

Colony

A SOCIAL PUBLICATION FOR THE
RESIDENTS OF DeBORDIEU COLONY

Living

FEBRUARY 2020



Meet
**Dr. Gerald &
Linda Harmon**

Photography by **Middle Child Photography**

Meet Dr. Gerald and Linda Harmon: Riding for a Better Tomorrow

History of DeBordieu: Under New Management by Alan Thompson

Living Spaces: More Lamplight with Lawton Rogers

Precious Pets: Gina Doesn't Recommend Belly Flops

Your Stories • Your Photos • Your Community



Dr. Gerald & Linda Harmon

Riding for a Better Tomorrow

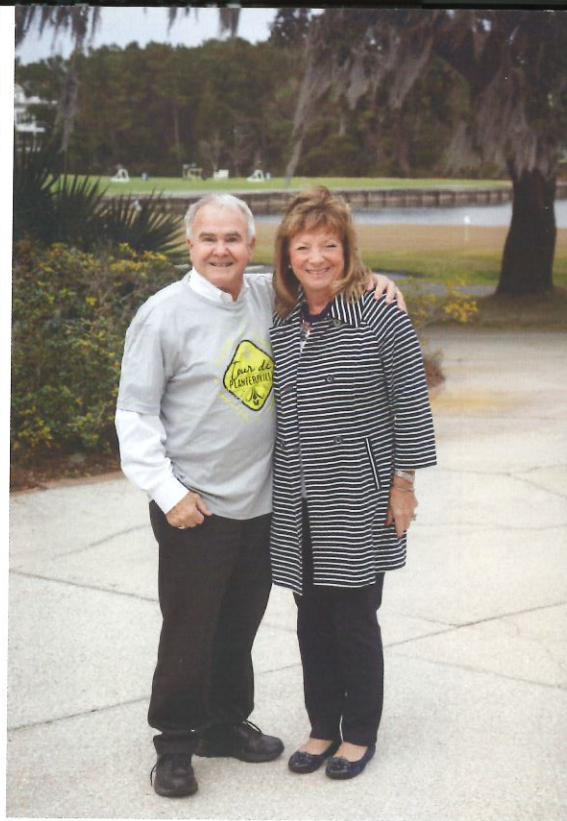
By Ruthie Blair Possessing the heart of a servant and a commitment to public service continues to drive the efforts of Dr. Gerald E. Harmon well into his impressive career expanding three decades as a family practice physician in Georgetown County. With accolades and accomplishments too numerous to count, it's difficult to find just the right words to encompass Harmon's humanitarian contributions to our Georgetown community and well beyond. Both affable and modest, Harmon is reluctant to tout any of his hard work. However, his altruistic nature compels him to share his passion for helping the people of Georgetown. In his third year as chairman of the Tour De Plantersville, Harmon brings his enthusiasm, wisdom and influence to help raise awareness and financial support for underserved youth in our county.

The Tour De Plantersville is a fundraiser promoted by The Village Group, a non-profit organization in Georgetown whose mission is to strengthen our community by positively influencing the lives of our children. The tour includes bicycle excursions down the only scenic byway in Northeastern South Caro-

lina, including the Dirleton Plantation-Samworth Wildlife Management Area, offering 12 and 25 mile journeys as well as a new 62 mile Metric Century ride for the more adventurous. Several years ago, Harmon was approached by long-time friend Ray C. Funnys, the Executive Director and Founder of The Village Group, to consider the position as chairman. Harmon jumped on yet another opportunity to positively influence the health and lives of our youth, something he has devoted his life to on both a local and national level. Our youth are "future leaders of our state and nation and thus the natural stewards of education and knowledge," Harmon acknowledges.

Preventing chronic illnesses such as diabetes and cardiovascular disease through education on dietary and lifestyle changes are issues he has championed as a family practice physician as well as during his role as Chairman of the American Medical Association. It is only fitting that part of his vision for the fundraiser would be to emphasize to the Plantersville youth the value of lifetime exercise, fitness and a healthy lifestyle. "Amazingly, studies show that for every one minute of regular, moderate exercise such as walking, or bicycle riding we can gain four minutes of additional life expectancy," Harmon shares. He also hopes to spread an appreciation for the natural beauty of the county's undeveloped western portions as well as share the rich rice-farming heritage and colonial-era landmarks of the area that date back hundreds of years.

