



## Technology Provides Clean Solutions

Earlier this season, with the prospect of colder weather coming, the quality of the air inside our buildings became a key concern. While this concern caused a degree of stress, the Facilities team, headed by Shawn Bostic, recognized that there were some easy and painless solutions.

Within a very short period of time, Shawn ordered and placed throughout the campus: 16 air scrubbers, 3 electrostatic backpacks, 4 hand-held electrostatic sprayers, 4 rapid air recovery units, 2 UV machines, and over 100 plexiglass barriers. Many of these pieces of equipment you have seen (or heard) in use around the campus. Some – such as the UV machines, which as the name implies emit UV light to disinfect areas – are only used in rooms that have had a COVID patient in them.

Shawn has weathered previous outbreaks – such as C. diff and Norovirus outbreaks – and knows this type of equipment is very helpful. “When this pandemic happened, we had to figure out quickly how to clean these rooms and how to clean the air. We had to adapt.” In order to adapt, Shawn called on his experiences with technology he knew would be vital.

Shawn’s and the Facilities team’s flexibility and responsiveness have been visible. On any given day, you can see Shawn or his team members or contractors that he



*Calvin Johnson uses an electrostatic sprayer to clean the inside of one of VHRC's buses.*

has hired carrying out vital and valuable services to the VHRC community. Some projects are more eagerly received than environmental cleaning technology. For example, Shawn said there is much interest in the Sports Park that he and his team are working on. Meanwhile, the air scrubbers are humming away in the community rooms, making our spaces healthier.

In reply to the value of flexibility, Shawn replied, “honestly, we have to be flexible. We are here to serve the residents. If we are not flexible, that could create a life or death situation. Every situation is important. Every concern is important. It’s important to see what the issue is and try to respond.”

## A Flier's Dream

When Gene Sizemore was a teenager, there was only one place he wanted to be. Every Saturday, he and a friend would hitchhike out to a local airport a few miles from his home in Lawrenceville, Illinois. "We worked over there washing planes and putting gas in them, then used the money for flying lessons," says Gene. "It was a romantic time of early fliers, and I just always wanted to be a pilot." So at age 17, as World War II drew to a close in 1944, he joined the Navy to fly.

And fly he did. Gene logged more than 6,000 flight hours in carrier aircraft, completing 218 combat missions in Korea and North Vietnam as an attack pilot and fighter pilot. In Korea, he flew the Skyraider, a new dive-bomber – and dam buster: "We torpedoed a dam, north of the 38th parallel when the Chinese were swarming in." Another mission became the basis of the movie, *The Bridges at Toko-Ri*. "There was a bridge that was heavily defended and we had to knock it out, and James Michener picked up on that story." But for him, a special memory was "way back in 1949, on my first squadron when the four fellas I flew with and I won a dive-bombing championship for the Pacific fleet. That was exciting."

After retiring from the Navy in 1982 as a rear admiral with a Bronze Star and Distinguished Flying Cross medals, Gene continued and still flies his own planes, though he stopped flying solo three years ago at age 90. And now he



*Gene and a model of the Skyhawk, the attack jet he flew in the Viet Nam war.*

is in the process of donating his beloved Stearman, a World War II vintage plane that he trained on, to the Indiana Military Museum near his hometown. The same town where he met his wife, Hellen, when he was 17. "I saw her picture when I walked by a photography shop, and I thought, My gosh, I've got to get to know this person!" He did, and in August, the Sizemores celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary. Says Hellen: "I would say Gene was born to fly."

### *The Campus Voice*

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