

Veteran peppers history lesson with tips for staying engaged

FRANK ALESI, 95, is a Southern Californian through and through. He considers hula shirts de rigueur and grew up in Los Angeles. “We used to call it ‘Hollywood,’” Alesi said.

A World War II veteran who served at the Santa Ana Naval Air Station, Alesi refers to the station as the “Lighter-Than-Air base,” as it was commonly called in the 1940s.

Places.

Alesi and his unit flew those blimps during WWII, patrolling the coast for Japanese submarines. The blimps were, according to Alesi, “Easier than driving a car; less traffic.”

An entertainer – and joker – at heart, Alesi sports the same kind, slightly crooked smile he had at 18 in the Navy. It’s easy to identify him

“The service is fantastic. The head chef is about as good as you can get.”

- FRANK ALESI, EMERALD COURT RESIDENT

Current residents of adjacent Irvine and Tustin tend to know it as the former Marine Corps Air Station Tustin. The name was changed in 1978 and the two 170-foot tall blimp hangars on the former base are listed in the National Register of Historic

on Emerald Court’s Wall of Heroes; just look for the grin.

Alesi has struck up friendships with fellow veterans during his eight years at Emerald Court. He’s quick to point them out on the heroes’ wall, but refrained from sharing



FRANK ALESI IS A WORLD WAR II VETERAN WHO SERVED AT THE SANTA ANA NAVAL AIR STATION, WHICH WAS LATER RECOMMISSIONED AS THE MARINE CORPS AIR STATION TUSTIN.



FRANK ALESI, 95, SERENADES STAFF DURING AN IMPROMPTU LUNCHTIME CONCERT AT EMERALD COURT. “NEXT TIME I SEE YOU IN A BAR, I’LL FINISH THE SONG,” ALESI JOKED.

their salty “Navy talk.”

Emerald Court believes in the importance of honoring those who served with special celebrations, like the upcoming Memorial Day BBQ on May 27, an event Tony Pulsifer, Dining Service Director/Executive Chef, eagerly anticipates.

“We’re all excited. Residents bring their families. It’s very festive, there’s music, and everything is made from scratch,” Pulsifer said, “We want to make every day our client’s best day.”

Alesi appreciates the respect veterans command at Emerald Court and the staff’s attention to detail. “The service is fantastic,” Alesi said, adding, “the head chef is about as good

as you can get.”

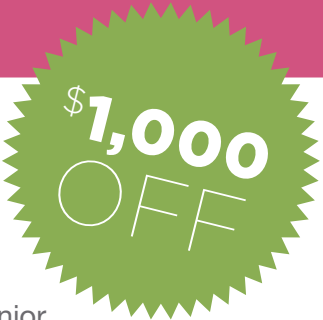
With events, dancing and music, Alesi likened Emerald Court to “being on a cruise ship.” Alesi should know; he did a stint as an onboard entertainer and “can still belt out a good Sinatra song.”

With an extended family of children, grandchildren and great grandchildren; and a wide circle of friends at Emerald Court, Alesi stressed the importance of staying engaged. “You have to get out in the world,” he encouraged, “Everything goes on; nothing stops.”

Emerald Court is available for personal tours by calling 714-450-7445 or connecting online at lifeatemeraldcourt.com.



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Lifestyle

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