Social Butterfly
Independence Hill Senior is the Life of the Party

By Amy Morgan

Ron Scherer is known throughout the Independence Hill Retirement Community as the “life of the party.” The active senior is quick to offer a smile or a joke to uplift the spirits of others. He loves to dress for an occasion – whether it’s the top hat and “tuxedo” t-shirt he wore to the community’s Kentucky Derby party or the tribal “tattoo sleeves” that decorate his arms. He enjoys wearing the forearm coverings so much he is affectionately called “tattoo man,” a humorous moniker Ron relishes.

Ron treasures only two things more than a good joke – his kitten Zoe, and his family, which includes his six children, 17 grandchildren, 4 great-grandchildren and beloved wife, Alice Jean. Their pictures cover an entire wall of his home facing the greenbelt in one of Independence Hill’s outer cottages. Ron and Alice Jean celebrated 49 years of marriage before her death in 2001. Although the high school sweethearts grew up in Pittsburgh, they traveled across the country with Ron’s U.S. Air Force career for the first 22 years of their marriage.

Ron joined the Air Force in 1951 because he wanted to jump out of airplanes, he said. He’s been on a lot of airplanes, but he lamented that he never did get to jump out of one. Ironically, his four daughters, inspired by his dream, recently parachuted together in Colorado on their annual sisters’ getaway.

Ron is a devoted Pittsburgh Steelers fan. He notes that both he and the team were born in 1933. He owns six recordings of their Super Bowl games and enjoys reliving the glory of their successes.

When he retired, the Scherers settled in Live Oak, where they lived for the next 47 years. Alice Jean had become accustomed to sunshine postings, he said, so they never returned to live in Pittsburgh. Ron became a restaurant manager for Jack in the Box and supervised a warehouse for an engineering contractor at Kelly Base. Alice Jean ran the house. The family was active at the Our Lady of Perpetual Help parish for decades.

“When God gave me the wife every man should have had,” Ron said.

When Ron moved to Independence Hill, he was delighted to realize Holy Trinity Catholic Church was located just across the street. He loves the camaraderie of joining new friends in the dining room for meals and is always ready to embrace the many social events offered.

Ron began training with the Senior Games team and participated in the one-mile run. True to his outgoing personality, he soon became a team spokesperson! He puts his decades of grand-parenting experience to good use with Independence Hill’s Grand Pal mentoring program, which serves Stone Oak’s Las Lomas Elementary School. He looks forward to reading with the children and is very impressed with the facility. “Holy Mackerel, the library looks like Carnegie Library in Pittsburgh!” he said.

Life at “the Hill” has put the spring back in this social butterfly’s step.