



AFRH-WASHINGTON

Washington Auto Show

Story & Photos by Carol Mitchell | Recreation Therapy

On January 30th the residents of AFRH-W enjoyed an afternoon of excitement at the Washington Auto Show! This event, which is held annually at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center, is always interesting. We started off the day with a tasty and filling bag lunch provided by AFRH-W food services. It was then off to view the car exhibits. We visited the American made cars first which included Ford, GM, Chrysler, Chevrolet, Cadillac, and Jeep – which is the most American vehicle you can buy. The Convention Center was packed with cars. Foreign cars were our next stop and it included Honda, Volvo, Mazda, Acura, Hyundai, Porsche, Audi, Land Rover, and my all-time favorite – Jaguar. Ino Sylman, Bill Jentarra, Muriel Kupersmith and I had the awesome experience of riding in an indoor obstacle course in an all-electric Jaguar. Ms. Kupersmith and I had the pleasure of riding with Davy Jones, a professional race car driver that in 1996 came in first place as a driver in the 24 Hours of Le Mans.



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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. The articles included in this publication do not necessarily reflect the opinions or views of the management, staff, or residents of the AFRH.

Serving America's Veterans

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.

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the Penn State gymnastics team, where she earned her undergraduate degree. She finished her education with a master's degree from the University of Chicago.

movie host at AFRH-G.
Clyde's secret to a long, happy, productive life is, "Living the clean life."

AFRH-W resident highlight - Robert Webb

By Christine Baldwin | Librarian



Robert Webb was born in West Virginia in coal mining country. He is one of nine children; seven boys and two girls. He excelled in football and baseball during high school. Robert knew he would be drafted into World War II (two of his brothers had joined the US Air Force, one the US Navy and one the US Marine Corps), so he took the C-12 test and passed the mental and physical test to join the Navy Air Cadets. When

he reported two weeks later for another physical, he didn't pass because of his eyes. So Robert decided to join the US Army. Every branch was now covered by the Webb family. He had his basic training at Camp Livingston, LA (the snakiest place in the country)! After three short assignments, Robert was sent overseas. Rumor had it, they would go aboard the QEII, but instead they went on a Merchant Marine ship called the Seacat. As part of a convoy, Robert got to see how treacherous the ocean could be and experienced 100 foot waves during the trip. Robert's job was to assist with the plumbing and replace pipes that had been corroded by the sea water.

His first station was Le Havre, France and at the tender age of 18, Robert saw the aftermaths of war with masts of ships that had been sunk to railroad rails that looked like spaghetti. His trip to the camp was aboard a 40 X 8 train (40 men; eight horses- though no horses were on board). It was December and very cold; so cold it was hard to sleep. At the

French/German border town of Saarbrucken, not a building was standing. Later, Robert attended Military Ski School for two weeks in Garmisch, Germany. His toughest assignment was standing guard to the Nazi War Criminals just outside of Nuremberg. He had orders to shoot anyone who strayed outside the lime border. Robert also worked in SS Trooper Prison Camps along with a Polish company. One of the most interesting assignments Robert had was when he and three other soldiers were sent to a small town. A Polish DP (displaced person) told him about a family that was hiding contraband. When they went through the house and barn they found machine guns hidden under sacks of peas and under the corn shuck mattresses. The major in charge said that they had been looking for these people a long time and in gratitude let Robert have one of the small motorcycles to take back to camp.

It was while working with the HQ Battery Armored Field Artillery that Robert lost his hearing and was sent home. At Bremerhaven, he along with 7,000 soldiers were waiting for transport. They lived in hangers, slept on cots and had huge lines for chow. So large that they could play poker while they stood in line! After the war, Robert got a pre-engineering degree from Charleston University, WV and a Structural Engineering degree from the University of Chicago. He worked until 2000. Robert knew about AFRH and came to us in 2015. His latest event was to have his story put in an intergenerational book on AFRH-W residents titled **Remembering with the Heart: Stories by America's Finest** by Glenna C. Orr.

