

Jack Dorshaw



Jack Dorshaw, 97, spends almost every weekend flying planes. During his 30 years of Marine and Army Air Corps service he logged over 8,500 hours in 10 different aircrafts. Jack also holds a Master Pilot Award from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for more than 50 years of flying. His extensive experience in the air would lead many to believe he's done it all. However, Jack had one dream that had never been fulfilled. His Wish of a Lifetime™ is to experience the thrill of flight in a fighter jet.

A decorated military veteran who served during WWII, the Korean War, the Vietnam War and the Cuban Missile Crisis, Jack is a “walking history book.” He flew transport planes carrying soldiers during WWII. His job during the Korean War was to fly a B-26 over supply routes and locate enemies. After the military, he worked as a flight instructor in a small airport in Pennsylvania for several years.

But when your job is also your passion, work never really feels like work. “Flying to me is second nature. It is my greatest joy,” Jack says. His grandson, Josh, says, “The day he can’t go flying anymore would be the saddest day of his life. It would mean the world to him to fly in a fighter jet while he still can.”

Brookdale and Wish of a Lifetime helped make Jack’s dream a reality by sending him on a fighter jet experience ride out of Angelina County Airport where he experienced flight like never before. “Granting this wish proves that no matter what the age, people always have a sense of adventure,” Jack said.

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 800 Brookdale seniors have had their Wish granted.