

# NEWS RELEASE



## Touchmark at Coffee Creek

**For immediate release**

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### **Touchmark stories of independence, service warm the heart**

EDMOND, Okla. — Stories of independence, service and family fill the newest volume of “As We Lived It – Volume 3,” produced by residents of Touchmark at Coffee Creek. The book, which was awarded third place in the nonfiction category at this spring’s Heartland New Day Bookfest, exemplifies the fine art of oral storytelling.

Residents share stories about their lives monthly in a community room now simply referred to as “the bunker,” as it is decorated with World War II memorabilia. The individual stories are so inspiring that Touchmark residents Leaman and Judith Harris continue to record the remembrances and create books.

Alice Snyder tells the story of how her great-grandfather conveyed beef on the Mississippi River to New Orleans. Once there, he and others unloaded the beef and placed it on the wharf. As the men went looking for people to buy the meat, the wharf collapsed, and the meat fell into the harbor. Snyder relates that her great-grandfather was able to save and sell some of the beef.

She describes how they got enough money to buy a few things to take back, including a keg of whisky and a conch shell, which she still has and treasures.

“My great-grandfather brought this shell back to my great-grandmother as a gift to maybe help make up for his months of being gone from home.”

Her colorful tale is one of 20 featured in the book. Twelve stories recall World War II, and two share about the conflicts in Korea and Vietnam. The others relate stories of service, hardship and love.

The stories tug at the heart as they convey the trials and tribulations of growing up in what the residents fondly call the “Greatest Generation.”

Bob Kelly served by teaching government and history to inmates in a medium-security prison. His story includes tales of Igor the Mad Russian, the theft of a semester test by an inmate who subsequently was sent to isolation and the unique terminology of prison.

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The book is available for purchase for \$31 and can be ordered by calling Touchmark at (405) 340-1975 or visiting [TouchmarkEdmond.com](http://TouchmarkEdmond.com). Proceeds from the book benefit the Touchmark Foundation, a nonprofit charity devoted to enhancing the well-being of seniors.

Touchmark, located in Edmond at 2801 Shortgrass Road, is part of the Coffee Creek 638-acre planned residential development, which includes a golf course, recreational centers and walking and biking trails for Coffee Creek homeowners. Touchmark at Coffee Creek offers a wide range of homes and lifestyle options. For more information, visit [TouchmarkEdmond.com](http://TouchmarkEdmond.com).

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With artwork: Cover of book: *As We Lived It, Volume 3*