

## Resident Spotlight - Finley Hicks, Jr.

August 1943 was a time of war. Like many in those days, 17 year-old Finley Hicks, Jr. wanted to join the army and fight for his country. One night his platoon's fox hole was surrounded by a German infantry unit. Realizing the worst fear a combat soldier could have, Finley was captured and became a prisoner of war for the next seven months. Throughout the years, he has only been able to tell "patches" of his capture, as it was a very emotional, traumatic happening in his life. He tells of eating grass soup, soup from beet tops, and endured pneumonia three times. As entertainment he and fellow cellmates, would pick lice off each other and tattoo their wives and sweethearts names on each other's arms. His liberation was very "....."! The American's were pushing towards the prisoner camps to rescue the prisoners when the German's received intelligence of the rescue mission. The German's took the P.O.W's out of the camp and packed them like sardines in a locked railroad boxcar. The German's panicked and abandoned the camp leaving the P.O.W's locked in the boxcar. On the fifth day, an American patrol heard the trapped prisoners yelling and beating on the box car walls. They were finally freed and liberated from the nightmare of being a German Prisoner of War!



After his liberation, Finley spent 11 months in an Army hospital recuperating from his injuries. With the ending of World War II, Finley's final duty was guarding 21 German officers for the Nurnberg trials. The most famous of these German officers was Hitler's right hand man, Field Marshall "Hess." The medals awarded for his service in the Army were the Purple Heart, 2 Bronze Stars, the combat infantry badge, the victory medal and numerous campaign ribbons and awards.

Finley Hicks, Jr. is now an 84 year-young World War II Veteran that is 100% disabled, but still carries the pride and fire of a 17 year old American G.I. that loves his country and is proud to be an American. He and his wife, Wyvonne, married for 67 years, reside at Midland Meadows.

## Employee Of The Quarter - Amanda Adkins



Amanda Adkins our Transporter and Resident Assistant has been awarded the employee of the quarter for first quarter 2010. She grew up in Ona where she now resides with her husband Michael Adkins. Amanda graduated from Cabell Midland High School and obtained an Associates degree in Medical Assistance from Huntington Junior College. She has been an employee at Midland Meadows since September 2007 and says that she looks forward to coming to work every day and spending quality time with the residents. When not at work, Amanda enjoys spending time with her two nieces and fishing at Watoga State Park with her husband.