



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Botsford Commons Celebrates Heroes

Independent Living residents tell their stories and share a life from long ago

The Town Commons Dining Room entertained close to fifty people Wednesday afternoon in honor of Veterans' Day. A short ceremony, emceed by Jan Hippler, condominium resident at Botsford Commons, highlighted fifteen service men and women from a variety of branches, all who live in the Independent community at Botsford Commons. After a few quick facts about each branch, the floor was opened for introductions and storytelling.

An opening story from twelve year condominium resident, Bill Iverson was hard to beat. Iverson served in the Army under the direction of General George Patton. He spoke highly of his experiences traveling the world and the amazing benefits the Army gave him under the GI Bill, allowing him to complete his Master's Degree from Wayne State University. Iverson is a character and with microphone in hand, to a room full of seniors, entertained his audience, "for those of you who don't know how old I am, I'm about as old as all of you." Iverson is 94 years young.

The solo Coast Guard representative, George Brancato, was a radio man, trained in New Jersey and stationed in the Biorka Islands, Alaska. Discharged in May of 1946 from a high frequency direction station, Brancato remembers a favorite perk of serving – marching in the Miss America Parade when Bess Myerson was crowned.

There were stories of love at first sight, devastation from losing comrades, thirty-plus years of reunions after everyone had returned home and the sea sick stories - everyone had a sea sick story. The residents remembered detailed facts, tag numbers, friends' names and foreign cities like it was this past year. The decades that have flown by could not erase the vivid memories from their service days and for that, we salute you.

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Botsford Commons Senior Community is a non-profit corporation providing housing and service options for seniors. Located on a 30-acre campus in Farmington Hills, Michigan, the award-winning Community offers a full continuum of care for the area's senior population including short stay rehabilitation services, long-term care and skilled nursing, privately owned condominiums, and rental options for senior apartments and assisted living suites. Botsford Commons Senior Living Center was recently awarded a Level III Quality Seal from the Michigan Center for Assisted Living (MCAL) and a past Bronze National Quality Award from the American Health Care Association/ National Center for Assisted Living. For more information visit the website at: www.botsfordcommons.org.