

USS WILHOITE

DE-DER 397

JAN FEB MAR 2022

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Hey Guys and Gal's:

Want to know what you want to see in your newsletters. It's yours to read, but I need some advice on what you like to read about.

I'm open to whatever you like and listing some of them below. Mark what you would like to see and I will try my best, while I'm doing the newsletters, to honor your wishes.

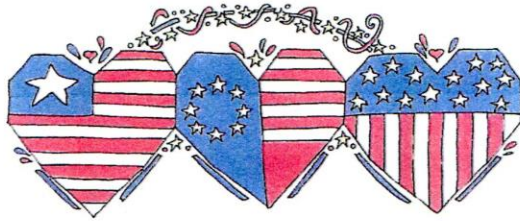
Like it is now	Yes ___	No ___
Navy News	Yes ___	No ___
Poems	Yes ___	No ___
Jokes	Yes ___	No ___
Recipes	Yes ___	No ___
Get to Know one of your shipmates	Yes ___	No ___
Other _____		

Please send back in the stamped enclosed envelope.

Another thing, if any of you know of a shipmate and they are not signed up for the Association, please talk to them and tell them, we want to keep the USS Wilhoite DE-DER 397 alive and floating.

If this virus bug is done by next September, I would love to see all our shipmates there sharing stories and learning about other shipmates family. If it is too expensive please let me know and I'll do some changing. Too expensive Yes ___ Don't forget that we have a website also. It is the following. www.usswilhoite.org





My name is Elisabeth Rider and some of you will not know of me, but my late husband Bobbie was on the USS Wilhoite back in 60 or 61, not sure about the dates. He really loved the navy and the Wilhoite. The way we got started is when John and Connie had the 2003 reunion in Oklahoma. He saw it in a magazine and said we gotta go. So we did and from then on until he passed away 2010 we attended, I guess all but one and he was in the hospital. That was when the reunion was in Seattle. We sure did miss going.

You know I have almost 200 names listed for the USS Wilhoite and we have only 18 listed to belonging to the Association. I would like to see her name and her pictures keep passing along as long as we can keep our Association going. Do you have an interest in her? If you do please contact one of our Association members and let them know you want to be a part of a hard working great destroyer so we can keep her alive and floating. Our 2022 dues starts in September (21) and ends in March (22) to be able to receive the USS Wilhoite Newsletter. Our dues are \$25.00 a year payable to the USS Wilhoite % of Dana Alcorn. 12863 W. Vernon Avenue, Avondale, AZ 85392.

The dues goes to the following: USS Wilhoite Quarterly Newsletters, Website (www.usswilhoite.org), correspondence, reunions, USS Slater, anything else that might come up. I know that some of you can't get around very good anymore and can't come to reunions, but your donation can help keep her name in headlines.

When you were on her and knew a lot of your shipmates, if you have someone in particular that you would like to be in touch with, let us know and we will contact that person and let them know you are wanting to touch base with them.

I have a question and if any of you would know, who was the last group that was her when she was scrapped in 69. Or when she was last on duty. I would like to contact some of the shipmates and talk them and find out why they loved this destroyer so much. Was it just a place that they were assigned to or did this destroyer have something that other destroyers did not have.

The number beside the name represents dues that have been paid. To receive your newsletter your dues need to be paid by March. They are sent out quarterly and are for your enjoyment or for information. They can be sent to Dana Alcorn and her address is found on another sheet in this newsletter.

