

At 87 years young, Robert Hazen isn't one to remain idle for long as he is involved with the Ridgecrest Nursing Center Resident Council as the President. As President, Mr. Hazen conducts monthly meetings between the residents and nursing facility administration and staff to solve issues and problems that come up. Mr. Hazen stated the staff and administration do a great job and always provide positive feedback to the residents. Recently, the nursing facility had a fundraiser to raise money to enable the residents to participate in activities outside the nursing facility, which Mr. Hazen feels is very important. In the past, the residents were able to go to the Chocolate Factory and Aquarium. Mr. Hazen stated that every morning he "gets the ladies coffee." He wakes up early and makes two 12 cup containers so the coffee is ready when the early risers are ready for it. One lady is unable to get out of bed so he brings her coffee in bed, and stated she thinks "I walk on water." He's not too sure about that. Mr. Hazen has made a lot of friends at the facility but stated "they are family" too.

Speaking of family, Mr. Hazen stated he was married just two months shy of 70 years "to the same woman." He is the father of four children and 42 grandchildren. He stated the family gets together every Thanksgiving and Christmas at his son's ranch. The family also attends an annual family reunion which is attended by about 100 people. Mr. Hazen enjoys these outings and spending time with family, whom he says visits him often. One of nine children, he was raised on a farm in Kansas and remembers helping his mother in the garden.

Mr. Hazen comes from a musical family; he played the guitar and harmonica until his hand caused him problems. His father played the violin and harp, and a brother played the guitar. He still enjoys music and entertainers the facility brings in occasionally. However, music is not Mr. Hazen's only passion. Since moving to the facility two years ago, Mr. Hazen has taken up painting. Mr. Hazen stated he paints pictures from books he buys and gives them to the residents to hang in their rooms. Some of his paintings have been hung in the offices of the facility. Mr. Hazen said he gets such joy from giving the paintings to the residents and appreciates their hugs and smiles. His paintings have earned him recognition as well. In 2017 he was named Honorable Mention, from 120 entries, for the Missouri Health Care Visual Art calendar, in which he won a prize and was awarded a plaque, a big recognition after only painting for two months at the time. He stated "people can't believe I paint so well." He considers painting his full-time job now and says "it keeps me busy." Generosity doesn't stop with the giving of his paintings, as Mr. Hazen is also proud of the recognition plaque he received from the financial donations he made to the St. Joseph Indian School for the Lakota children in Arizona.

When asked what it meant to *Engage at Every Age*, Mr. Hazen stated, "Not many people in my age group can do what I do, so I just work at getting them started in activities." He is teaching two ladies at the facility to paint. Mr. Hazen says it makes him feel good to contribute, and he is willing to share his passions with others.