



*Left: Jim serving in the military.*

*Above: Jim's family arrives with hand made signs to wish him a happy 100th birthday!*

## A Century Celebrated

“Nothing in the world could have made me happier,” says Artman resident Jim Frick, the smile in his tone apparent.

On a bright April afternoon, Jim's family gathered outside his apartment window with signs and kind words to celebrate the newly-crowned centenarian's 100th birthday. Every generation was present, down to the young children excitedly waving handwritten messages in bright colors.

The restrictions of social distancing in the spring limited visitors, but rather than postponing the opportunity to brighten Jim's day, the

family worked together with staff to make sure that Jim was able to see his loved ones. “I'm so proud of them,” adds Jim. “I just have a wonderful family.”

“He's the most positive person alive, his attitude is just incredible and we're just so happy to do this for him,” Chris, Jim's grandson, says.

In order to help residents stay connected with their loved ones, Artman's staff members have gone above and beyond to schedule video chats with family members and loved ones outside the community. Pastor Ghislaine Cotnoir has been helping by scheduling weekly video chats with family members.

“While I know that we all agree that in-person visits are deeply missed, we've seen some wonderful virtual visits,” Ghislaine comments. “Birthday,

anniversary and other events, even a few weddings, have continued to be celebrated. From the perspective of anxious family members, just having that visual connection and hearing their voice makes days of separation more bearable.”

Jim may not have been able to cut the cake with his grandchildren, but the memory of filling his windows with well wishes is one that will live with each of them for years to come. Connecting with family members during this season has required plenty of creativity, but the dedication of loved ones and the help of a willing team at Artman to make each resident's day the best it can be will last far beyond the season.