Aittala	Gene (2021)	Majerle	Edward
Alcorn	Mike (2022)	Markley	Ray (2022)
Anderson	Henry	Mason	William
Aument	Carolyn	Mauldin	Connie (2022)
Austin	Steve	McFadden	Lezette
Baker	Billy	McKallagat	Peter
Berry	David	McKenna	Eugene
Bunker	Rita	Morlock	Fred
Burris	Gary	Morrissey	Tom (2019)
Cagle	Richard	Mullin	James
Caldwell	John (2019)	Murphy	Obie (2022)
Candor	Raymond (2021)	O'Quin	Edward
Carlisle	Fred (2019)	Owens	William (2020)
Compton	Ed (2022)	Papenfus	William
Cramer	Peter (2019)	Parker	David (2021)
Cusato	Paul (2020)	Payne	Gary (2021)
Dougher	Thomas	Payson	David (2021)
Dougher, Jr.	Gerald	Payton	Johnny
Dutchuk	John (2019)	Pohl	Art (2022)
Dyson	Al (2022)	Price	Earl
Eertmoed	Donald	Rice	Robert
Endter	Bill (2021)	Riggs	Arthur
Ercek	Ron (2021)	Ringel	Richard
Farber	Mike	Robinson	Lee (2021)
Frederiksen	Geri (2019)	Rott	Raymond (2022)
Gergens	Steve (2022)	Ruel	Donald A. (2021) 2022
Gieda	Mary (2021)	Scheeder	Scheeder (2019)
Hackenberg	Richard	Shanahan,	John (2022)
Hagee	Charles (2021)	Shuck	Donald L.
Harris	Kenneth	Silhan	Peter (2019)
Hawes	Eugene (2022)	Smith	Raymond (2022)
Hayes	Will	Strickland	Gene
Heller	Richard (2021)	Syverson	Norris
Hill	Les	Tencer	Chuck (2020)
Horch	Linda (2019)	Thompson	Ross (2022)
Huckemeyer	Harry W.	Throm	Larry
Huff	Ron	Torriglia	Paul (2020)
Huml	Vincent (2021)	West	William (2020)
Hydro	John (2022)	West	Tom (2021)
Intemann	Gary	Wiseman	Leonard (2019)
Jensen	Keith	Worden	Charles
Johnson	Harvey (2019)	Wurtz	Stephen G.
Johnson	Robert	Yonkofski	Ben (2022)
Kaczmarski	Julius		
Knight	James (2022)		
Layton	Geoffrey		
Leger	Charles		
Long	Leroy (2022)		

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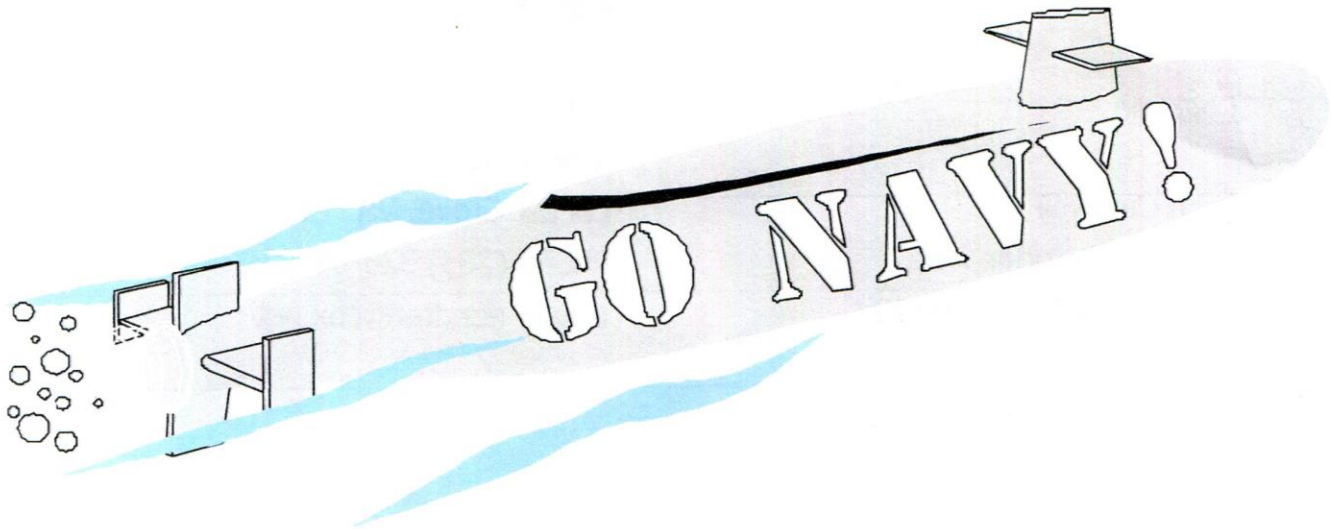
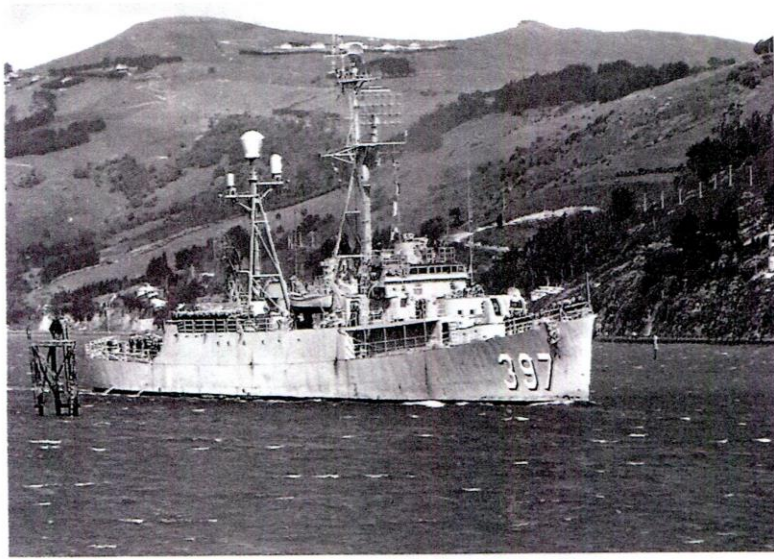
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SHIPS NEWS





