

NEWS RELEASE



Touchmark at Coffee Creek

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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For further information:
Carol Hartzog Communications
(405) 348-8500

Touchmark residents compile stories of the “Greatest Generation”

Edmond, Okla. — Judith and Leaman Harris of Touchmark at Coffee Creek have compiled stories of the “Greatest Generation” in a just-published book after discovering many residents living in their active adult community experienced World War II firsthand.

According to the Harrises, *As We Lived It* isn’t just a war story. Rather, it’s about life during the war years.

Starting a year ago, the Harrises collected two or three stories during a monthly “story-telling” gathering. They recorded the stories and edited them for the hard-cover book, which is to be previewed at Touchmark just prior to Dec. 7 — 66 years after the attack on Pearl Harbor.

“Everybody has a story,” said Judith Harris. “The stories are from all kinds of people, not just veteran stories. They are about people not necessarily on the battlefronts, but those who contributed here on the home front, also.”

A unique aspect of the book is six of the 18 stories are by women on the home front. Their chapter titles are: “My life as an Air Force Wife,” “My Ride in a P-38-Lighting Fighter Airplane,” “Bea the Riveter Builds Ships,” “Memories of a Girl from Ranger, Texas,” “Aviation Takes Wing in Northwestern Oklahoma” and “A WWII Love Story.”

Bea Coleman recalls leaving rural Oklahoma for San Francisco to work in a shipyard. There, she was a pipe-fitter’s helper. Independently, she decided to further her education and

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2801 Shortgrass Road | Edmond, OK 73003 | 405-340-1975 | 405-340-1451 FAX
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attend a trade school. “I learned to braze and to weld. I never had to do those things on the job, but I did learn how to do them. My job was to connect coffee urns in the galley.”

Proceeds of the \$29 book benefit the Touchmark Foundation, a public charity devoted to finding ways to help seniors receive help and support, such as providing scholarships for nursing students. The book can be ordered by stopping by Touchmark at 2801 Shortgrass Road or calling (405) 340-1975 to request an order form:

A second volume is already in the works, with nine more stories currently collected.

Touchmark offers a wide range of homes and lifestyle options. The active adult community is located just north of Covell Road between Broadway and Kelly. For more information, visit TouchmarkEdmond.com