

DANIELLE LEWARS AND GAIL PAIGE

They have been greeting residents by name since Patriots Colony opened its doors. Knowing the name of every resident in Independent Living has been important to them. Also, in their jobs, they have endeavored to keep everyone happy – meet their requests, cater to their whims, deal with their complaints, and provide assistance when needed. They have done all of this and done it with a smile. Not at all surprising, they have an extensive fan base at Patriots Colony. You know who they are: Daniele Lewars and Gail Paige. They have gotten to know us quite well over the course of the years. Now it is our turn to learn something about them and what they think. In an interview, the two were asked how they viewed working here, what changes they had observed over the years, what they had found humorous, and what they had found challenging. A few facts about them:

Danielle was born in Newport News, but at a young age she moved with her family to Williamsburg where she attended public schools. After graduating from high school, she completed one year of licensed practical nurse (LPN) schooling. At 16 years of age, she went to work in the pharmacy at K-Mart, a job she enjoyed. This was followed by three years as a waitress at Chambrel, a senior living facility in Williamsburg. She is married to Peter Lewars, a native of Jamaica, who works as a mechanical engineer aboard a cruise ship (a gambling ship, she says) that operates between the Bahamas and Florida. She has a daughter, Katherine, and he has a sixteen-year-old son and they have eight-year-old twin girls.



Danielle heard of Patriots Colony in December 1996. Noting that it catered to military personnel, she applied for a job, believing this would be a step up, and was immediately hired as a waitress. She has been here ever since and has advanced from waitress to hostess, and then to Independent Living Dining Room Manager.

Gail was born, raised and schooled in Charles City County. After completing two years at a community college, she married Thomas Paige and for the next 28 years lived the life of an Air Force wife in Germany, Puerto Rico, Maine and Georgia. Along the way, she gave birth to four daughters, including a set of twins. Following Master Sergeant Paige's retirement from the Air Force, they returned to Charles City County. She worked for eight years as the manager of a convenience store and, for a time, as a part-time waitress at a local restaurant. Since returning to Virginia, all four of their daughters have completed college and, according to Gail, "are doing well."

Asked how she came to be associated with Patriots Colony, she said that she first became aware of the facility when she spotted the sign at the entrance. The descriptive phrase "Military Community" aroused her interest so she applied and

was accepted for a waitress job. She served the very first meal offered at Patriots Colony to the first twelve residents. Over time, Gail took on the duties of bartender and hostess and then Dining Room Manager until she asked that her duties be curtailed so that she could spend more time with her family.

How can we be so lucky having Danielle and Gail taking care of us every day?

What a team!