

# A VIEW FROM *the* PORCH

THE DIXON HOUSE INDEPENDENT AND ASSISTED LIVING

DIXONHOUSE.ORG • 410-822-6661 • 108 NORTH HIGGINS STREET

SUMMER

2018

## Hazel Newnam Celebrates 100 Years

She credits her long, healthy life to a good attitude, good friends and her Christian faith. Hazel Newnam, age 100, a resident at Dixon House for the last three years, embraces life. Fiercely independent, Hazel managed to live alone until coming to Dixon House. She had visited a friend at Dixon House for years and when it came time to make the transition to assisted living herself, Dixon House seemed like the logical next step. She recently gathered with family, friends and dignitaries to celebrate her 100th birthday. Newnam was honored with proclamations from Governor Hogan, the Maryland Senate, the Maryland House of Delegates, the County Sheriff's Department, the Town of Easton, and even a letter from President Donald Trump. Music was provided by Cabaret-style singer Daryl Grant Lindsay.

She commented at the event, "It was so wonderful to celebrate with family. I think it's wonderful they all remembered me."



*Pictured back row, left to right: Granddaughter Sheila Herbert, Sheriff Joe Gamble, Mayor Robert Willey, Senator Addie Eckardt, Delegate Chris Adams, Delegate Johnny Mautz, grandson Cooper Towers, and Wendy Towers.*

*Pictured front row, left to right: Granddaughter Courtney Springer, daughter Debbie Kudner holding great-granddaughter Elisabeth Claggett, Hazel Newnam holding great-grandson Gabriel Claggett, grandson Bo Claggett holding great-granddaughter Francesca Claggett. Absent from the photo is great-grandson Cruz Springer.*

Newnam was born on August 2, 1918. A native of Clairton, PA, she met William "Bill" Newnam while he was working construction in Pennsylvania and after he had graduated from the Pittsburgh Aeronautical Institute. The two were married in 1940 and then Bill became a Marine and flew Corsairs in Japan as part of the U.S. peacekeeping efforts during World War II. The couple lived in Oxford in the late 1940s after the war ended. Bill brought a Corsair back to Talbot County to sell war bonds. Soon after, he purchased Maryland

Airlines, a private charter business, where he continued his love of flying.

Bill imparted his love of flying to Hazel by teaching her how to fly when she was in her 50s. She comments, "The opportunity was there and I took it. I felt like I was doing something special and I enjoyed the whole experience. Knowing I could fly gave me confidence and Bill was really proud of me."

The couple ran Maryland Airlines until the 1990s and during this time Bill also managed Easton's Airport. They had two daughters, Suzanne Towers (now deceased) and Debbie Kudner. Today Hazel has four grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.

After her husband died in May 1991, the Airport name was changed to Easton Airport/Newnam Field, in memory of Hazel's husband, Bill.

She states, "I tried to live the right kind of life. I stayed active with the Oxford Methodist Church, sang in the choir, lead the MYF, and served as a member of the WSCS. I also served a number of years as a volunteer for the Memorial Hospital Auxiliary."

Hazel's daughter, Debbie Kudner, recalls, "Mother was totally independent and had lots of friends. She used to load up the Cadillac, which I called the 'Gospel Bus,' and take trips up and down the East Coast with her church friends."

Today, Hazel's days are a little quieter, but she still enjoys getting out. The recent celebration at Dixon House was a testimony to her love of a good time.



*Hazel Newnam blows out her candles celebrating her 100th Birthday.*

As the lazy days of summer come to an end, things have been anything but lazy at The Dixon House. We are currently at capacity with 19 residents in the house.

Some highlights of the summer have included Ms. Newnam's 100th birthday celebration, where we had a number of dignitaries join us to celebrate with Ms. Newnam and her family. Thank you to Delegate Chris Adams, Delegate Johnny Mautz, Senator Addie Eckardt, Mayor Robert Willey and Sheriff Joe Gamble for sharing in our day and for bringing proclamations to honor Ms. Newnam. It was a special day for her and her family.

To ready the house for cooler weather, the windows, porches and shutters have all been painted. We have received many compliments on the new colors and coordinated look of our exterior paint. A new coat of paint can do wonders to freshening up the house. We are ready for fall!

