

## Former educator learns staying active can make a house a home

**JACKIE JACKSON** has always been a people person and a lifelong learner. The Kentucky native taught elementary school in Louisville and holds a master's degree in education. During her time in college at the University of Louisville she "met a fine young man." A year of courtship with Walter (Walt) led to a lifetime of love, marriage, family and a deep commitment to help others.

Walt worked as a marriage and family counselor and pastored at several churches, including "counseling military chaplains and families," Jackson explained. Though the couple remained in Louisville, his work occasionally took him to California.

Life was full at home, too. The couple had three kids — a son and two daughters — and their clan expanded over the years to seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Retirement came gradually. "Walt retired several times — he had so many jobs," Jackson said with a laugh. They

for long stretches. Her daughter, Nancy, and son-in-law lead busy professional lives as teachers themselves.

More steel magnolia than southern belle, Jackson fearlessly approached the next chapter of her life; a life which she envisioned involving both family and embracing new opportunities for learning and forming friendships. "I wasn't used to being by myself," Jackson said.

That's when Jackson discovered Emerald Court. "My daughter and her husband were both going to be out of town for a couple of weeks. We decided I should stay somewhere where I would be looked after."

Emerald Court reserves two apartments for short-term stays, so Jackson made a reservation. Her first surprise came when she arrived. "There was a sign at the front desk that said, 'Welcome, Jackie Jackson.' It was the first hint that this place was going to be special."

Little did the Emerald Court staff know, but Jackson used her short-term



KENTUCKY NATIVE JACKIE JACKSON FINDS HER DAYS BUSY AND FULFILLING AT EMERALD COURT, SOCIALIZING WITH FRIENDS, TAKING CLASSES, OR VISITING HER FAMILY.

*“Everyone was very friendly and helpful. They go out of their way to make people feel welcome.”*

- JACKIE JACKSON, EMERALD COURT RESIDENT

also valued their home life and horse culture in the bluegrass state. "Derby Day is a big event," Jackson affirmed.

Still, Jackson acknowledged that the couple wasn't getting any younger and it was time for a change. "Finally, my daughter said, 'It would be nice if you two moved a little closer to us.'" Their daughter and son-in-law built a suite in their house in Fullerton. Jackson and Walt moved to their new home about two years ago.

Recently, Walt passed away and Jackson found herself at home alone

stay to "test drive" the community for a longer-term commitment. "What Emerald Court didn't know is that I was looking for a (new) place to call my home."

Emerald Court did not disappoint. "The place was so clean. The food is really delicious. And there's a new wellness center with the most up-to-date equipment." Jackson was thrilled with Emerald Court's rich social life, too. "There are painting classes, jewelry-making classes, flower arranging, devotional groups that pray together.

There are so many exercise classes — every kind of activity."

Wii Sports bowling and Zumba also became new activities Jackson embraced with gusto. "Zumba — I didn't even know what a Zumba was. I tried it and called my daughter that night and said 'Nancy, I took a Zumba class.' She said 'Mom — you didn't!'" Jackson laughed.

"I'm enjoying the newness of everything," Jackson enthused with a smile.

Beyond the activities, Jackson feels that the people at Emerald Court make the difference. "Everyone was very friendly and helpful. They cared about me. The employees show kindness, pa-

tience, and love. They go out of their way to make people feel welcome."

Jackson, always the educator, also acknowledges that being around others, giving back, even just simply spending time with friends and family are ways to train your brain to keep a positive outlook.

"I have lots of choices here every day — to stay in my place, get involved with a class, to visit friends who are close by, get away to shop or spend time with my family. I can't imagine a better place to live," Jackson concluded.

*Emerald Court is available for personal tours by calling 714-450-7445 or connecting online at [lifeatemeraldcourt.com](http://lifeatemeraldcourt.com).*



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Enjoy a wide variety of wonderful entrée selections and marvel in delight at our culinary staff's exhibition cooking skills, as they prepare your meal right in front of you in this open concept kitchen. Whether you're in the mood for a custom made pizza to order, a hearty house made soup from scratch, a piping-hot Artisan panini sandwich, a fresh gourmet salad or a decadent dessert, it's all available at BLU - all you have to do, is decide. Rest assured that you will always find the perfect meal to suit your taste and satisfy what you're craving.

Our talented culinary team led by Executive Chefs Tony Pulsifer and Dave Seaton have crafted a seasonal menu including; fresh entrées, monthly dessert options and everyday menu choices prepared with locally sourced ingredients. The impeccable cuisine, exceptional service, and superb surroundings of Emerald Court, will surely create a memorable dining experience, ensuring that your palate will always have something exciting to look forward to. We hope to see you soon!