The USS Wilhoite has lost two more shipmates. They are as follows and if you would like to send a card you may do so to following addresses. The two that passed away died last month.

Family of Shannan Pratt
6677 SW Bancroft Way
Portland, OR 97225

Family of Vernon Valiant
165 E Delta
Union, OR 97883

If you are aware of one of our shipmates passing on, please notify us. If he has been a member of our Association, we make a contribution to the USS Slater or the charity of their choice.

Also if you want to know of one of our shipmates, we put them on the website so you can go an check to see if they have passed. Their names are added to our list because at our Memorial services all passed on shipmates are recognized by the ringing of the bell.

Newsmaking Ship Sponsored By Daytonans

THE USS WILHOITE, which recently was credited with making the largest capture of enemy ammunition in Vietnam, is sponsored by a Daytona Beach couple: Mr. and Mrs. M. C. Wilhoite, 221 S. Ridgewood Ave.

They're the parents of the late Ensign Thomas M. Wilhoite, for whom the ship was named. He was killed in action in 1942 while flying over Casablanca during the North African invasion in World War II. He posthumously received the Silver Star, the Purple Heart and several other decorations.

MRS. WILHOITE christened the ship in 1943 and since then has provided it with a library of books. Both she and her husband have for many years contributed time, effort, and gifts to veterans' hospitals and veterans' activities, as well as gifts and letters

to the officers and men of the Wilhoite.

As the ship's sponsors, the Wilhoites are notified when the command of the ship changes, the ship receives citations or otherwise makes news. They regularly keep in touch with the men aboard the ship.

Now in Vietnam waters, the Wilhoite is home based in Pearl Harbor and is the flagship of Escort Squadron Five. It's the winner of two Presidential Unit Citations and has seen action in the Atlantic and Pacific since being commissioned 25 years ago.

mended for a Navy Unit Commendation for the largest single capture of enemy arms and ammunition since the beginning of the Vietnam war. The men aboard the Wilhoite sank an enemy ship off the coast of Vietnam to make the capture.

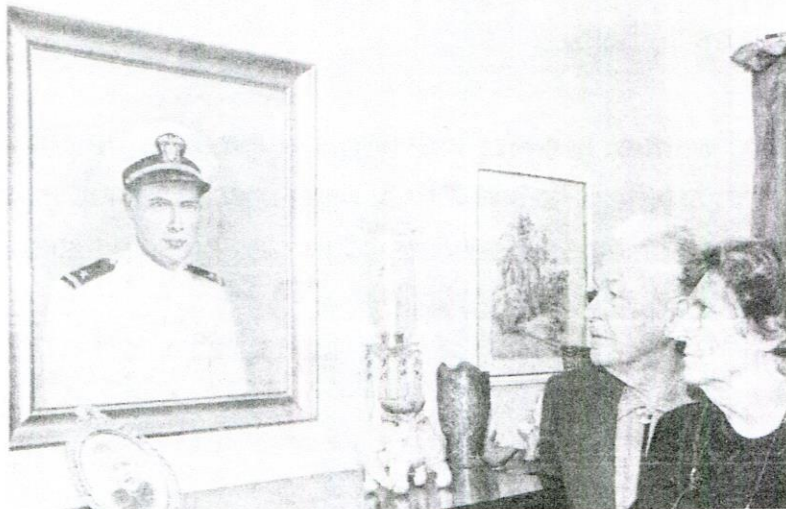
A school in Kenitra, Morocco, for children of servicemen stationed there also was named for their son. Called the Thomas Mack Wilhoite High School, it's maintained by the U.S. Government. The Wilhoites also have furnished books for the school, which was dedicated in January, 1964.