We want to extend a special thank you to Mrs. Beth Trujillo for her very generous donation which allowed us to take 15 of our residents to Chesapeake Landing Restaurant for lunch this summer. Our residents love to go sightseeing or just go out for an ice cream treat.

In order to have wheelchair accessibility for our residents and to accommodate more of our residents on our trip, we had to rent a bus. Because our activity department is planning more outings for residents, we have a growing need to purchase our own bus for The Dixon House. A new handicapped accessible vehicle costs \$65,000. We thank Ms. Mary Ann Hensinger who made the first donation towards a new vehicle. If you are interested in contributing to our "Bus Fund," please contact me. Contributions are tax deductible and will help enhance the quality of life for our residents.

We hope you will stop by and visit us this fall. Our new Activity Director, Shelly LaRoque, welcomes volunteers who have a special talent or activity to share. There is always something new happening at Dixon House – we hope you can join us and be a part of that excitement.

*Enjoy the final days of summer!*

**Linda Elben**  
Executive Director

## Dixon House 99ers

When you meet Ellen Walbridge and Helen Crow, you won't suspect that they are both 99 years old. Both women are vibrant and enjoy recalling their full and rich lives. Here is a glimpse into the lives of these remarkable women.

### Ellen Walbridge



Born in West Virginia, Ellen Walbridge had ties to the Eastern Shore. At age 15, she followed her brother, who came to work at Fike Orchard in Skipton. While living here, she met Alvin Walbridge at a church social and the rest is history. Over the years, she supported her husband who started Walbridge Builders. Family is very important to Ellen. She and her husband had five children, one boy and four girls. She now has 10 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren.

Ellen moved to The Dixon House in 2017 after living independently. When asked about the reason for longevity, she states that her brother lived until age 96 and she never drank or smoked. She was active in 4-H, loved to garden (she tends the flowers at The Dixon House), and enjoyed knitting, crocheting, and sewing. She also loves to bake, with lemon meringue pie being her specialty. Ellen enjoys helping with baking activities at The Dixon House. She comments, "I don't feel real young, but I don't feel 99." She will turn 100 in February 2019.

### Helen Crow



Born in rural Ohio, Helen Crow was always physically active. Her father, a builder, was also a physically active person. Helen recalls doing handstands and headstands when she was young. Today, she doesn't miss an exercise class at The Dixon House. She and her husband, Elmer, nicknamed "Amo" married after Amo served in the Army's 17th Airborne Division as a paratrooper during World War II. The two had three children, and today she has three grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren. Amo had a career as a master craftsman, training many young men who entered the flooring trade, while Helen did office work for a law firm, then a refinery.

Both Helen and Amo participated in an activities group for art in Cincinnati, where Helen enjoyed oils and watercolors and Amo enjoyed stained glass, caning, and pottery. The two also enjoyed music, attending Cincinnati Symphony concerts for 40 years. The couple retired to Florida and then to Easton, where their son, Roger and daughter-in-law Heather live. The two then came to live at The Dixon House in 2014. Helen comments, "Easton is a nice town. We were amazed at the quality of friends we have made at Dixon House." She adds, "I have had a good life."

## Around Our House



Residents enjoy "Singing with Suzette."



The Foxy Ladies (Red Hatters) from Oxford talked and sang with the residents and also brought them gift bags.



Residents enjoy preparing and baking maple cookies.

We are pleased to announce that Shelly LaRoque of Denton is our new Activity Director, replacing Brittany Jarboe. We wish Brittany well in her new endeavors at BrighStar Care in Easton. Shelly, who was previously activity coordinator at Baleigh Chase, is certified in activities for the elderly by the National Certification Council for Activity Professionals. She has worked with the elderly and children throughout her career. She also taught exercise classes for the Federalsburg Senior Center, Easton Adult Day Care, Londonderry, and St. Mark's Village. She owned three Curves franchises from 2002 to 2011 in Delaware. She attended Chesapeake College.

Shelly comments, "I have always enjoyed exercise. After my mom went into a rehabilitation facility, I had to be her advocate and got involved volunteering to do activities with other residents there. I really liked interacting with the seniors. I have a heart for aging residents. It has been a calling for me."

