



FRANKE TOBEY JONES

Meet Residents Bill and Phyllis Gill

Phyllis was born in Eastern WA and in 1945 settled in Tacoma. She is a proud alum of Annie Wright School and attended College in Colorado Springs.

Bill grew up on the south side of Chicago. In high school he excelled at football, was offered three full-ride college scholarships and chose Colorado College. It was there that he and Phyllis met and fell in love.

Bill says he loved Phyllis because she was gentle and smart, but Phyllis says it was really her typing skills – she typed all of his term papers! Bill was a very popular guy on campus, but it was his beautiful blue eyes that she loved. They were married the summer before Bill's senior year. Phyllis dropped out of school and went to work at the college.

Two months after graduation Bill was drafted, served two years in Korea and upon returning home he went to work for Phyllis' dad at his automobile dealership. He and Phyllis bought their first home and began their family, which, in seven years, totaled five children. After Phyllis' father passed away in 1964, Bill took over the dealership where he ran a successful Lincoln/Mercury business for 40 years.

They have both served on multiple non-profit boards and in many ministries in their church. Phyllis was on the FTJ Board of Directors for twenty years, three years as the Board President. She served on the Annie Wright Board and The Russell Family Foundation Board, becoming the first non-family board president. Bill was on the Goodwill Board and was an active member of the Nativity House, Second City Chamber Music and The Tacoma Symphony Boards. Through their church they were founding members of Three Cedars, a home for people living with AIDS.

After raising their family they built a home in Gig Harbor where they lived for 25 wonderful years. Their next move was to a condo on Stadium Way and then to FTJ in May of 2016. After Phyllis' long association on the FTJ Board, it was the only place they would consider. Phyllis has made their duplex a happy home and Bill feels it is perfect. An added and unexpected blessing was to discover that two good friends share the duplex next door.



"After my long association on the FTJ Board, it was the only retirement community we would consider. We both feel that our duplex is perfect for us, and as an added and unexpected blessing we discovered that two good friends share the duplex next door."