The Wilhoites have lived here 23 years. They came from Kentucky.

RECENTLY, THE SHIP was recom-



USS WILHOITE



Winter 1962

**Family and Friends of WILHOITE
Everywhere**

ALGHA,

Since returning from her last patrol in late August, WILHOITE has been getting a much needed overhaul at the Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard. This in-port period will give many of our fine men a chance to get home on leave, go to school and just stay ashore for a period longer than "24 days".

But shipyard overhauls are demanding operations for ship's company too and WILHOITE men have accepted this challenge with their characteristic "WILL DO" attitude. It'll be another job well done.

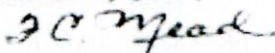
Since we don't leave for patrol again until mid-spring, we are fortunate to be in for all the winter holidays. You may be sure that we'll do all possible to make this a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year for your man.

I hope that the enclosed pictures will help keep you up to date with us. These are busy times. If I may be of any assistance to you please feel free to write to me at any time.

Although this is a large and complex organization the men are still our most potent and prized possession. We are proud of each and every one and are deeply interested in their welfare now and in the future.

On behalf of the men of WILHOITE may I extend the warmest of seasons greetings.

Sincerely yours,



F. C. MEAD
Lieutenant Commander, U. S. Navy
Commanding Officer.

WILHOITE/NAVY INFORMATION

The Sardine Can

Sent to us by Dick Scheeder

Sometime in 1959 while on patrol on the mid-Pacific DEW line, we encountered a bad storm. In the DER configuration the Wilhoite's superstructure was more Aluminum than steel. We normally steamed within a 50 mile circle for a patrol area. Because of this restriction on our position, it was frequently not possible to pick the best course to protect the ship from damage from the sea - forget the crew walking with one foot on the deck and the other on the bulkheads. This particular time we had lost forward lifelines and had damage to Mount 31 splinter shield. Fire hoses and other small equipment on the focsle were gone. We also lost the aft height finding radar antenna on the 01 level just forward of Mount 32. If memory serves, it fell over to the main deck and we were able to secure it for the rest of the patrol.

Sometime on the mid-watch the sea cracked the ships Aluminum hull plating. It is long enough now that the details are hazy. It could have been a weld or the hull plate itself. It broke in a vertical line and separated from the frames on the port side of the main deck-in the Engineers Berthing Compartment. Some water may have been spotted on the deck early on, but would have been dismissed given the way we were being pounded. Later that morning the engineers occupying the forward outboard berths were wet down by the sea. The plating had pulled away from the frame and rolled back as you would a sardine can. Each hit by a wave rolled it back more. After frantic communications with the bridge we changed course to take our beating from different direction. To the best of my memory there was, eventually, a 6 foot opening.

We had a truly top notch shipfitter, Vern Valiant, on board. The recovery from this event was solely his brainchild and his project. Mattresses were put up to the opening to minimize the amount of water that was running through the compartment. With daylight our shipfitter had devised a way to pull the plating back in place so it could be welded or somehow be reattached to the ships frames. The weather and a course change allowed us to suspend the shipfitter over the side (secured by a line) to fit a piece of large diameter pipe through the rolled plate. Then he ran a chain through the pipe and rigged this assembly to a chain fall secured forward of the damage. He managed to unroll the plating enough that it could be worked flat with bars and hammers. It could not be closed enough to weld, but he was able to bolt a temporary section of steel to the loose plate and to the ships frame until we could get to port. The water flow through the engineer's compartment was reduced to a trickle and we finished the patrol. There were some requests from the engineers for submarine pay but they were denied on what we considered very flimsy arguments.

Replacing the damage caused by loss of the radar antenna and the hull plating sent us to the shipyard on our return to Pearl Harbor.



Seasons

Greetings

DER WILHOITE

397

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WILL DO

Pearl Harbor, Hawaii

EXTRA NEWS

IF YOU WANT PUZZLES, BIRTHDAYS, KNOW YOUR SHIPMATES OR WHATEVER, IT WILL GO HERE.

