



Ms. Mary Elena Oliver Isbell shares her story on AdamsPlace

One of eleven children, Mary Oliver Isbell was born in Gibson County, Tennessee. She married her childhood sweetheart, and for 53 years, traveled to and from Air Force bases all across the country. Her husband, Hollis, was stationed in Oregon, then Sewart AFB in Smyrna, TN, next to Langley Field, Virginia, on to Mitchell AFB in New York, back to Langley, then to the Canal Zone, then Sewart again, to California and finally back to Sewart AFB where he retired. Mary enrolled in all the schools and colleges that were offered at each base, eventually earning her certificate in accounting from Florida State in the Canal Zone. She says, "To this day, it has served me well." After settling in Smyrna, Mary worked for General Electric for six years. She had worked for Bank of America while in California, and she was hooked! She joined Murfreesboro Bank and Trust, where she retired as Operations Manager after twenty two years. Mary says, "I count my blessings each and every day. Now that I've been there, done that and seen so much of this great land, living here at AdamsPlace is my security blanket. It's a change in life in more ways than one. It's a move into a comfort zone!" But don't expect to find her sitting still long for long. At 92 years old, Mary walks two miles every day. She has always liked her freedom to come and go, and at the day's end, she's ready to come home to AdamsPlace. She often encourages her fellow residents to learn the names of the staff and really get to know them. She says, "They are all VIPs in my book, and I am thankful!"



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