

Renaissance Lifestyle

SUMMER 2020



Stronger Together Challenge

We're challenging you to write a short story, play, poem, or song. Take pictures or paint. Get your creative juices flowing and create in your own way. Submit a piece featuring the theme of "We're Stronger Together!" to concierge by the end of day each Monday. We will display your pieces around the community and lucky winners will be featured in our weekly updates. We cannot wait to see your creations!

CORONAVIRUS SAFETY TIPS

- Use alternative forms of communication such as phone calls & video chat services to speak with loved ones.
- Practice social distancing. Avoid physical contact & maintain 6 feet of distance between yourself & others.
- Avoid touching your face.
- Engage in good handwashing techniques. Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap & hot water.
- Cough or sneeze into a tissue or your elbow.

Executive Director's Corner

Dear Residents, Family, and Friends:

I want to thank our residents and their families for their patience and support as we've navigated this Coronavirus pandemic, especially with closing our doors to visitors. We're looking forward to the time when we can begin meeting in person once again.



I also must commend our staff for their excellent job of caring for residents. We appreciate your positive attitudes and your dedication to continuing to strive to create great days for residents in our present circumstances.

Thank you also to the surrounding community for their support during this time. We've received various donations of personal protective equipment and other items for staff and residents. Thank you to Rhino USA, The City of Murrieta, the Murrieta Rotary Club, a group of moms and residents' family members. Your support is truly appreciated.

Once again, please note we are here to help in any way we can and answer any questions that you may have during this time.

Stay safe! We're here to help in any way we can!

Brian Taube, Executive Director

Resident Spotlight: Derek & Maria J.



Maria & Derek on a trip in Alaska in front of the Mendenhall Glacier.

We love how each of our residents has a unique and beautiful story of how they've become the people they are today. In fact, with Derek and Maria J., this is no different.

Maria was born May 17, 1934, in San Marino, a small enclave surrounded by Italy. San Marino is the oldest republic in the world that still exists, and was founded by Saint Marinus in AD 301. Maria has two brothers and two sisters. As a child, she enjoyed making dresses for her dolls and making Pignoli, which are Italian cookies made with pine nuts.

When Maria was 13, she began painting ceramics in San Marino. Out of her love of making dresses for her dolls, she developed a skill of sewing. Maria later took these skills to the profession of dressmaking. She worked making custom dresses.

When Maria was 18, her father decided to move their family to America. She had a brother already married and living in America at that time. Her brother sponsored the family so they could all be together like their father wanted. A few years later, she met her future husband, Derek.

Derek was born in the Lake District of Northern England on May 19, 1936. He had two brothers that have since passed away, and a sister who currently lives in Tucson, Arizona. As a child, Derek enjoyed visiting the farms of his father's friends. He loved farm life and liked bottle feeding the orphaned lambs, collecting eggs,

and doing little chores on the farm.

Derek's father grew unhappy with the political situation in England. Labor unions and the labor government dominated much of it. In addition, Winston Churchill faced defeat, and as a conservative himself, his father decided it was time for them to make their exit from the country. They initially planned to move to Vancouver, British Columbia. However, the floods Vancouver had that year were detrimental. They had another relative living in California, and he encouraged them to move there instead. His father took that opportunity to see it as a better opportunity for his children as opposed to staying in England.

Derek was 12 years old when they moved to California, and he got to work right away. He sold newspapers on the corner of Imperial Highway and Hawthorne Boulevard. The next year he got a paper route, and at 15, he started working at a factory in East L.A. He later also worked for a picture frame factory. When Derek graduated high school, he started his education at El Camino Junior College, before deciding to enlist in the Army.

Derek decided to enlist so that he could receive the Korean veteran's benefits. He went to serve in Korea and was very fortunate as he worked in Army Intelligence. Derek felt the job was rewarding for a military position. During his time in Korea, there was a shortage of people who could interpret photos, and the Army allowed him to attend a special school that taught the men this critical skill. There were about 30 students, mostly officers, which also included his superiors. Derek came in at the top of the class and did well in this new position. They would interpret photographs of North Korea from missions of pilots like Francis Gary Powers. After Derek got out of the Army, he studied aeronautical engineering at the North Institute of Technology. He later received his Bachelor of Science in Engineering and went on to design the

electronics used for imaging systems.

Derek and Maria met at the Hollywood Palladium during an evening of dancing. Derek recalls that, given the time, their first dance was probably a foxtrot. They later married, and this coming October, they'll celebrate 61 years of marriage. The two have three children, two sons named Greg and Mark, and a daughter named Cora. Mark is an optometrist that practices down the street from Renaissance Village Murrieta, and Cora lives about a mile away. Derek and Maria have seven grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

To say that Maria and Derek are avid travelers is an understatement. Derek recently tallied their adventures together over the years. He recalls returning from a trip to England, and Maria told him she no longer enjoyed looking at old castles and stately homes. To Derek, it was the best news he ever heard. So, he began searching for their next trip. As a result, the following year, they traveled to Ecuador before camping in the Amazon Jungle, and then spending ten days touring the Galapagos Islands.

