



Watercrest Senior Living Group CEO, Marc Vorkapich, congratulates WWII Veteran, Liz Strohfus at her appearance in the 125th Rose Bowl Parade

Vero Beach, FL January 7, 2014 – Amidst the fanfare of marching bands and stunningly adorned floats of the 125th Rose Bowl Parade, perched the tiny, yet mighty Liz Strohfus, formerly known as “Betty Wall” during her service in the Women’s Airforce Service Pilot (W.A.S.P.) program in WWII.

During her service in 1943-44, Liz flew eight different aircraft including the B-17, B-26, P-39, and her favorite the AT-6. She flew anti-aircraft training missions against US Army ground and aerial forces, towed targets, and (much to their dismay) instructed male cadets on instrument flight. Decades later at the age of 71, Liz flew an F-16 out of Duluth, MN with the Air National Guard and at age 82 she 1st piloted a B-17 bomber from Owatonna, MN to St. Paul, MN. In 2009, Strohfus was awarded the Minnesota Woman Veteran of the Year and one year later, in 2010, she received the Congressional Medal of Honor at the Nation’s Capital.



While attending the Rose Bowl Parade in Pasadena, Marc Vorkapich, CEO of [Watercrest Senior Living Group](#), took special notice of Ms. Strohfus and her awe-inspiring history. At the conclusion of the parade, Vorkapich sought out Strohfus for introductions and congratulations on her great accomplishments. In the crowd of thousands of parade participants, the pair met and embraced.

The 93-year-old Strohfus, wiped a tear from her eye, as she beamed with pride, describing her accounts as a female pilot during WWII. Her sweet smile and spunky demeanor were truly endearing, as she added, “you can do anything you want to do.”

World War II Airforce Fighter Pilot, Liz Strohfus (aka Betty Wall) greets Marc Vorkapich, CEO of Watercrest Senior Living Group, with a warm embrace at the finale of the 125th Rose Bowl Parade in Pasadena, CA.

Born in Faribault, MN in 1919, Liz was introduced to flight shortly after high school graduation by a member of the local Sky Club. Using her bicycle as collateral, she borrowed \$100 from the local bank to pay the dues into the all-male Sky Club and begin flight lessons.

Her flight career began when a military notice posted at the club asked for women pilots to assume duties to free male pilots for overseas combat. Strohfus was one of only 1,800 women accepted from 25,000 applicants. Only 1,074 graduated and she received her wings in the first class of 1944.

The 2013 Rose Bowl Parade float, “Our Eyes Are On the Stars” celebrated the courage of the brave American women of W.A.S.P who dreamed of flying for their nation during World War II. The female pilots were finally recognized as Veterans of WWII nearly 35 years later, in 1977.

Watercrest Senior Living Group specializes in assisted living and memory care community operations, market repositioning and [advisory services](#). Partnering with a wide variety of stakeholders such as land owners, real estate developers, investors, financial institutions, and REITs, Watercrest Senior Living Group focuses on its core strengths, operations management of assisted living and memory care communities and the development of servant leaders.

Contact: Kathryn Vorkapich
Phone: 772-539-4553
Email: kathryn@chandonnicholas.com

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