

Centenarian Celebration



Quick Question: When was the last time you attended a Birthday Party for someone who was turning One Hundred Years Old? A relatively rare and memorable occasion as that is not likely to be forgotten. For the 100+ Milwaukee County Senior Diners at the Franklin City Hall location (9229 W Loomis Road), it was Wednesday, September 16th when fellow diner Jerome Dolezal turned 100.

Remarkably, he chose to celebrate that milestone birthday with the many longtime friends he regularly dines with each week, along with his beautiful wife of 60 years, Bernice. To mark the extra special occasion, his 2 children and their spouses arranged for a surprise appearance by his 2 young grandsons.

The Milwaukee County Department on Aging sponsors 26 Milwaukee County Senior Dining Sites, offering among other things, nutritious meals, social engagement and volunteer opportunities to older adults in the community. The Franklin Dining Site, managed by Goodwill Industries of Southeastern Wisconsin, is one of the most popular locations.

The Menu featured some of Jerry's favorite dishes: Meatloaf with Mushroom Gravy, Baked Potato with Sour Cream, Wax Beans, Spinach Salad with Raspberry Dressing, Marble Rye Bread, Fresh Bartlett Pear and Birthday Cake.

Goodwill's Michelle Drouillard, Site Supervisor extraordinaire—along with her exceptionally dedicated crew of volunteers not only decorated the room, but also served lunch and birthday cake to the masses. Those in attendance not only enjoyed fabulous food, cake and casual conversation—they contributed to making this a memorable and magical centenarian celebration for Jerry. It was touching to see the heartfelt joy and genuine smile on Jerry's face as he was surrounded by the love of family and friends.

As the Nutrition Outreach Coordinator for the Milwaukee County Department on Aging, I was honored to be a guest at the festivities and wanted to share this heartwarming story with a larger audience. Please visit the Milwaukee County Department on Aging website to view monthly menus or contact the Senior Dining Program at 289-6995 for more information.