Another year they traveled through South America, seeing the countries of Brazil, Argentina, and Paraguay before making their way to South Africa. In South Africa, they visited Zimbabwe, Victoria Falls, Zambia, and finally Botswana. Going to Botswana was quite an experience as they traveled on a small plane that dropped them off at the edge of the Kalahari Desert. They received instructions to wait at a stone monument that said Kasane 175 KM that way, and Maun 175 KM the other way. Their pilot said someone would be by to pick them up soon.

Maria got so upset with Derek as they waited, later to be picked up by a guy in an open jeep who took them to a game camp. They were greeted by the game hunter, who instructed them that tea was at 3 p.m., game drive at 4 p.m., and they were in tent nine. When they later

went on the game drive, within 20 minutes, they were in an open jeep sitting too close for comfort next to a pride of lions. Despite the challenges they faced on this trip, Maria didn't divorce Derek, and they had a fantastic time touring five different game camps.

Of all the places they've been, the Amazon Jungle was Derek's favorite. They both enjoyed the time they got to camp in the ice fields of Patagonia, but Maria shares that it was a freezing experience. They also enjoyed a trip to Indonesia where they visited the Sumatra and river rafted down the Alas River.

One of Derek's significant hobbies was playing golf each week, but unfortunately, due to mobility issues, he's no longer able to play. Maria enjoys painting and loves taking part in our weekly Paint & Sip activities. Derek shares that he thinks the staff at Renaissance Village Murrieta is incredible, and Maria shares that living here is like living with the family. They've both lived exciting lives, and most importantly for them, they've done it together.



Thank You To Our Team

We are beyond grateful for our wonderful Renaissance Villages Family. Each and one of you are a huge part of what makes Renaissance Villages a great place to live. We appreciate the hard work you've all done through the Coronavirus pandemic. Thank you for your continued dedication to creating great days for residents. You're all doing a wonderful job caring for residents! We know residents and their families appreciate it!



IT TAKES A VILLAGE!

WE'RE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER!

BRAIN TEASERS

Are you great at puzzles? Give these riddles a try!

1. Why do bananas use sunscreen?
2. What do you call a dog on the beach during the summer?
3. What do you call a snowman in July?
4. What does the sun drink out of?
5. What is the best day to go to the beach?
6. What did the beach say to the tide when it came in?
7. What kind of music do killer whales like?

1. Because They Peel. 2. A Hot Dog. 3. A Puddle. 4. Sunglasses. 5. A SUNDAY. 6. Long Time, No Sea. 7. They love to listen to the orca-stra.

SUDOKU MEDIUM

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HARD

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VERY HARD

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Veterans Moving Into Senior Living

One of the most admirable acts a person can do is lay down his or her life for others. This sacrifice is something many of the seniors in our country did over the years. With a growing need for living options for seniors, many of our veterans are unaware of the benefits available to them. Below you can find resources for what veterans moving into senior living need to know.

Veterans Benefits for Assisted Living

There are many senior veterans in our country needing daily assistance, who are unaware of the veteran's benefits that are available to them. The Aid & Attendance Pension is support available to veterans and surviving spouses. This support helps reduce the cost of senior care and assisted living.

Those eligible for Aid & Attendance for Assisted Living must meet the following criteria:

- Wartime veterans or their surviving spouse (marriage must have ended due to the death of veteran)
- Aged 65 or older or permanently disabled
- Veterans must have served at least 90 continuous days of active duty, with at least one day during a time of war.
- Veterans must have received an honorable, general, or medical discharge.
- Applicants must have, on average less than \$129,094 in assets, which excludes their primary home and vehicle.

Please note, you must prove Aid & Attendance eligibility each year. To ensure your eligibility, be sure to keep a record of the expenses you used when you first filled out your application. To learn more about what you may qualify for, visit our veteran's benefits page or the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs.



Bobby R. one of the veterans who calls Renaissance Villages home.

Veterans at Renaissance Villages

At Renaissance Villages, we have a high view of the sacrifice that many men and women have made over the years to protect the freedoms that we have in the United States. We strive to honor them in helping them get the benefits they deserve. We also honor our veterans by placing their photos on our Veterans Wall of Honor at each community. Renaissance Villages also hosts its annual Veteran's Day Celebration where we invite members of the city and military come to show their support. In fact, our 2019 Veteran's Celebration also featured a flyover by the San Diego Salute formation flying team!

Each Renaissance Villages location offers a veteran's discount. In addition, we have a myriad of resources for helping them go through the veteran's benefits process. Are you a veteran interested in living at Renaissance Villages? Call today to discuss moving into one of our senior living communities.

PLEASE NOTE: Renaissance Villages does not specialize in veteran's benefits. Therefore, all information above should be discussed with your Elder Law Attorney or Veteran's Benefits Professional as each individual's circumstances vary.

SOLVE THE PUZZLES? CHECK WITH CONCIERGE FOR THE SOLUTIONS.



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Village

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SUDOKU

HARD

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		5	4			3	7	1
						4	8	
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	9						3	
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	8	4						
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1			2			7		

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