

# Garden Park

NURSING & REHABILITATION CENTER, LLC

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## ★ ★ ★ CELEBRATING AMERICA'S 250<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY ★ ★ ★

As our beloved nation marks her 250th birthday, we invited residents and staff to reflect on what they treasure most about America—its traditions, its freedoms, and their hopes for the next 250 years. Their stories remind us that patriotism is personal, shaped by memory, heritage, and the dreams we carry forward.

### **Honoring Traditions**

For Jennifer Rhodes, Business Office Manager, patriotism is woven into family traditions—especially one unforgettable Fourth of July. “I had several older and younger cousins, and we celebrated July 4th by lighting fireworks at my grandmother’s house in Ruston,” she recalls. “It’s a tradition I carry on with my children. Each year we gather at my brother’s lake house and light fireworks with all the cousins.”

Jennifer treasures the rituals that bind Americans together: reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, singing the National Anthem, and knowing how to properly fold the flag. “When I see the flag unfurled and hear the anthem play, I think of those who died to give us the freedom we enjoy,” she says, her eyes misting.

Her favorite historical figure is Little Women author Louisa May Alcott, whose perseverance and family’s involvement in the Underground Railroad inspire Jennifer’s deep respect for all Americans. Looking ahead, she hopes the next 250 years bring continued prosperity and innovation. “I hope America keeps thinking outside the box—leading in both democracy and capitalism.”

### **A Journey Toward Freedom**

Resident, Maddy Osborn was born in Chile to American parents, so she brings a unique perspective on the land she now calls home. “Growing up, I visited my grandparents in New York every three years. America was so different from Chile—life there is more relaxed,” she says. At fourteen, her family returned to the United States permanently.

Maddy’s favorite American figure is Paul Revere, a hero well known in her family’s home state of Massachusetts. To her, democracy means living in a country free enough and big enough to tolerate differing opinions. “Being kind is patriotic,” she says simply.

Her hope for the next 250 years is clear: “That we remain free, and that we don’t let other countries control us.”

### **Becoming an American**

Yesenia Gonzales, Certified Nursing Assistant, remembers the exact moment she felt the American flag speak to her. “That flag blowing in the breeze was telling me something—that it would one day be my flag. That was incredible.”

Her path to citizenship was long and demanding. “I had to start from zero with the language and study hard for my test. As difficult as it was, I kept a vision in my heart: becoming a citizen would give me better opportunities to provide for my family.”

Jessie’s favorite historical figure is Harriet Tubman. “She inspires me because she knew what she had to do and found the courage to do it. God put it in her heart to help people.”

Her hope for America’s future is rooted in compassion: “Better opportunities for health and education for our children—and that we keep our freedom and values.”

### **Freedom in Everyday Life**

For Marilyn Brown, Certified Nursing Assistant, freedom is beautifully simple. “Freedom is being able to do what you want without someone telling you that you cannot.”

Her patriotism was shaped early in her school days in North Desoto, where she learned to properly fold the American flag through 4 H. “The American flag is beautiful,” she says with pride.

Her wish for the next 250 years is one of unity. “I hope everyone can come together and recognize that we are one. I hope Americans become more respectful of each other.”

### **Looking Forward Together**

From cherished traditions to courageous journeys, from childhood memories to dreams for future generations, the voices of our residents and staff remind us what truly makes America remarkable. As we celebrate 250 years of independence, we honor not only our nation’s past but also the hopes that will guide her next chapter.

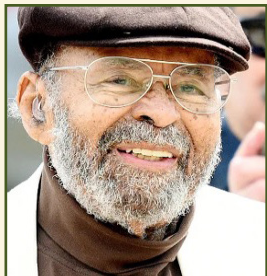
May the next 250 years be filled with unity, opportunity, and the enduring promise of freedom.





MR. COURTLAND T. MILLOY, SR.

## A SHREVEPORT LEGEND IN AMERICA'S 250<sup>TH</sup> YEAR



At Garden Park, we are honored to call many remarkable individuals our residents, but few carry a legacy as profound as Mr. Courtland Milloy, Sr. As America celebrates her 250th birthday, it feels especially fitting to highlight a man whose life's work helped shape the educational and cultural landscape of Shreveport.

Mr. Milloy is the last surviving original faculty member of Booker T. Washington High School, Shreveport's first all Black high school, which opened its doors on January 30, 1950. His journey to that historic moment is as inspiring as the legacy he built afterward. Before coming to Louisiana, Milloy served as editor in chief of the Tuskegee Institute Newspaper, then worked for the Chicago Defender, one of the most influential Black newspapers in the nation. His life took a pivotal turn when his girlfriend, Blanche Malloy, posed a life changing question: "Would you be willing to leave Chicago and come to Shreveport and accept the position as teacher of graphic arts?" Milloy replied, "Is that the only way we can get married?"

"I'm afraid so," she said. And that was that. Milloy headed South — and the couple married the very day Blanche arrived in Shreveport. When Booker T. Washington High School opened, it was considered the most modern school in the entire state of Louisiana. It offered academic, technical, and industrial education, including courses like Spanish that were rare for Black schools at the time. "It was the talk of the whole state," Milloy recalls. "Everybody was talking about that school in Shreveport."

