



*Captain George Patterson, Jr.
Retired, United States Navy*



*A relaxed George fine tuning his new found
hobby, basket making, at Foulkeways.*



*Barbara Patterson enjoying a quiet respite on "George's
Bench" located outside her Foulkeways apartment.*

A FAMILY HELPS KEEP A MEMORY ALIVE

George and Barbara Patterson moved into Foulkeways in July of 2001. From the very start, the match between their lifestyles and opportunities at Foulkeways was ideal. George finally had the freedom to become a skilled basket weaver and Barbara immersed herself in countless activities. Life was good for the Patterson's.

As Barbara has been known to state, "You never know where life is going to take you." The path they followed over the next few years was not one they had considered. George had spent many years as the quiet, dedicated and successful leader of the family orchid business. Those same traits were evident as he stoically dealt with his Parkinson's diagnosis. Throughout their 58 years of marriage, Barbara and George's relationship can be characterized by the Finnish proverb, "Love is a flower which turns into fruit at marriage."

Barbara's beloved partner and best friend died in July 2011.

Barbara knows George will always be a part of her and baskets, hand-woven by George, adorn every room in their apartment. But that's not enough for Barbara. Her heart wanted George to always be a part of Foulkeways. She remembered the memorial bench program at Foulkeways and believed a bench in George's memory was a fitting tribute.

She approached their son and daughter with the idea and they wholeheartedly agreed. Barbara decided to write a personal note to family members – their children, grandchildren and George's siblings, inviting them to be a part of this tribute by making a financial contribution to Foulkeways for the bench in George's memory. So powerful were Barbara's words, that the family's response was overwhelming. So great in number were the responses to her request, that more than enough money was donated for the bench.

The family then discussed options for the additional memorial contributions. The family agreed with Barbara that the Foulkeways Stewardship Fund was appropriate. The Stewardship Fund provides financial assistance to support Foulkeways employees continuing and higher education. Barbara and her family believed this was a wonderful way to support the Foulkeways staff who Barbara describes as "her extended family." She adds, "I will always be grateful for the staff's ability to do whatever needed to be done to insure George's comfort and peace of mind."

The bench in George's memory is placed on the walkway outside Barbara's apartment. She is able to pass it every day as she walks to her car or strolls along the courtyard. With a smile, Barbara shares that some of her most content and relaxing moments are when she sits on that special bench under the tree and feels the warmth of the sun and, the warmth of George.