



**World War II Veteran's Wish of a Lifetime to Fly Again Comes True**  
***95-Year-Old Soared Through the Sky in an Airplane Glider Over the Lakes of Central Florida***

Donald Bansen, 95, is World War II veteran who resides at Freedom Village at Bradenton, a Brookdale managed senior living community. His lifelong love of aviation led him to a 40 year career at Pan American Airlines as well as experiences flying everything from flying boats to the Concorde supersonic jet. Donald's passion for flight is as strong as ever and it was his Wish of a Lifetime to fly in a craft he has never been on, an airplane glider. Thanks to Brookdale and the Wish of a Lifetime organization, this Wish came true on Tuesday, March 15, when Donald traveled to the Seminole-Lake Gliderport in Clermont to fly in an airplane glider in front of several residents from his community.

"Flying takes you out of this world!" says Donald. "I wanted to fly again in any way possible. This fulfilled my dream and truly was my wish of a lifetime."

Growing up, Donald had a natural gift and love for anything mechanical, this led him to attend airplane mechanic school. At the height of World War II in 1943, Donald left his career to join the Navy after his younger brother was drafted. Donald was stationed in Newfoundland, Canada, where he serviced military aircraft as a 1st Class Aviation Machinist Mate. He returned to Pan American Airlines after the war and worked there for another 40 years in several different positions. Even though he is retired now, his interest in flying has never waned.

In 2010, Brookdale Senior Living and Wish of a Lifetime formed a partnership to provide a helping hand in making some of the dreams of Brookdale's residents come true. To request a Wish, residents fill out a Wish application explaining an experience they would like to have fulfilled and how that experience relates to one or more dimensions of Brookdale's Optimum Life® platform. Optimum Life cultivates whole-person wellness through fulfillment in the six key dimensions: purposeful, emotional, physical, social, spiritual and intellectual. Since the partnership's inception, more than 600 Brookdale seniors have had their Wish granted.

For more information about Brookdale and Wish of a Lifetime visit [brookdale.com](http://brookdale.com) and [wishofalifetime.org](http://wishofalifetime.org)

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***About Brookdale***

*Brookdale Senior Living Inc. is the leading operator of senior living communities throughout the United States. The Company is committed to providing senior living solutions primarily within properties that are designed, purpose-built and operated to provide high quality service, care and living accommodations for residents. Currently Brookdale operates independent living, assisted living, and dementia-care communities and continuing care retirement centers, with approximately 1,114 communities in 47 states and the ability to serve over 107,000 residents. Through its ancillary services program, the Company also offers a range of outpatient therapy, home health, personalized living and hospice services.*

***About Wish of a Lifetime***

*Wish of a Lifetime™ fosters respect and appreciation for deserving seniors by fulfilling their life-enriching Wishes. Founded in 2008 by two-time Olympic skier, World Cup gold medalist, entrepreneur, and former NFL football player Jeremy Bloom in living honor of his grandmother, Wish of a Lifetime has made over 1,000 Wishes come true for seniors in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The organization aims to create a positive shift in the way society views and values aging by sharing the stories of its inspiring Wish recipients with those of all generations. After experiencing a wish, 93 percent of Wish recipients stated they felt their quality of life improved and 76 percent said they felt their overall health improved. To learn more about the organization or to help fulfill a senior's Wish visit [www.wishofalifetime.org](http://www.wishofalifetime.org)*