



Monthly Newsletter



May 2020



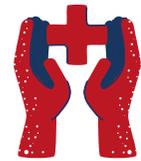
POKER PARTY

We had our first poker party this month. So much fun! The guys got a kick out of teaching us girls how to play 5 card draw. Popcorn and pretzels were served along with beer, sodas and lots of smiles. Our next game is scheduled in 2 weeks. There's always an extra chair at the table for anyone who would like to join us.



CREATIVE CRAFTERS

The Creative Crafters had lots of messy fun dyeing easter eggs. We mixed tie-dye colors, pastel unicorn paints, glitter, decals... all to create a beautiful palette of 4 dozen colorful eggs. We also had a great time painting clay pots, then planting herb seeds in them. It was fun to see all the beautiful designs each person came up with. We are now eagerly awaiting our first sprouts. We're excited to eat food seasoned with our oregano, sage, thyme, rosemary, parsley, cilantro and basil. We even planted a pot of catnip (the mint family) for Callie, our Oak Creek cat.



GO -GETTERS EXERCISE GROUP

Congratulations!! Phyllis F., Douglas, Mary L., Geneva, Regina, Tresa, Loretta and Phyllis S. Each of you are ready to exercise every morning at 9:30. Our hats off to you for your dedication to your health.



RED HAT SOCIETY

The meeting was called to order by our president, Queen of D'Nile. One of the main topics of discussion was the desire to do something as a group to make a positive difference and help support our community. It was decided to make dog biscuit treats and distribute them to Helping Hands, local animal shelters and dog rescues. The meeting was adjourned and we all enjoyed champagne, banana splits and friends. You will find us in the kitchen baking dog treats the afternoon of our May meeting.





RESIDENT OF THE MONTH

Douglas Keeling was born **May 18th, 1923** to Henry and Allie Keeling in Topeka Kansas. Douglas was raised with 12 brothers and sisters. At 97 years old, he is the last surviving sibling. After completing the 8th grade Douglas went to work at the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) to help take care of the family. He made \$60 a week, he kept \$10 and gave his mother \$50. His father was sick his whole life and his mother was his idol. She taught him how to be a man, work hard, learn responsibilities, and manage his life. "If it wasn't for her, I wouldn't be the person I am today." As he grew older, Douglas also worked for the NYA, Brick Masons, Sears, then he landed his favorite job as a cook at the VA hospital where he cooked for approximately 1,000 people every day for 29 years. He loved and enjoyed this job.

Douglas met his wife Gwenlyn in high school. She was from Kansas City. When they met she was staying with her Grandma Patterson in Topeka. Gwenlyn was the love of his life. They were married for 71 years. Douglas and Gwen had six beautiful children they were very proud of. Three boys and three girls. Each of them graduated high school, and became responsible, hard-working adults. At last count, Douglas has 35 great-grandchildren. Lewis and Larry are still living and take good care of their father. When the children were young, you would find Douglas playing football or softball with his boys and other children in the neighborhood. On Saturday nights, Douglas and Gwen were dancing the night away at the local 15th Street Dance Hall. Occasionally, when they had a little extra money, he loved to take Gwen Kansas City and treat her to dinner and a movie. As the children got older, they liked to travel to Chicago by car. They would go shopping and on rides, to shows and even the museum.

Sundays would always find Douglas, Gwenlyn and their family at Mount Carmel Baptist Church. They joined the church in 1956 and have been members ever since. Douglas built his family home in East Topeka. Carpenters framed it up, but after that Douglas built the rest. He had a favorite dog named Rex, that lived under the porch. Rex would come out and stand on the porch by him when strangers came. He was very protective of the family.

