

NEWS RELEASE



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For more information:
Carol Hartzog
Carol Hartzog Communications
405-348-8500

From World War II to Afghanistan, Touchmark to honor veterans

Edmond, OK – Touchmark at Coffee Creek in Edmond will observe Veteran’s Day Nov. 11 with a noontime program featuring talks from heroes from the war in Afghanistan and World War II.

Sharing their experiences will be Edmond resident Col. James Wilhite, Army Reserve (Ret.), author of “We Answered the Call: Building the Crown Jewel of Afghanistan,” and Touchmark resident L.M. Sullivan, a member of the “Greatest Generation.” There will also be a display of veterans’ memorabilia.

The event is 11:30-1 p.m. at Touchmark, located in Edmond at 2801 Shortgrass Road. Lunch will be provided. Reservations are required; call 405-340-1975.

Wilhite’s book tells an untold story of success and hope from Operation Enduring Freedom. In 2004, while working as a professor of Education at Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, Okla., Wilhite was called to active duty. His mission was to build a four-year university for Afghan students using the U.S. Military Academy at West Point as the model. The National Military Academy opened on Feb. 5, 2005, and Wilhite was awarded the Bronze Star for his work. He served more than 39 years.

Wilhite is also the recipient of The Daughters of the American Revolution Medal of Honor, and West Point named him the “American Father of the National Military Academy of Afghanistan.”

Staff Sgt. Sullivan’s experiences as a gunner on a B-24 and B-17 began in 1944 and continued through 35 intense combat missions in the European Theater in World War II. He chronicled many details of his Air Force experiences in the book, “How We Lived It,” which contains essays about the lives of Touchmark residents.

“On the flight line, the control tower would signal to start engines, and 39 planes with four engines each would roar to life. What a tremendous noise — and the reason I say ‘Huh?’ so much today,” wrote Sullivan.

On one of his last missions, the Germans hit his plane, knocking out two engines. The plane and crew safely limped into an airbase that was surrendered by the enemy just hours earlier. On the ground, he spilled his parachute and kept some of the silk for his

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TOUCHMARK *at Coffee Creek*

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fiancé's wedding gown. He completed just a few more missions before he returned home.

“Touchmark’s Veteran’s Day observance is open to the public and would be an excellent program for anyone who wants to hear firsthand stories from those who served this country to protect our freedom,” says Touchmark Life Enrichment/Wellness Director Carla Scull.

“As We Lived It” is available for purchase for \$34.95 and can be ordered by calling Touchmark at 405-340-1975 or visiting TouchmarkEdmond.com. Proceeds benefit the Touchmark Foundation, a nonprofit 501(c)(3) public charity devoted to enhancing the well-being of seniors.

A full-service retirement community, Touchmark offers a range of homes and lifestyles. It is part of North Edmond’s Coffee Creek planned residential development, which includes 638 acres of homes, a golf course, recreational centers and walking and biking trails for Coffee Creek homeowners. For more information, visit Touchmark.com.