WHEN I GET THE SLIPS BACK LETTING ME KNOW WHAT YOU WANT TO SEE IN YOUR NEWSLETTER, THIS IS WHERE IT WILL GO OTHER THAN SHIPS NEWS.

I WILL TRY TO KEEP UP WITH NEW INFORMATION ON NEW SHIPS OR GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE NAVY.

FOR THOSE THEY WERE IN A DIFFERENT BRANCH, IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE SOMETHING, LET ME KNOW AND I WILL TRY TO ADD SOMETHING FOR YOU.

**From the Desk
Of
Elisabeth Rider
1501 S 12th Street
Rogers, Arkansas 72756
Phone: 479-280-2776
Email: sailingaway1987@gmail.com**

Remember the Christmas puzzle I sent for you to find the sleigh? Well how many of you all did this. If you did it, you will find the answer in this newsletter.

Did you get it right. If so, please mail it back to me and you will get a prize.

As long as I am doing this newsletter I will to put in some puzzles for you to answer and prizes will be sent to you.

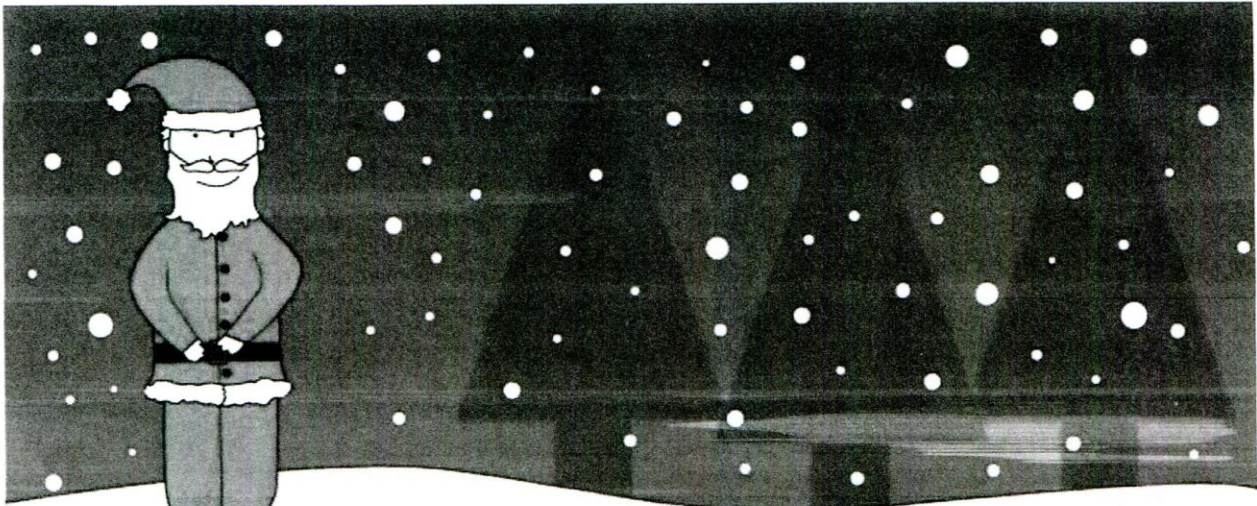
If you like doing this, let me know. I want to make your newsletter for your enjoyment.

Thanks a bunch.

I hope this year is a very safe, healthy and prosperous New Year for you all.

"Smooth Sailing"

Liz Rider



Dr. Shannon P. Pratt

April 12, 1933 - Nov. 26, 2021



Shannon Pease Pratt, 88, of Portland, died in his sleep on the morning of Nov. 26, 2021, at his home. He was born April 12, 1933, in Seattle, Wash., to Randall Shannon Pratt and Edna Pease Pratt. He spent his childhood in Seattle; on Bainbridge Island, and in Portland. He was a graduate of Grant High School (Portland), the University of Washington, bachelor's in Business Administration, and Indiana University, doctorate in Business Administration/Finance.

He attended Navy Supply Corps School in Athens, Ga., during which time he met Mildred Martin, his wife of 57 years. He served in the Navy as Supply Officer, Lieutenant Jr. Grade, on the USS Wilhoite, stationed in Seattle and Hawaii. In the Navy he volunteered as ship chaplain. Shannon worked in his father's grocery broker business, was a professor at Portland State University, and founded both Willamette Management Associates and Shannon Pratt Valuations. He was a pioneer in the field of business valuations, teaching courses and speaking around the world at legal, professional, and trade meetings. He is the author

of numerous books and dozens of articles.

