



Clockwise from top, Air Force veterans Paul Arneson, Mike Kirby and Alicia Jones, photos by Bob Schultz



Foundation, Chorale Celebrate Leisure World's Veterans

■ Foundation of Leisure World

by Paul Eisenhour

More than 100 residents joined in a musical celebration of U.S. military veterans at an event sponsored by the Foundation of Leisure World that included six speakers and more than 20 vocalists.

Foundation board member Lori Lipman Brown welcomed the audience and introduced all the presenters at the Nov. 11 program in the Crystal Ballroom. Rev. Dr. Woodie Rea, senior minister at The Inter-Faith Chapel, delivered both an insightful invocation and a concluding benediction.

Presenters included Kent Amos, who served two tours in the Army in Vietnam; Mike Kirby, a Staff Sergeant in the Air Force; Alicia Jones, Master Sergeant who served 25 years in the Air Force; Paul Arneson, Colonel, whose Air Force career spanned 30 years; Robert Malson, a Fire Control Technician in the U.S. Navy; and Peter Greene, a Major in the Marines.

Each of the speakers discussed the youthful exuberance that had influenced their choices, and several explained how coming from a military family had impacted them.

Recognition was also given to those who had served in the U.S. Coast Guard and the U.S. Space Command.

A special tribute was paid to resident Rose Manco, now aged 101, who served in the Women's Army Corps during World War II. While she did not attend the Veterans' Day celebration, a video of the tribute was delivered to her Leisure World home.

The members of the Leisure World Chorale, directed by Connie Graber and accompanied by Mark Hanak, led musical salutes and encouraged audience members to join in such familiar songs as "Anchors Aweigh" and "From the Halls of Montezuma."

Foundation board members Judith Oliver and Sandy Henderson, each of whom handled key aspects of planning for the event, agreed that by the closing musical selection, "America the Beautiful," audience members seemed visibly moved.

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