

## NEWS FROM THE STAFF

### OPERATIONS

Alert status: **ORANGE**

### IN MEMORIAM



Steve Nelson, 13 February

Lucille Trenda, 11 February

Daniel "Stump" Sowada, 27 January

### WELCOME NEW RESIDENTS



Sue Hendrix #305

### SAVE THE DATE

**Tuesday, 7 March:** Town Hall Meeting, 10:00am, CC2&3

- General Jones will be presenting updates and will recognize the Distinguished Service Award winners from 2022. Please mark your calendar and plan to join us!

**Tuesday, 7 March:** **OPEN** DRAC Meeting, 2:00pm, Sky Lounge

**Sunday, 12 March:** Daylight savings - Spring your clocks forward 1 hour!

**Monday, 13 March:** Valley Hi HOA Meeting, 7:00pm, Legacy Room

**Thursday, 23 March:** **OPEN** RC Meeting, 2:00pm, Sky Lounge

**Thursday, 23 March:** Classic Country w/ Jack & Dan! 4:00pm, Sky Lounge

**Friday, 24 March:** Play for Freedom Golf Tournament, The Quarry Golf Course



1 Deadline: Monday, 27 March @ Noon: [fridayflyer@blueskiestx.org](mailto:fridayflyer@blueskiestx.org)  
Next Publication Date: Friday, 31 March.

## 2022 DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD WINNERS

Lt Gen (Ret) Darrell Jones, President/CEO

Congratulations to the following BST residents for their outstanding service to the Blue Skies community!

### BST West:

**Daniel "Stump" Sowada** was nominated by his wife, Nancy. "Stump moved to Blue Skies of Texas in 2012 and immediately joined in and led several activities. The Blue Skies Wheelmen Bike Club, Catholic Council, Blue Skies Knights of Columbus group, Village Voices, and Resident Ambassador are only a few of the groups he participated in. For several years, until his stroke in 2018, he prepared tax returns for residents through the program offered at Blue Skies. He was always helpful to his neighbors, including putting out and placing back garbage cans, and picking up newspapers and placing them on porches." Also, who could forget all the amazing 4th of July parades that he spearheaded for years? Unfortunately, Stump passed last month, and so his wife Nancy will receive this award on his behalf.

### BST East:

**Paul Wilkinson** was nominated anonymously. "His vast community involvement over the years is certainly worthy of this recognition. Paul has been highly active with the East Resident Activities Committee since his arrival in 2010. He organizes, emcees, and books entertainment for the monthly Birthday, Anniversary and Newcomer dinners. Paul coordinates with Independent Living residents to bake cookies and distribute them to residents at The Mission. Paul goes about the community, pitching in wherever needed. He is a friend to all and helps other in need, no matter what the request might be or how little time he has to share."

## CHANGE IS INEVITABLE, BUT IT IS STILL HARD

Lt Gen (Ret) Darrell Jones, President/CEO



Some things don't get easier no matter how many times you do them. That is how we all feel about saying goodbye. Earlier this month we bid farewell to Jennifer Z. Berg Matthews, Director of Development. Jennifer was at Blue Skies of Texas leading the Development Team for over 3 years, but recently decided to pursue her own career in real estate.

Please know that following Jennifer's departure, and while we continue the process of choosing a new Director of Development, the department will continue



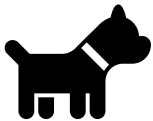
**Deadline: Monday, 27 March @ Noon: [fridayflyer@blueskiestx.org](mailto:fridayflyer@blueskiestx.org)**  
**Next Publication Date: Friday, 31 March.**

to be supported by Daniel Casillas, Fundraising Associate (210 568-3290), and Mitch Millar, Development Associate (210 568-3211). Should you have any questions about the upcoming Play for Freedom Golf Tournament or about charitable giving options in general please reach out to them.

While we are losing Jennifer in this position, we're not losing her as a friend, and we wish her the best in her new endeavors. Good Luck and God Bless You Jennifer!

## RESIDENT SERVICES – FURRY FRIENDS

Danielle Weintraub, Assistant Director



As the weather starts to get warmer, I know many of you will be taking your furry friends to the dog park for some much-needed exercise and socialization. However, I want to remind everyone of the importance of cleaning up after your dogs.

Dog waste is not only unsightly but can also be a health hazard, especially if someone comes in direct contact with it. Leaving dog waste on the ground is disrespectful to other park users. As responsible pet owners, it is your responsibility to ensure that the dog park remains a clean and safe space for all to enjoy. So, please keep an eye on your dog and pick up after it immediately. It only takes a few seconds and goes a long way in maintaining the cleanliness of the park.