Harmon's commitment to community is rooted in his ancestry. The Newberry, SC native explains that "my family has been in SC since arriving from Germany in December 1972...the essence of this citizenship and "Carolina native" experience is literally in my family's DNA then for over 250 years and I don't think I could consider any other career choices." Harmon joined the Air Force upon graduating



from the University of South Carolina with a degree in physics and mathematics. As a retired Major General in the Air Force who served the nation on both active duty and in the Air National Guard, Harmon feels his military career uniquely molded him into the leader and humanitarian that he is today.

He reflects, "I pondered a military career actually before a medical one, but the military offered me an opportunity to have a funded medical training experience." He explains that the military and the field of medicine are "both platforms ideal for recognizing the talent and 'heart' of an individual rather than their external appearances. For instance, doctors are doctors, nurses are nurses, Majors are Major and Sergeants are Sergeants with recognized and dependable skill sets despite different phenotypes. It's kind of the prototypical 'level playing field' for participants. And both career fields have formal training opportunities for leadership and the responsibilities of command, so I feel 'leaders can be formed' as opposed to simply 'born.'"

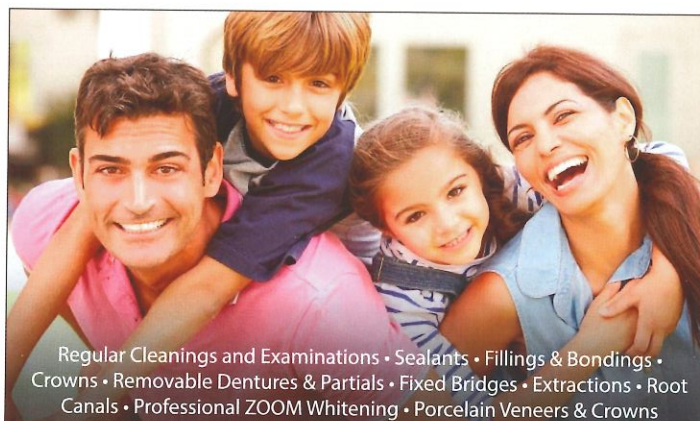
His commitment to public service is further propelled by his legacy of three children and nine grandchildren all who live within walking distance to the DeBordieu home he built with his high school sweetheart and wife of 40 years, Linda. In fact, a large portion of his family fills the same pew at church each Sunday. Linda, a retired nurse and matriarch of the Harmon family, mirrors a similar work ethic along with a devotion to community and family.

One of Harmon's favorite quotes remains, "Is this country great or what?" He points out that "my family directly benefits from everything good that happens in our community. So, I think all of us have a moral obligation to make our communities better." Please join the Harmons in supporting your community by participating in the 3rd Annual Tour De Plantersville and Cultural Festival on Saturday, April 25th.

3rd Annual Tour de Plantersville and Cultural Festival
Saturday, April 25, 2020.

Early Registration January 01 - March 31, 2020.

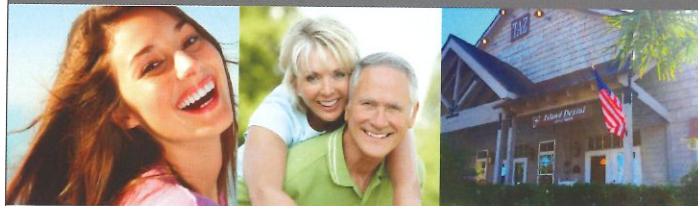
Tourdeplantersville.com



Regular Cleanings and Examinations • Sealants • Fillings & Bondings • Crowns • Removable Dentures & Partial • Fixed Bridges • Extractions • Root Canals • Professional ZOOM Whitening • Porcelain Veneers & Crowns

**Island Dental
Associates**

**PHILIPS
ZOOM!**
CERTIFIED PROVIDER



843-314-3519

11270 Ocean Hwy., Pawleys Island, SC 29585

Islanddentalpawleys@gmail.com

www.islanddentalpawleys.com