lobby and dining room. They made sure everyone got some “one on one time” and a hug before they left. What a wonderful gift they gave to our Community. Maybe they will surprise us again sometime! Fingers crossed.



Making Scare Crow

We enjoyed a beautiful fall day by putting together a couple of scare crows to keep guard outside our front door! It was the first time many of us had made scare crows and getting the straw out of the bale was probably the toughest part! We stuffed the shirts the pants and the overalls and pillows! We had a tough time coming up with names for our scare crows; nobody was



thrilled with having a scare crow as their namesake; go figure!



Trick or Treat at Creekside



Trick or treaters paraded through the lobby and dining room at Creekside on Halloween night. For the second year we opened our Campus to the public for trick or treating. After the children filled their bags with candy at the Lodge they



were “treated” to a hayride that transported them to and from the Crossings area of the Campus. It was a huge success and Creekside plans on this becoming a tradition.



Darling Dolly

Two year old Dolly the long haired Chihuahua came to Creekside to entertain everyone with her feats of agility! Dolly did not disappoint!! Her owner Eunice trained Dolly to do agility trials just like larger breed dogs do in competition events. Eunice set up mini obstacle courses and ran her through many difficult tasks. All 4 pounds of her seemed to enjoy performing as much as the Community members loved watching her. When asked what Dolly does when she is not performing Eunice quickly replied, “She sits on my lap all day!”



Creekside Ladies attend The Ronald McDonald House 19th Annual Cup of Cheer

To help spread holiday cheer, Ronald McDonald House Charity organized a tour of five of the area's most beautifully-decorated homes in an open-house format. Several ladies from our Creekside community attended. The event also featured a Holiday Tea and Silent Auction at the Ronald McDonald House near Cox South. Each of our Creekside ladies received a Cup O'Cheer china teacup and saucer, designed by the team at BridgeBlue Sourcing Partners and Obelisk Home. In the grand tradition of "high tea" at five-star resorts and hotels, Chef Roland Parny provided each guest with a plate of elegant desserts, prepared exclusively for the Cup O'Cheer Homes Tour. The price of admission for the event is used to help fund the day-to-day operations so that families of hospitalized children have a place to stay as well as meals.



This was the second time Creekside attended the Cup of Cheer event. We hope to make it a holiday tradition.



Pink Pumpkins

Several of our members joined in supporting the cause to raise awareness for breast cancer during the month of October! We dared to paint pumpkins pink! Some of our members painted faces on their pumpkins, and used pink ribbon to highlight their pumpkins. We decorated our lobby and our activity room for the month of October with some of the pink pumpkins our members painted this month!



Fall Fashion Show

On November 4th Creekside community members, their family, and friends filled the dining room to see the newest fall fashions provided by Christopher & Banks.



Ethan Forhetz, News Anchor for KY3, was the MC for the show.



The models for the show were: Shirley Brown, Anne Henry, Doris Hurd, Betty Verhofstadt, Bea McCarthy, Aggie Blazevich, Kathy Hebron, Donna Pflasterer and Deb Stratman. The ladies were escorted to the stage by Eric Wallace, Daniel Wallace,

Rick Calhoun and Curtis Laughlin. The gentlemen's tuxedos were provided by Karl's Tuxedos.

The menu of sweet and savory hors d'oeuvres such as Sausage Stuffed Mushrooms, Caprese Crustini, Salmon Mousse Cups, Mini Stuffed Potatoes, Mini Crème Puffs, Petit Fors, Pecan Tassies and Strawberry Cream Wontons, were prepared by Creekside Chef Jamie McGuigan the Dietary team. The servers for



the fashion show were Nichole Goodwin, Casey Reed, Shaniah Hercher and Nelly Hendrix.



Creekside Calendar

COMMUNITY MEMBERS BIRTHDAYS

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1	Peter Koscak	D
2	Jackie Cooney	217
7	Charlotte McGowen	R-3B
8	Anne Henry	61
10	Betty Merritt	220
11	Jean Puckett	16
13	Beulah Felt	234
13	Joe Nickerson	V-1C
15	Paul Vickers	127
15	Mark Rufenacht	A
19	Max Jenkins	7
25	Sue Hausman	72
26	Billy Lord	A -8B

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1	Louise Oberbeck	N
2	Brenda Bruner	12
3	Betty Baker	K
3	Susan Mathis	V-1D
4	Sybil Carmichael	12
6	Myrl York	Z
7	Richard Engstrom	122
7	Thelma Pendergrass	62
8	John DeShazo	113
10	Maurice Knapp	25
13	Skippy Maguire	218
13	Rosa Snyder	28
14	Eva Grace	119
14	Bev Richmond	5
19	Peg Roda	23
20	Austin Hocklander	35
23	Lee Kiley	20
27	Mary Jane Barnes	P
27	Peggy Clemons	V-4B
30	Connie Krege	49

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

19 Susie & Chuck Havens

WELCOME NEW COMMUNITY MEMBERS

Patricia Ames
Randolph & Marlene Aylor
Helen & George Clinkenbeard
Patricia Harris
Connie & Roger Krege
Linda & Randy Morrow
Jean Puckett
Mary Jane Schoonmaker
Opal Thomas
Frances & William Thomas
Patsy Turner
Gladys & Wayne Zweerink

TEAM MEMBERS NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

11 Brenda Shivers

TEAM MEMBERS DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

17 Rick Calhoun
19 Tina Landrus
21 Bill Dorman

LET US KNOW

Please call 417-831-3828 to let us know what sort of information you would like to see in future issues! If you would like to have the *Elfintales* emailed to you please call Denice at 234-4311.

Administrative Staff

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Excellence in Living

ELFINDALE RETIREMENT COMMUNITY

Elfindale Retirement Community offers gracious living for adults 55 and older in central Springfield. Over 300 seniors choose to enrich their lives and call Elfindale home. We are proud to be situated on 62 beautiful wooded acres with wildlife and walking trails to give our residents a 'country-like' relaxed lifestyle.

Built on a reputation of quality, Creekside at Elfindale offers independent living choices with our cottages and lodge apartments. Our homes are well designed, our grounds are well maintained, our food is the best and our activities are second to none.

The Manor at Elfindale is located on the western edge of our campus providing 24/7 skilled nursing care. Well known for its high caliber of care, The Manor's all private rooms allow for Medicare rehabilitation, long term care and secure memory support for those in need.



Creekside at Elfindale Main Dining Room

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR CAMPUS TOUR PLEASE CONTACT:

- Creekside at Elfindale, Independent Living – Reta Cagle at 417-831-3828
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