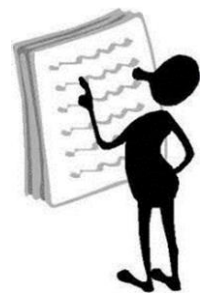
I am pleased to announce that Mario has finished installing the new dog waste stations around campus. These stations provide bags and a convenient place to dispose of dog waste properly. I encourage all dog owners to use these stations and to bring their own bags just in case.

## NEW FORM FOR FITNESS PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS AT BST

Maureen Parrish, Corporate Compliance Director

Beginning this year, Blue Skies of Texas Residents who take part in our fitness classes will be asked to complete a Waiver of Liability. The document will be renewed annually and stored by Wellness.

The waiver will serve to document each resident's understanding that there are physical risks associated with fitness activities and they should only participate if they feel well enough to do so. The waiver will also provide some liability protection for Blue Skies of Texas and by extension, our fitness



**Deadline: Monday, 27 March @ Noon: [fridayflyer@blueskiestx.org](mailto:fridayflyer@blueskiestx.org)**  
**Next Publication Date: Friday, 31 March.**

professionals. This document is recommended by our insurer and a standard in senior living where fitness programs are offered.

If you would like to discuss further, please contact me (210-568-3225, or [maureenparrish@blueskiestx.org](mailto:maureenparrish@blueskiestx.org)) or stop by the Blue Skies of Texas Corporate Office.

## SCAM ARTICLE – BE THE SMARTEST CLOVER IN THE PATCH

Ashlie Maltos, Personal Affairs Advisor, [ashliecampos@blueskiestx.org](mailto:ashliecampos@blueskiestx.org)

The VA has published an article regarding PACT Act Fraud Prevention, below. Please see this detailed information about this scam, and if you have any questions about seeing a Veteran Service Officer, VSO, please call Ashlie Maltos at 210-568-3282:



### PACT Act Fraud Prevention

Have you recently been contacted by a company aggressively seeking to legally represent you in filing presumptive VA claims authorized by the [PACT Act](#)? If so, be wary, as the company might be seeking a portion of your VA benefits. Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act of 2022 (PACT Act) represents the biggest expansion of Veteran benefits in history, and many Veterans may be eligible to receive compensation for their service. The PACT Act adds 23 burn pit and toxic exposure-related conditions to VA's list of service presumptions, including hypertension, with the expansion of presumptions related to Agent Orange exposure by including Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Guam, American Samoa, and Johnston Atoll as locations for Agent Orange exposure. While this legislation brings great promise to Veterans, it's also a monumental opportunity for fraud. VA has received multiple reports of unaccredited law firms or companies targeting Veterans to offer their services to file claims for presumptive conditions. Unaccredited law firms and companies are reaching out to help for a fee as high as 40% of the Veteran's retroactive payment and 40% of the Veteran's first year of entitlement payments. VA is committed to help protect Veterans from predatory entities, by educating Veterans, their families, and all partners about the types of activity and tactics being used against them.

To avoid being a victim of these schemes, here are some helpful tips to remember:

- **Apply directly to the VA.** You may submit your application securely [online](#) via VA.gov or in person at any regional office. You may file your claim directly with



4

**Deadline: Monday, 27 March @ Noon: [fridayflyer@blueskiestx.org](mailto:fridayflyer@blueskiestx.org)**  
**Next Publication Date: Friday, 31 March.**

VA, and VA will help you gather the necessary evidence to support it. There are no costs or hidden fees to apply. Do not agree to pay an unaccredited individual or organization a percentage of your disability compensation payment or retroactive entitlement. If you need help filing a claim, there are [accredited representatives](#) to assist you.

- **Be cautious of aggressive law firms or companies.** Firms may use frequent communications (phone, text, and media messages) to establish a sense of urgency.
- **Be cautious of for-profit companies that use the VA's name.** They may alter their name to create a false association with VA and establish legitimacy. Examples include a website such as VAclaimsassistance.com that incorporates VA into its name.
- **Review all legally binding documents thoroughly.** Never sign a blank form someone else will fill out later or give them full discretion to act on your behalf. Review the contents before you sign and keep a copy for yourself.
- **Be wary of media advertisements regarding legal representation for presumptive VA claims.** Companies advertising legal services may be predatory and financially motivated to obtain your VA benefits.
- If a company or individual is projecting misinformation or has questionable business practices regarding VA entitlements, file a complaint with the [Federal Trade Commission](#) at and the [Better Business Bureau](#).
- To report suspected fraudulent activity, please contact the VA Office of Inspector General ([OIG Hotline \(va.gov\)](#)).
- Veterans and survivors who think they might be eligible should apply for PACT Act benefits right now. Go to [va.gov/PACT](#) or call 1-800-MYVA411 for more information.

