

## NOVEMBER ROUNDUP



Thankfulness is traditionally the theme for November, and we began the month by reflecting on our veterans, their sacrifices, and the freedoms we enjoy because of them. Some of our veterans shared meaningful memories. One resident told us about a moment when a passerby recognized Manny J. (*see photo top left*), thanked him for his service, and explained that Manny had saved his life in Korea. Stories like this remind us why we take time to reset our perspective each day and honor the men and women who have served, whether or not they seek recognition.

When residents were asked what they were most thankful for, good health and loving families were mentioned again and again. Some, like Fran P. (*see photo above*), expressed gratitude for Decatur House itself and for the comfort they find here. We share that gratitude. We are thankful every day for our residents and for the devoted people who keep this house running smoothly. Christine, our driver and concierge, stayed busy this month transporting residents to doctor appointments, grocery stores, coffee shops, and out to the Sagamore Inn Restaurant for a delicious lunch (*see photos above of group and of Bernadette and Pat talking*). Her service helps residents maintain as much independence as possible. Stephanie, our hair stylist, keeps everyone looking and feeling beautiful. We are equally grateful that when we are at home, great music comes to us. Julie Charland and Matt York (*see photos below*) each filled the room with songs and stories from their lives, and both enjoyed hearing the residents' stories just as much. Ginger R. and Joan H. of the Crazy Quilters of Cape Cod visited to share a stunning selection of quilted pieces created by their guild. Residents were mesmerized by the workmanship and artistry, as well as the generosity of the presenters and the quilters who loaned their creations (*see photos below of the Shaw's and Addie and Alice*).

And of course, we cannot forget the delicious Thanksgiving dinner prepared by Chef Cynthia, Delanie, and Jon. Every day, these three work hard to create memorable meals and decadent desserts. Along with Housekeeping, Maintenance, and Nursing, they form the backbone of the care and comfort provided at Decatur House. Because of them, we have a safe and welcoming home in which to live and work. We are also thankful for the friendships that flourish here. Regular volunteers like Donna K., Mike H., and Joyce F. bring familiar faces, special services, and warm connections that brighten our days. New friendships are blossoming as well, between longtime Sandwich residents and those who have recently relocated. These relationships grow cozy and strong, anchoring us through good times and challenges alike. Camaraderie is something we can all be grateful for, and November gave us many reminders of just how lucky we are.





Spotlight: Pat Coffey continued

They did, and went on to enjoy a marriage of more than 69 years, filled with fun, hard work, and deep partnership. Pat continued her secretarial work while John installed sheet metal, but soon they both left their jobs to open a contracting business together. When their children arrived, Pat balanced the business, the home, and family life.

As the business grew, she hired her replacement and devoted herself to homemaking. She became an avid gardener and knitter, and remains a voracious reader. Their family eventually grew to four children, with the youngest arriving when the oldest was already in high school. Pat recalls with a smile, “Instead of being embarrassed about the baby, my son and his friends, all those big boys, were so sweet with him.”

After retiring, Pat and John enjoyed a gentler pace. They took short trips, visited family, walked together, cooked together, biked along the canal, and returned often to the water—a place that had brought them together from the start. Those years were full of simple joys and cherished memories.

Today, Pat remains active and warmly embraces this new chapter of life. With a lovely private apartment and family close by, she continues to meet new friends who bring joy, interest, and companionship.

Please join us in welcoming Pat Coffey to Decatur House!

Holiday - Save the Dates!



**Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup> - 12:00 to 2:00 p.m.**  
- Resident Family and Friends Holiday Party  
(RSVP by Dec 2)



**Friday, December 12<sup>th</sup>**– Due date to contribute to the holiday fund for Decatur House front line staff



**Thursday, December 25<sup>th</sup> - 12:30 p.m. -**  
Christmas Dinner



*If you intend to join your loved one for Christmas dinner, we kindly request that you let us know as soon as possible.*



Around the House

Community SPOTlight

PAT COFFEY



Growing up in a large Irish family comes with its own special kind of magic: built-in companionship, plenty of helping hands when it comes time to work, and enough craziness to keep it all interesting and fun.

Pat Coffey knows this well. Born the youngest of the four older children and the oldest of the four younger, she held the true middle spot in a family of seven. Laughing at the memory, she shared, “In some ways it was easier, especially at meal times. You ate what was cooked or you waited until the next meal. There were no alternate meals or sandwiches like parents do today.” Some of her favorite childhood moments are of simply being together as a family, playing games, taking Sunday drives, and sailing.

After graduating from high school in Medford, where she was born and raised, Pat’s family moved to South Boston. She worked weekdays as a secretary, and on weekends she and her siblings would often stop by the local yacht club. That’s where she met John - the cute, kind, good-humored young man who would one day become her husband.

In her lively household, Pat’s opinion wasn’t the only one that mattered. When she brought John home for dinner, her parents had a secret code: if they didn’t approve of him, the couple would be “allowed” to stay home afterward to play cards. If he passed the test, they could go out. Pat crossed her fingers that her boisterous brothers wouldn’t overwhelm John, who had grown up an only child. The boys were their usual energetic selves, but John fit right in, laughing easily and enjoying every minute. After dinner, Pat and John were encouraged to head out and have a good time!