Shannon's first love was his family. He was constantly planning adventures, including multiple family vacations in Wyoming. He enjoyed camping, hiking, model railroading, hosting parties, and traveling the world. He played the ukulele, backgammon, and racketball. He loved reciting limericks, leading camp songs, dancing, and going to shows. The day was never long enough for Shannon. Despite declining mobility from strokes, nothing deterred him from seeking new challenges. A member of Valley Community Presbyterian church since 1971, he served on committees and ensured a Christian foundation for his children.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Mildred in 2015; and his son, Steven in 2017. He is survived by children, Mike Pratt (Barb Brooks) of Portland, Susan Wilder (Tim) of Springfield, Va., Georgia Senor (Tom) of Bentonville, Ark.; grandchildren, Elisa, Katie, Randall, Graham, John, Calvin, Addy, Kenny, Meg, and Zeph; great-grandchildren, Abigail, Liam, and James; and Jenny Pratt. The family is indebted to many dedicated caregivers who have lovingly tended to Shannon in his home for several years.

A family graveside service will take place at Willamette National Cemetery in December. A memorial service will be held at 1 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 6, 2022, at Valley Community Presbyterian Church, Portland. Arrangements are under the direction of Riverview Abbey Funeral Home. Memorials may be made to Valley Community Presbyterian Church, 8060 S.W. Brentwood St., Portland OR 97225, or to The Rotary Club of Portland, <https://rotarypdx.org/donate.php>

Please sign the online guest book at www.oregonlive.com/obits



Vernon F. Valiant

1930-2021
Union

Vernon Fredrick Valiant, 91, of Union, died Nov. 24, 2021. A funeral service will be held Dec. 13 at 11 a.m. at the former Union Methodist Church.

Vernon was born May 17, 1930, in Baker, to Fred Valiant and Pauline (Olbrich) Valiant. After graduating from high school he enlisted in the U.S. Navy. He served in the World War II Occupational Forces in Japan, the Korean

War from 1950-1955 and Vietnam from 1964-1972. He retired as a lieutenant commander in 1972.

Vernon was an active member of the Lions Club, American Legion, VFW, various Masonic Orders and the Eastern Oregon Livestock Show. He served as trustee of the United Methodist Church

for many years.

Vernon was happiest out at sea. He also enjoyed gardening, roses, fishing, hunting and the mountains. He was blessed to have an additional "family by choice."

Survivors include his wife, Martha of Union; brother and sister-in-law, Bob and Marie Valiant

of Kennewick, Washington; nephews; grandnieces and grandnephews; and great-grandnieces and great-grandnephews.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Catherine Creek Community Center Chapel Roof Fund, P.O. Box 275, Union 97883.

Online condolences may be made to the family at www.lovelandfuneralchapel.com.



P.S. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year---I hope.

Greetings!

I wish each of the recipients of this note a Merry Christmas and a wonderful 2022 New Year. In case you haven't figured it out, I'm not a big fan of "Happy Holidays." I don't want to leave out the reason for the season!

Continuing from last year's letter, in December, I had an indwelling catheter installed. It handled one problem, but I still have to monitor for UTI issues. I am assisted, morning and night, by someone from the Oasis care unit. I am currently working with both a PT and OT to build up my strength and flexibility. The motorized wheelchair continues to be my mode of transport.

I have had both vaccines and my booster, but tend to stay pretty close to home. My caregiver/assistant comes five days a week. Sharon is a wonderful person who gets me to medical appointments, creates delicious lunches and takes care of the many things that are needed for me to stay in my apartment. Additionally, Sharon brings me books, movies and puzzles to add joy to my days.

I have included a photo from one of the highlights of this year: my 95th Birthday! You can see that David Johnson flew in from New York, Pam and David popped over from California and my nephew, Doug, and his wife, Pat, came from Colorado. Not one who usually likes a lot of fuss, but I really enjoyed the slideshow, music, special treats and the family and friends who helped me celebrate.



I remain a conservative, worried about my country, but confident that God is in charge. May God Bless and Keep You.

Love, Harvey