## HOW BST WORKS FOR YOU

Jennifer Z. Berg Matthews, Director of Development

Ever wonder how the Blue Skies guarantee to “take care of our own” works, or wonder how charitable dollars are used? If you’ve ever asked yourself these questions, then “How BST Works for You”, or HBWY, is for you! This is a meeting presented by the Air Force Villages Charitable Foundation to provide residents information about the charitable history of Blue Skies, answer FAQs about the charitable assistance we provide to residents in need and to the whole campus, and how you can get involved with the AFVCF’s efforts. If you’re a newer resident (e.g., having lived at BST for 5-7



5

**Deadline: Monday, 27 March @ Noon: [fridayflyer@blueskiestx.org](mailto:fridayflyer@blueskiestx.org)**

**Next Publication Date: Friday, 31 March.**

months), the information may be new; if you've been a BST resident for a longer period, please use this meeting as a refresher course in all things AFVCF-related!

If you'd like to attend on **Thursday, 16 March** at **2pm** in the Legacy Room, please email Fundraising Associate Daniel Casillas at [danielcasillas@blueskiestx.org](mailto:danielcasillas@blueskiestx.org) or call him at (210) 568-3290. All are welcome; some newer residents may receive a personal invitation.

## MAINTENANCE & PEST CONTROL

**Maintenance Work Order Submittals** – If you see something that our team needs to address, please let us know by calling Lupe or sending an e-mail.



- Work Order Desk: 210-568-3261
- Work Order Email: [bstemaintmgmt@blueskiestx.org](mailto:bstemaintmgmt@blueskiestx.org)

**Pest Control:** Services are accomplished 4 weeks per month.

Thursday, 2 March		Thursday, 9 March	
High Rise	Floors 6-7	High Rise	Floor 8
Midrise	Floor 4	Midrise	Floor 5
Cottages		Cottages	1754-1759
Hills	San Antonio bldg. All bldgs. Exterior	Hills	Dallas bldg.
Health Care		Health Care	
Specials	AH: Interior common & exterior Cochrans: Interior & exterior	Specials	Hobby Shop: Exterior

Thursday, 16 March		Thursday, 23 March	
High Rise	Floor 9	High Rise	Floor 10 & Exterior
Midrise	Floor 6	Midrise	Exterior
Cottages		Cottages	
Hills	Austin bldg.	Hills	
Health Care		Health Care	TM: Exterior
Specials	MX: Exterior	Specials	F & V: Exterior



6

**Deadline: Monday, 27 March @ Noon: [fridayflyer@blueskiestx.org](mailto:fridayflyer@blueskiestx.org)**  
**Next Publication Date: Friday, 31 March.**



## ANNIVERSARY MILESTONES OF SERVICE

Human Resources Team

The HR Team would like to thank the following employees for reaching an Anniversary Milestone of Service with Blue Skies of Texas. Thank you for serving our residents with love and care throughout the years. We appreciate you!

<b>Employee</b>	<b>Anniv.</b>	<b>Yrs. Svc.</b>	<b>Department</b>
Mariela Perez	1 Mar	4	Freedom House
JJ Bryant	1 Mar	5	Freedom House
Mary Cockrell	2 Mar	3	Freedom House
Hailey Corbitt	3 Mar	1	The Mission
Cecilia Castaneda	3 Mar	3	Environmental Services
Cynthia Escobar	3 Mar	4	Human Resources
Dorothy Trevino	4 Mar	7	Finance
Ivonne Torres	8 Mar	1	Freedom House
Leonard Herrera	9 Mar	2	Hospice
Leslie Cisneros	12 Mar	26	Marketing
Valentin Peralta	13 Mar	22	The Mission
Marysa Deskin	16 Mar	1	Dining Services
Joseph Carrion	16 Mar	1	The Mission
Christina Riney	17 Mar	1	Freedom House
Lee Cancel	17 Mar	3	Resident Services
Roswitha Tucker	18 Mar	7	Freedom House
Freddie Cervera	18 Mar	4	Marketing
Rose Reyes	21 Mar	5	Dining Services
Darwin Guray	22 Mar	1	Freedom House
Caitlin Menig	22 Mar	1	The Mission
Jacqueline Martinez Rivera	24 Mar	3	Freedom House
Maria Balderas	26 Mar	3	Freedom House
Anne Haas	30 Mar	1	Resident Services
Dinin Armstrong	31 Mar	1	Freedom House



