

Another 108-Year-Old

Life is full of little ironies. After going to one birthday party for a 108-year-old woman, Nyleptha Roberts of Life Care Center of Sparta, Tennessee, on March 10, I believed it would be a long time before another such occasion came along. Well, I was wrong. Last Friday, March 31, Carla Youngberg, executive director, and her staff at Life Care Center of Collegedale planned a party for a 108-year-old gentleman, Robert Amorine. Regrettably, I was not able to attend because of other commitments with Life Care, but Cari McGlamery of Life Care's public relations department did – and she reported it was quite an occasion.

Rather than inviting guests in to the center, they took the guest of honor out – to Smokey Bones Barbeque and Grill at Hamilton Place Mall shopping center. The event was combined with the monthly outing of the older gentlemen's Red Suspenders Club. Amorine's son, Robert, who lives in Ohio, was present to join in the celebration. "He's lived through the horse-and-buggy age and into the space age," Robert observed. "He's lived an amazing life. He is the last surviving sibling of 10 children. My mother was the last surviving sibling of nine children."

"It's remarkable how independent and sound-minded Mr. Amorine is," said Vicki Hartway, the facility's activity director.

Amorine was born and reared in Tennessee. He attributes his longevity to abstaining from smoking and drinking, and being a regular churchgoer. He worked for 16 years at Alcoa Corporation in Maryville, Tennessee, and helped build the aluminum plant. He later moved to Columbus, Ohio, to work for the New York Central Railroad. It was in Columbus where he met his wife, Betty, and the two returned to Tennessee. They were married for 71 years. Amorine came to live at Life Care Center of Collegedale in 2001.

What a remarkable life! In his 108 years, Amorine has ...

- Contributed significantly to the economy through his efforts at Alcoa and for the railroad.
- Shaped a lasting legacy through his family.
- Witnessed significant events in history – including developments in transportation, science, medicine, technology, building trades and communication, among others – the likes of which people before him never experienced. The dramatic changes in these and in other areas of life are unparalleled in previous generations.
- Made a personal impact on countless others that he has encountered before and continues to do in his present environment.

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We salute him – not only for the longevity of his years but for the quality of his time on this earth.

--Beecher Hunter