



Accessible Space, Inc.

HOUSING WITH CARE®

OTHA BROWN

Affordable Living for a Thankful Senior



In 1957, a young Marine jumped at the chance to travel to the Nevada Atomic Test Site and volunteer for a unique opportunity. Along with his fellow marines, Otha Brown crouched in a trench, his head just two inches below ground level. As an atomic bomb dropped, he braced himself. A searing light burned away the horizon and a massive blast shook the ground, throwing the men off their feet.

Otha Brown is proud of his service in the US Marine Corps and looks back fondly on his years in the military. But after a lifetime of hard work, he appreciates the comfort of an accessible, affordable apartment at Patriot Place in Las Vegas. The convenient location allows him to walk and ride his bike.



After the atomic blast, the “all clear” was given, and Otha Brown walked the short distance to the site of the bomb detonation. Tanks, trucks and heavy metal equipment lay mangled and twisted. He and the other Marines measured the radioactive emissions using Geiger counters. With their task completed, they packed up and traveled back to their base in California. “It was a feeling of accomplishment,” he says. “We felt that we were doing what any proud respectable, hard-charging marine would do.”

It’s the kind of duty-bound work ethic that has compelled him all his life. After leaving the service, he married, raised five children and supported his family by working a variety of sometimes-dangerous jobs including in a steel mill and on a navy base operating a crane. Although he has faced difficulty—including segregation in his boyhood Arkansas and the deaths of his wife and identical twin brother in the 1980s—he prefers to dwell on the positive. “I’ve had a nice life,” he says. “A really, really nice life.”

These days he appreciates his home at Patriot Place Apartments, the accessible, affordable development built especially for veterans. From the computer room to the gym equipment to the outdoor patio to the security system, he feels that the building shows ASI’s “powerful respect for veterans.”

Because there’s a bus stop just two blocks away, he sold his car and rides his bike or the bus everywhere. Everything he needs is close: the grocery store, farmer’s market, Walmart. He could even get to the Vegas Strip if he wanted to. When he’s home, he is grateful for the security system and the solid construction. “This building is built so well, if you close your door you have no noise, no sounds.”

Otha, who is 81, isn’t done celebrating life. He just re-married. He and his bride Judith are, for the moment, making their home at Patriot Place.

“I don’t know when to quit,” he says with a grin.



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The mission of Accessible Space, Inc. (ASI) is to provide housing with care for persons with physical disabilities and brain injuries, as well as seniors and veterans. This mission is accomplished through the development, management and ownership of accessible, affordable housing, assisted living and rehabilitation services.