7

**Deadline: Monday, 27 March @ Noon: [fridayflyer@blueskiestx.org](mailto:fridayflyer@blueskiestx.org)**

**Next Publication Date: Friday, 31 March.**

## RESIDENT'S CORNER

### DRAC – DINING ROOM ADVISORY COUNCIL

Carol Hernandez, Chair, [DRAC.BSTE@outlook.com](mailto:DRAC.BSTE@outlook.com)

Thanks to everyone who attended the February meeting and focused on positives & clarifications. Also, for being so receptive to the other changes in our meeting format. It is very appreciated. Thanks also for helping to make sure our residents are treating our staff kindly.

Did you see that there are now weekly specials for breakfast? This is in response to the breakfast eater at Cochran's wanting some variety. Go down Mon.-Sat. from 8-9 a.m. and try it.

In response to residents wanting coffee available again in the main lobby they are trying something new. So soon, there will be a Keurig maker in the main lobby. You can purchase your K-cup from the front desk for \$1. It can be charged to your food account or paid for at the desk like the milk, etc. This way those who are consuming the coffee are the ones supporting it financially. Thanks, Danielle, for making this happen for our residents and guests.

By now several weeks of the new weekly menus have been served. You have seen more variety, fish, ethnic foods, etc. in response to the January survey. Did you know that a soda, iced tea, tea, or coffee can also be one of your side selections?

In the Sky Lounge people make reservations at a certain time and then show up more than a few minutes late. This causes problems in the kitchen and with the wait staff. The result is the next timeslot not getting the type of service they deserve. In respect to others, please make sure you and your dining party are present at your reservation time.

Thanks to everyone who is using the electronic comment cards through the Dining Services section of Touchtown. This helps us to quickly get your comments to the Morrison crew. If you need help learning how to do this, please tell me. Remember comments now need to be submitted before the meeting. The open meetings are structured for information and clarification.



8

**Deadline: Monday, 27 March @ Noon: [fridayflyer@blueskiestx.org](mailto:fridayflyer@blueskiestx.org)  
Next Publication Date: Friday, 31 March.**



Our next Open DRAC meeting is **7 March** from **2:00-2:40 in the Sky Lounge**. At 2:40 our council goes into a closed session. At this meeting, our focused speaker is Danielle. She will talk about some new things that are happening. Also, answering some questions presented to the board.

Remember to help you more easily know who is on DRAC, members' pictures are posted in the hallway into Cochran's. The DRAC members also have name badges that say DRAC Representative, etc. If they can't help you with dining concerns, they will assist you to the right source.

### **DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS SOCIETY MEETING**

Robert Certain, BSTW Resident



The Alamo Chapter of the Distinguished Flying Cross Society will hold their monthly meeting on **Wednesday, 8 March at 10am at BSTW in the Roadrunner Lounge**. Robert Certain, accompanied by fellow travelers Robbie Certain and Allan and Sandra Snyder, will present a program about their trip to Vietnam. They arrived in Ho Chi Minh City on Friday, Feb 17, cruised on the Mekong River through Cambodia until Wednesday, Mar 1, then flew to Hanoi for three days where the nine former POWs on the trip celebrated 50 years of freedom. We welcome all residents with a DFC, their guests, spouses and surviving spouses as well as any interested resident from either BST campus

### **VILLAGE VOICES**

Nancy Jones Sowada

The first meeting of the Village Voices was held in 1976 with one objective in mind—the love of singing. In 1987, residents from Air Force Village II (Blue Skies West) joined. The tradition of the Village Voices continues at Blue Skies of Texas.

Since its formation, the Village Voices have continued to perform at both Villages (Blue Skies East and Blue Skies West) for Spring and Christmas concerts, as well as for other groups and events, including Veterans Day, and at The Mission, Freedom House, and Liberty House. We are preparing for our concerts in May, which will be music written by Americans for Americans. We hope to see you then!



**Deadline: Monday, 27 March @ Noon: [fridayflyer@blueskiestx.org](mailto:fridayflyer@blueskiestx.org)**  
**Next Publication Date: Friday, 31 March.**