As Activity Director at The Dixon House, Shelly provides creative crafts, cooking activities, mind enhancing games, and monthly birthday parties; brings entertainment to residents, including musicians, Pets on Wheels, and other visiting performers; and also takes residents to church, on sightseeing tours, to lunch at local restaurants, and to attend musical performances. She also teaches daily chair exercise classes involving stretching and aerobics.

"I love the intimate and relaxed environment of The Dixon House. It's family here and the staff strives to make the house feel welcoming," she adds.



*Pictured is Shelly LaRoque of Denton, new Activity Director at The Dixon House.*

## Dixon House Remembrances

The Dixon House mourns the passing of the following residents this fall and winter.



### Charles Phillip Marshall, Sr. (1927 - 2018)

Charles Marshall, a lifelong resident of Easton, age 91, passed away on May 26 at The Dixon House. Charles was born in Princess Anne but grew up in St. Michaels, graduating from St. Michaels High School, excelling in basketball, baseball, and ping pong. He served in the U.S. Air Force from 1945 to 1948, working as a meteorologist in the Arctic. He married the former Jean Golt in 1956 and they made their home in Easton. He was employed with the U.S. Post Office starting in 1960 and retiring in 1987. He also worked in insurance and auto parts sales. After retiring, he enjoyed refinishing furniture and spending time at Todd's Market at the picnic table with friends and neighbors. He was a former member of the St. Michaels Fire Company, VFW, Elks, American Legion and Miles River Yacht Club. He moved into the Dixon House with his wife in December 2012. They were the first married couple to reside in a double room renovated to accommodate couples. Charles always had a smile and a joke, keeping everyone laughing. One day he joked with the med tech, when taking his medicine, "I am here to take my birth control pill." Charles is survived by his sons, Charles, Phillip Marshall, Jr. and Michael Rodney Marshall, three grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.



### Helen Bernice Brom (1919 - 2018)

Helen Brom, age 98, passed away in Easton on February 15, 2018. She was born in Baltimore City and after marrying James Rudolf Brom in 1939, lived in Pasadena, MD. She was employed with Westinghouse in multiple facilities managing their cafeterias. At the age of 55 she became an LPN and worked as a unit secretary at Harborview Medical Center until her retirement in the early 80s. After her retirement, she and her husband relocated to Cambridge. Following her husband's death, Helen relocated to Annapolis to be closer to family. While there, she served as a volunteer for the Lutheran Mission Society for 20 years. After relocating to Easton in 2008, she joined Grace Lutheran Church and volunteered for the Memorial Hospital Auxiliary and St. Vincent de Paul. She loved music (particularly the musical programs at The Dixon House), dancing, and belonged to bridge clubs wherever she lived. She is survived by her daughter Diane C. Lusby, two grandchildren and one great-grandchild, two sisters, and many nieces and nephews.



*The Dixon House Men's group includes George Irwin, Conrad Horney, Frank Milligan, and John Payne, who recently went out to lunch at Sugar Buns at Easton Airport for Father's Day.*



*Residents Nancy Krabill, Conrad Horney, Helen Crow, and John Payne attend an organ and brass concert at Christ Church in Easton. Attending but not pictured is Shelly LaRoque, Activity Director at The Dixon House.*



*Residents enjoy lunch at Chesapeake Landing Restaurant in St. Michaels thanks to a special donation from Mrs. Beth Trujillo.*

### Around Town



Non-Profit  
Organization  
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## THE DIXON HOUSE

*Independent and Assisted Living*

108 N. Higgins Street  
Easton, MD 21601

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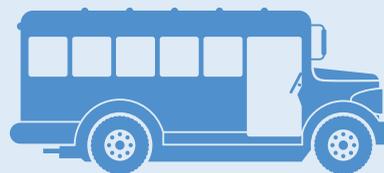
Mike Thielke

Phyllis Widerkehr

Dorothy Samonisky

*The mission of The Dixon House, a non-profit independent and assisted-living facility, is to provide high quality and affordable residential care to seniors in an enriching home-like environment.*

### WISH LIST



A bus

Individual easels for residents

A large easel to display the residents' artwork

Canvas boards for painting

Paint brushes

Volunteers needed for calling Bingo, doing crafts, decorating the bulletin board, playing music, or singing.

Call Shelly LaRoque at 410-822-6661.