

Welcome Arlene Ingram

Apt.# 535

Capturing a lifetime in a few sentences is a difficult assignment. Who am I? What have I done? What do I believe? What do I like? What is important to me? What is important to communicate? Simply put, I arrived as a preemie in San Francisco shortly after the US entered WW II. Ever since I have been running as fast as I can to “cram” in as much as is possible in each 24-hour day despite being female and part of the Silent Generation. My early years were spent traveling around the country compliments of the US Navy. And when our family settled in Norfolk, VA, I could finally put roots down even as the state governor closed public schools due to “massive resistance” to desegregation. A tragic time.



In the ensuing years, I worked my way through college selling shoes and teaching swimming to little urchins. As soon as I had a job and an income, I got married and supported my “square dance partner” as he finished his degree. In those days, a pregnant woman was contractually not allowed to teach past the 5th month. So, I quit and soon was a mother to two darling, adorable children (first and last) who taught me more than I ever learned in school. While they were young, I taught “PE” to pre-schoolers, the hardest job I ever had. But I yearned for more than motherhood, so back to college, one class at a time over multiple years yielded a master’s degree.

For the next 35 years, I loved my job as Director of College Counseling (Assistant Head of School...+ too many other job titles to mention) in an Independent Day School in VA. That job required dedication, innovation, energy, enthusiasm, organizational skills and a genuine appreciation for the students (faculty and parents).

Then, the children left, I retired, my husband of 56 years died, I sold our home, moved into an apartment on the Chesapeake Bay, learned about community living and that’s what I am looking forward to at Laurelmead!

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