

“Hear Our Voice; Residents of LTC Facilities Speak Out About Residents Rights.”

Prince Revelle

It all began two and a half years ago when Prince Revelle decided to write his autobiography. He was eighty years old when he began to put his story onto paper, but his journey in writing began much earlier than that. Ever since 2<sup>nd</sup> grade he has been encouraged by teachers to become a writer. His teachers always told him he had a wild imagination and excellent writing skills. Prince began writing his book while living at a Missouri Veterans Home-Cape Girardeau. He wrote nine chapters there. Then, he moved to the Missouri Veterans Home-St. Louis where he began typing his story, with the help of others. Finally, when he moved to the Missouri Veterans Home-Warrensburg he finished writing his book. Prince had been in the process this whole time of sending his chapters to a publisher. In completion of the final stages of this project the staff here at the Missouri Veterans Home – Warrensburg all worked together to help Prince. Jan Smith, the Volunteer Services Coordinator, contacted Helen Cunningham who has been a volunteer here in Warrensburg for almost seven years as our librarian; she typed the last few chapters of Prince’s book. Randy Bright, from computer services, helped get the entire book together on the computer so the finished product could be sent to the publisher. Now we anxiously await the arrival of his autobiography to relive his life story with him.

So what does this all have to do with Resident’s Rights? Here at the Veterans Home our Heroes have the right to participate in activities of their interest and they also have the right to special accommodations to meet their individual needs. Everyone worked as a team to help Prince Revelle achieve his dream of publishing his autobiography. Prince believes it is important for others to listen to his opinion and know where he stands. He said he was given a wonderful opportunity to express himself and his views while writing his book. He also stated he was very thankful to have had all the help and encouragement during the writing process from the staff at the Veterans Homes. Here at the Veterans Home we not only respect our Heroes Rights, we also empower them to achieve their lifelong dreams because it is never too late to accomplish something you’ve always wanted to do.