For many Black students in northwest Louisiana, BTW represented opportunity they had long been denied. Before its opening, Central Colored High School only went through ninth grade, leaving countless students unable to earn the credits needed for college. "They had no opportunity," Milloy explains. "They could not earn enough credits to attend Grambling, Southern, or any college that would open its doors."

Milloy taught journalism and graphic arts and later opened Milloy's Photo Graphics, becoming a respected educator, entrepreneur, and community leader. His influence touched generations of students who went on to become teachers, artists, business owners, and civic leaders.

In 2024, Shreveport honored his lifetime of service by renaming the 2400 block of Milam Street after him. Above the street sign now hangs a marker reading: "*Street dedicated to Courtland T. Milloy.*"



Community leaders praised the long overdue recognition. Rev. Clarence L. Hicks, Sr.

described him as: "A pacesetter, a trailblazer, an entrepreneur, a successful businessman, and a good family man."

Mayor Tom Arceneaux added: "This is a well deserved recognition. It is so good that we're able to give this honor to you while you are here."

As America marks 250 years of independence, Mr. Milloy's story reminds us that freedom is not only a national ideal — it is lived out in classrooms, in communities, and in the quiet, steady work of people who open doors for others.

Garden Park is proud to celebrate a man whose life reflects the very best of Shreveport and the enduring promise of America.





## MRS. ZELDA KERBY

### A LIFE SHAPED BY COURAGE, FREEDOM, AND FATE



You never truly know the stories carried by the residents who pass you in our halls. Behind every smile is a lifetime of experiences—some ordinary, some extraordinary. Mrs. Zelda Kerby's 88 years fall firmly into the extraordinary.

Her family history begins with a tale of survival that sounds like it belongs in a history book. "In the early 1900s, my mother was crossing Texas with a wagon train of several families," Mrs. Kerby shares. "A group of white marauders attacked the wagons, and my grandmother told my mother to run." Barely a teenager, her mother—Bertha Lee Bradshaw—hid, then sprinted toward a nearby Cherokee tribe. She was the only survivor of the attack. The Cherokee chief took in the terrified red haired girl and raised her as his own daughter. When the tribe was later forced to relocate to Picher, Oklahoma, Bertha went with them. It was there, in 1938, that Zelda was born.

Life in Picher was full and lively. She was one of eighteen children, and all but three survived to adulthood. The town itself, however, was not as fortunate. A devastating tornado eventually destroyed Picher, leaving it only in memories and photographs.

Decades later, Zelda's life took another meaningful turn when she met the man who would become her husband. "Howard served in the Army during the Korean War," she recalls. "When he returned, I met him at the bus station in Miami, Oklahoma. He took my hand and said, 'Angel, I am never letting you go.'" True to his word, they were married that same weekend, barely making it to the courthouse on Friday and saying their vows on Sunday. Together, the Kirbys built a family, welcoming children and later grandchildren.

Patriotism runs deep in the Kerby family. One daughter served in the Navy, and her granddaughter Jessie is now a Master Sergeant in the Air Force, stationed overseas. "She is so much like her Grandpa," Mrs. Kerby says with pride. "We are so proud to be Americans and so grateful for the twist of fate that resulted in my amazing life."

As America celebrates 250 years of independence, Mrs. Kerby's story reminds us that freedom is not just a national ideal, it is a personal journey. Her family's resilience, service, and love of country reflect the very spirit that has carried America through its first 250 years and will continue to guide us into the next.





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## HONORING THE GREATEST GENERATION

As we celebrate America's 250th, we are especially mindful of the men and women who built this nation, defended it, and shaped the freedoms we cherish. Many of the individuals we care for represent the Greatest Generation—those who served our country with courage, sacrifice, and unwavering patriotism. It is our profound honor to care for them. Their stories remind us why we strive for excellence every day. Their resilience inspires us to keep improving. Their service reminds us how fortunate we are to live in a nation where compassion and community still matter.

### **Proud to Be an American, Proud to Serve Our Residents**

This milestone anniversary invites us to look back with gratitude and forward with determination. We are proud to be part of a healthcare system that continues to evolve, innovate, and elevate the standard of care. And we are deeply proud to be serving our seniors. As we honor 250 years of progress, Garden Park reaffirms our commitment to providing exceptional care, improving quality of life, and supporting every resident with the dignity and respect they deserve.

**Here's to America's past, present, and future—and to the extraordinary individuals who make our work meaningful every single day.**



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **JULY**

July 2 - July 4 Celebration  
4 - America's 250th Birthday  
10 - Sing Along with Lorna  
13 - Bible Study  
19 - Church with John Webb  
23 - Region 6 Bowling  
27 - Memorial Service  
28 - Manicures

### **AUGUST**

2 - Church with John Webb  
3 - Bible Study  
6 - Catholic Mass  
7 - Coffee & Conversation  
10 - Manicures  
18 - Elvis Presley Tribute  
20 - Resident Council  
22 - Bingo