When Douglas was young, he had a 1950s Nash car that he was very proud of. He cleaned it often with coal oil. Now, this car did not like to start in the mornings, so every night Douglas would park it at the top of the hill so with a little push, by the time it got to the bottom of the hill it would be started and then it would run all day. Douglas is a sharp-dressed man every day. He loves to dance and listen to blues music, travel around town on his red scooter, shop, play poker, and watch the Chiefs and Royals. **Douglas's goal in life is to be healthy, happy and live to be 100!**

MAY BIRTHDAYS

- Rosie - 15th
- Phyllis S. - 15th
- Douglas - 18th
- Virgil - 21st
- Myreta - 28th



- Flower: Lily of the valley
- Birthstone: Emerald
- Zodiac: Taurus and Gemini

DOUGLAS' FAVORITES

- Food: BBQ Ribs
- Actor: John Wayne
- Drink: Jack & Coke
- Movies: R rated Action Adventures
- Music: Blues/James Brown
- Restaurant: The Golden Corral



We had so much fun dying Easter eggs!

Welcome New Residents!

MOVE IN: APRIL

Nita Murphy 4/29/20



OAK CREEK
SENIOR LIVING



May Events

May 5th- Cinco de Mayo Party
May 10th- Mothers Day

Chaplains Corner

Hello Everyone, Missing all of you and I think of you often. I am "hunkering down" like so many in the world. Staying home, staying safe. I find myself most grateful for the good, careful and wise care Shane, Winona, Deana and the staff are providing you. You are in good hands. I'm confident of that. I realize as our day to day practices are changed, as we sit in our familiar spaces that seem different in a way, what doesn't change? What doesn't change is the love and care for each in the family of Oak Creek. If we just sit, spring still comes, bulbs still bloom, some days cold, some days warm, as we transition from winter to spring, and the kindness's and care one to one at Oak Creek remains the same. What's most important really hasn't changed at all. Love remains. Kindness remains. Care and comfort remains.

I miss visiting with all of you. I miss giving Jay in the kitchen a hard time, so someone, or many of you, give her a hard time for me. "Virtual hugs" to all. See you when the air clears and/or new practices for safety are defined.

God bless all, Chaplain Sharon



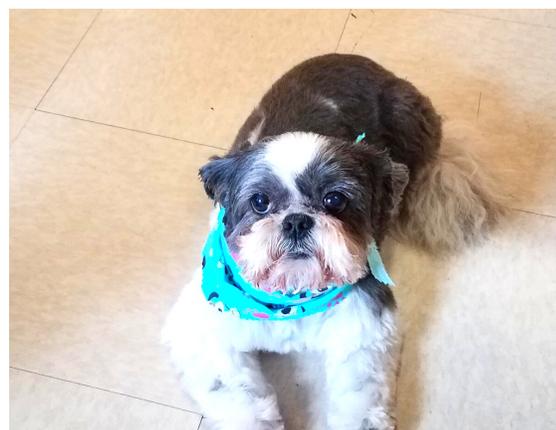
Movie Matinees

In April we had a great turn-out for "Seven Brides for Seven Brothers" and "Top Gun."

In May we will be watching "Poms," "Second Hand Lions" and a John Wayne movie in honor of Douglas, our Resident of the Months, favorite actor.

Lyra's Life Lessons

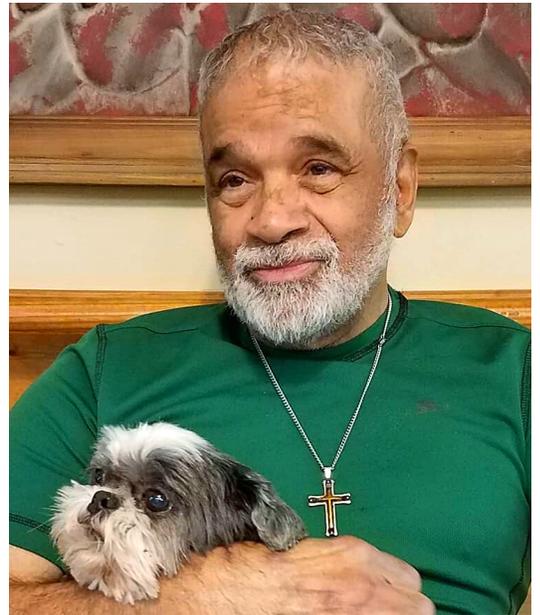
-  Follow your instincts
-  Keep digging until you find what you want
-  Avoid biting when a growl will do
-  Accept all life's treats with gratitude
-  Love unconditionally



