

Dear Friend.

Did you know that you are the 'author' of 164 inspiring stories at the Air Force Enlisted Village (AFEV)?

Let me explain....

Each 'story' you've helped write is the tale of a United States Armed Forces surviving spouse who was in desperate straits until you came along. Then you turned their obstacles into stepping stones, their despair into hope, and their difficulties into joy.

We've been letting our residents share their stories with you the past few years so you could see what your generosity has wrought. Their letters have been so well received that we decided to let 'Nancy Williams' tell you how she came to the AFEV.

My husband and I were married for 49-and-a-half years, and had three children. As you can imagine, after being married for so long, my life was turned upside down when he passed away seven years ago.

I always had a job, and continued to work after his passing, but I started to think about the future. My children were wonderful to me, but they had busy lives, and I didn't want to become a burden to them if I wasn't able to take care of myself.

My son-in-law, who is a Master Sergeant in the Air Force, drove me to the Air Force Enlisted Village one Saturday. Since it was a weekend, the staff wasn't giving tours. I couldn't even see the inside of an apartment. That didn't matter. Something in my heart told me this was the place I needed to be.

Since that fateful day four-and-a-half years ago, I can tell you that this has been the best move I could have made at this time of my life.

The staff at the AFEV is wonderful. They are always there for you, and have an open-door policy. If something is ever bothering you, there's someone ready to listen and help.

(Over, please)

My favorite activity here is volunteering. I work at the headquarters building and the Commons, answering the phone and helping out. One important part of my job that is not in its description is listening to people who are lonely and want to talk. It brings a smile to my face to know that I'm helping someone in need.

I also help plan parties, like our Halloween event. Even though I was scheduled to have surgery the next week, I wanted to make sure my friends here could celebrate the day. I know you would have chuckled watching our hula-hoop and yo-yo contests!

Please let everyone who reads this know that we can't thank them enough for all they've done for us!

Nancy is truly an inspiration at the AFEV, always putting others before herself, bringing cheer to those in need. She is a lot like someone else we know: you!

To thank you for everything you've done for the AFEV and to inspire you to stand by your friends again, we'd like to give you the enclosed personalized address labels, quotes, bookmarks and notepad. We hope you'll use them to show your friends and family that you are helping to make sure that people like Nancy have the chance to spend their golden years in a safe and happy place.

If you're still wondering if you should give at this time, consider this:

## The only reason Nancy's story had a happy ending was because you've been her friend in the past.

As long as Nancy and the other residents who live here can count you as one of their friends, their stories will remain inspiring. And the AFEV will continue to shine as a beacon of light for those who have silently served their country and will come here one day in the future.

Your past generosity has been the foundation upon which this work was built. Your continued giving is the lifeblood that allows the AFEV to welcome friends like Nancy with open arms.

Thank you for helping us at this important time.

Sincerely,

CMSAF #9 James C. Binnicker

President and CEO

P.S. Please be sure to use your personalized address labels, quotes, bookmarks and notepad to show that you support the Air Force Enlisted Village!