

# The Veteran's Friend



1-800-451-7019

[www.veteransfriend.com](http://www.veteransfriend.com)

## Veteran's Spouse To Receive Tax- Free VA Benefit

June Loock never realized that when her husband served in the Air Force in 1943 it would help her today.

June is one of the few spouses of veterans who are taking advantage of a little-known Veteran's Administration benefit known as the "Aid and Attendance" program that earmarks money for such things as assisted living, home health care and senior living communities.

As a surviving spouse, the 93-year-old Loock will be receiving tax free \$12,681 a year from the VA and is living a happy, healthy life at Atria Encinitas, a senior assisted living community of the highest caliber.

"I enjoy everything here," smiled Loock. "This is the place for me. The people and the staff are simply terrific."

Loock is enjoying her golden years thanks in part to Atria Encinitas executive director Gary Gray. Gray oversees the 117 apartments that compose the two Atria Encinitas sites located at 480 and 504 South El Camino Real in Encinitas. It was Atria community sales director Andrea Berry that steered Loock and her family to a community service organization known as The Veteran's Friend that helped her with the paperwork to receive the VA benefit.

The Veteran's Friend was founded by Carlsbad resident Galen Maddy, a financial advisor and former Marine. Maddy started The Veteran's Friend after helping his uncle receive benefits. He was astounded at the number of forms, government regulations and conditions that must be met in order to qualify for benefits. He vowed that he would help his fellow veterans and their spouses.

**To inquire about the aid and attendance benefit for your family, call The Veteran's Friend at 1-800- 451-7019**



**June Loock (L) with Atria's Andrea Berry.**

Gray said it is unusual for a person like Galen Maddy to show up at his office and say he'll do the VA paper work for free. "But Galen is sincere in his motivation because he's got a big heart," said Gray.

Noted Berry: "At Atria, we understand that veterans have sacrificed a lot for this country, and this program can help them discover what benefits are out there for them. For seniors who are concerned about financing their retirement, this is a vital program."

Loock and her late husband, Lewis, were working in Buffalo when World War II broke out. Lewis Loock tried to get in the Navy but he was rejected because of a badly injured knee. But he was able to join the Air Force.

"He was all set to go to OCS (officer's candidate school) when they examined his knee and said no," June Loock said. She added that her husband was going to be sent to India with the Air Force when they gave him an honorable discharge because of his knee. "He would have made a fine officer," she said.

June Loock moved to the West Coast in 1975 and in 2008 decided that Atria Encinitas would be her new home.

"I wasn't ready to come here but then I read something that stuck with me," Loock said. "I read, 'When someone cares for you, you need to think of their peace of mind.' I knew I had to give my (family) peace of mind.

"Besides," smiled June Loock, "I really like it here."

**To inquire about  
Atria Senior  
Group Living  
Encinitas, call  
Gary Gray  
or Andrea Berry  
1-760-436-9990.**