**In Loving Memory of
Herman Divers III
Dec 07, 1944 – Apr 15, 2020**

Herman Divers III was born December 7, 1944, in Portland, Oregon. He was the oldest son of Herman Jr. and Carrie (Craddock) Divers. He made his transition to glory on **April 15, 2020**, while surrounded by his loving family and the staff at Oak Creek Senior Living. He attended Topeka public schools and received his High School diploma from Topeka High.

He loved to travel and see God's country. Herman was a man of faith. Whatever church he attended he was not shy about praising God. When living in California, he was a member of West Angeles Church of God in Christ. He also visited and fellowshiped with Calvary Chapel. When he returned to live in Kansas, he placed his membership with Inward Faith Outreach Ministries. Herman enjoyed and loved his brothers and sisters in Christ and was proud that his brother and sister-in-law, were his Pastor and wife. He was faithful to his church and served in whatever capacity he could to be a blessing. He enjoyed participating in the Sunday School lessons. Don't let him catch hold of something in the lesson that really blessed him, because he would praise God right then and there (no shame at all!) He had a heart for people and even those that he just met. Sometimes you would find him carrying bread around his neighborhood to share with his neighbors. He didn't want anyone to go hungry, so he was always trying to feed anybody and everybody; chicken, candy ice cream, chips and nuts. You never know what to expect, except that if he was eating, you could be assured he wanted you to eat with him. He always wanted to share.



Herman enjoyed making jewelry, playing chess, backgammon and solitaire. He loved cooking and was always trying out some new concoctions. Sometimes he wouldn't want it himself, but he sure wanted some else to eat it. Eating was his favorite thing to do, sweets, sweets and more sweets with a huge cup of coffee or soda. Herman loved animals, especially dogs and horses. He would visit the Humane Society and try to pet each of the dogs. He always felt sorry for them. If he could have, he probably would have adopted them all. Herman was quite ornery and entertaining. Most of the staff at Oak Creek got to experience his quirky personality. It could be anything; the nurse would try to test his blood sugar levels, and before she could stick him, he was hollering ouch!! He used to say, "un-oh," like he knew he was in trouble.

He was persistent and wanted to do what he wanted to do. His brother-in-law had a bicycle that he just had to have because he needed to exercise. Now, this particular bike was a former bike of the Topeka Police Department. One day he proceeded to prove to everyone he could ride this bike. He was warned to ride it up and down his street until he got use to it, but no... he knew what he was doing. He ventured out a couple miles from his home and on the way back found himself going faster and faster down a hill. He applied both the front and back brakes and found himself flying over the handlebars and into a brick wall. He tried to command the wall to move but it wasn't having it. That landed him a spot in the hospital with a big old goose egg on his head. He loved cars! He had some beautiful ones down through the ears and enjoyed giving his sibling rides in them. Which brings us to his biggest love, FAMILY. He loved and respected his parents (both deceased.) When it came to his siblings, you'd better not lay a hand on them or act like you were going to mistreat any of them, he was not having it. If you ever wanted to see the wrath of Herman, just try messing with one of them. It wasn't a pretty picture.

Herman leaves to cherish his memories, three brothers, Ken Jennings, Yorba Linda, CA; Anthony Divers (Sweet) and Tyrone Divers (Yolanda), both of Topeka; five sisters, Hazel Bailey (Robert), Joyce Hightower (Gary), Marcilene (Marci) Davis (Renaldo), Ramonia Rogers and Berthena Bronson, all of Topeka; a host of nieces and nephews; great-nieces and nephews; and aunt, numerous cousins and a host of good friends.

FOR MORE PHOTOS AND VIDEO FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!



We continue to work to keep our residents and our team safe during this time. We are appreciative for our families and friends who are understanding. We will get through this together.



Residents painted flower pots and added soil and their own plants to take care of and grow!

