



The Mississippi Health Care Association (MHCA) is pleased to present a series of profiles of residents across Mississippi titled, “An Enriched Life” to highlight to the impact of their lives.

William Hearn – age 89, Lakeland Nursing and Rehabilitation Center

Born on July 20, 1928 during a time when Americans were going through dramatic social and political changes, William Hearn has lived an incredibly full and enriching life—based on his contributions to help ensure others enjoy a better quality of life.

At an early age he joined the United States Army. He also attended the University of Southern Mississippi and obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in psychology. He later attended Mississippi College and began to venture into working in the field of education.

In his career in education, he served as second in command at the state Department of Education and was also employed as a Counselor at Hardy Junior High for several years. Mr. Hearn wrote grants to fund education for newly-integrated schools and those struggling financially in the Mississippi Delta. He also founded a textbook store where he sold books.



Even while enduring the loss of his first wife due to breast cancer and the loss of both of his sons due to bone cancer, Mr. Hearn has had a strong, unwavering faith in God. After the death of his loved ones, Mr. Hearn embarked on a journey to better understand different medical conditions because he wanted to help people battling disorders, diseases and medical conditions of any kind.

Mr. Hearn and some of his colleagues established Region 8 Mental Health Center. Mental health disorders were on the rise and Mr. Hearn and others wanted to ensure that Mississippi had a facility that would be able to meet the unique challenges of mental health issues. Today, the center has nine locations with a mission of providing the highest levels of care for mental health, intellectual/developmental disabilities and alcohol and drug abuse.

The staff at Lakeland Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, where Mr. Hearn resides, continually marvels at the grace he demonstrates through his life. He continues to have the heart of a servant and aspires to always help others in need. That—and for so many other reasons—is why Mr. William Hearn is living “An Enriched Life.”

Thank you to Caronda Trigg of Lakeland Nursing and Rehabilitation Center for your nomination of Mr. Hearn for MHCA’s “An Enriched Life” profile.