

Ultimate Vacation

One of the popular features in the Life Matters magazine published by Life Care is a page entitled "Resident Voices." Residents are asked to comment on events, situations and memories. It is a delight to read, and I recommend it.

An upcoming edition -- the June issue, to be exact -- will pose the question about a vivid memory of a special vacation. One of the respondents, Mary E. Wilson of Westside Retirement Village in Indianapolis, had a remarkable observation. She said:

"I've had vacations in campgrounds where I sat by a campfire and listened to the wind in the trees; by the ocean, where I lolled on the sand and listened to the surf; in museums, enjoying all types of art; in the Everglades, where I dared not step off the beaten path lest I meet a snake or alligator face to face. Each of these, at the time, seemed the best vacation, and I was reluctant to leave.

"But my ultimate vacation is the one I am enjoying now. When I unpacked my clothes, I felt right at home and very much at ease. As I sit at my windows and gaze at the woods and sky, I know the true meaning of contentment.

"My wonderful, long vacation started when I moved to Westside Retirement Village, where there is a caring and capable staff; where I have many friends. There is always a fun thing to do or a lounge to enjoy a cup of coffee with a buddy.

"But the very best part of it is that I do not have to think about packing my bags for the trip home. I'm already there!"

What an endorsement by a customer of the environment and services being provided. Ms. Wilson's description identifies a standard of satisfaction that we should strive to achieve in every location.

--Beecher Hunter