

Emery Place

SEPTEMBER 2026 NEWS LETTER

901 S. MENTZER RD., ROBINS, IA 52328 | 319.536.0045 | EMERYPLACELIVING.COM

Happy FALL y'all

September Activity Highlights

Mon.: Balloon Hockey/Football at 10:30am / Library Run at 11:15am
Pretzels & Pints Board Games at 1:00pm / Bingo at 2:30pm
Tues.: Fox Therapy Fitness at 10:30am / EP Chorus Practice at 1:00pm
Farkle at 2:30pm / Trivia Happy Hour at 3:30pm
Wed.: Arts & Crafts at 9:30am / Cardio Drumming at 10:30am
Thurs.: Fox Therapy Fitness at 10:30am / Farkle at 2:00pm
Fri.: Balloon Volleys at 10:30am / Bible Study at 1pm / Bingo at 2:30pm
Sat.: Bingo at 10:00am / Movie in Family Room at 1:00pm
Sun.: Catholic Communion in Library at 10:00am / Movie at 1:00pm

Sept. 7: Roundtable (*Activity Calendar Meeting*) at 10:00am
Sept. 8: Cedar Rapids Orchestra at 3:00pm
Sept. 9: Lunch Outing to Parlor on Main, Central City at 10:30am
Sept. 10: Social Hour with Murdoch at 9:30am
Janet Lieb Concert at 1:30pm
Sept. 13: Grandparents Day Family Fun Party & Bingo at 2:00pm
Sept. 14: Community Kitchen Meeting at 10:00am
Ron Burgess Concert at 2:00pm
Sept. 15: Donuts with Moments Hospice at 9:30am
Leroy Mann Concert at 3:00pm
Sept. 16: Emery Place Chorus Sing-Along at 3:30pm
Sept. 17: Viva Las Vegas Party featuring Elvis at 2:00pm
Sept. 18: Abigail Rae Show at 3:00pm
Sept. 19: Tractorcade to Visit Emery Place in the Afternoon
Sept. 23: Dave Wirtz Concert at 3:00pm
Sept. 24: Museum Club to CR Museum of Art at 12:00pm
Dog Therapy w/Oliver at 3:00pm
Sept. 25: Larry Jensen Piano Happy Hour at 2:00pm
Family Bingo Night at 5:30pm
Sept. 26: Rosemary Concert at 2:00pm
Sept. 27: House Warming Party w/Sara & Sarah at 2:00pm
Sept. 28: Dog Therapy at 5:00pm
Sept. 30: Lena Adams Concert at 3:00pm

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Shirley R. - Sept. 3
Grady R. - Sept. 5
Gayle S. - Sept. 8
James Bi. - Sept. 13
Julie H. - Sept. 25

EP Staff Members:

Amy R. - Sept. 12
Carter C. - Sept. 12
Leia G. - Sept. 18

welcome!

Ethel T. and Helen T.

Happy Anniversary

Gayle S. - Sept. 1, 2025
Joyce O. - Sept. 9, 2025
Janice P. - Sept. 15, 2025
Denise K. - Sept. 30, 2024

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Shining
THROUGH
THE
YEARS
NATIONAL ASSISTED LIVING WEEK
SEPTEMBER 13-19, 2026



Executive Director, Sara Etter, and Richard H. are happy to get their picture together.



Health & Wellness Director, Ashlee Wyant, RN, and sweet baby Brycen at 3-weeks-old.



Health & Wellness Director, Ashlee's older kiddos helping to give a bottle to their baby brother.

Executive Director

Sara Etter

Hello September! There is so much to look forward to as we head into one of my favorite times of the year. Bring on the apples, pumpkins, fall festivals, crisp autumn days, and of course, ALL the pies! 🥧🍂

As we move into fall, I would love to see even more of our residents sharing their voices and talents throughout our community. We are looking for resident volunteers to participate in employee interviews, Resident Council, and our food meetings. Your experiences, ideas, and opinions help us continue making our community a place that truly reflects the people who call it home.

I am also very excited to share that we will be creating an Emery Place/Better Living Cookbook! 📖🍪 We would love for you and your families to contribute your favorite recipes. Whether it is Grandma's famous pie, a treasured holiday dish, a recipe passed down for generations, or simply something you love to make, we want it! Our goal is to create a one-of-a-kind generational cookbook filled with recipes, memories, and stories from the wonderful people within our communities.

September is going to be a busy and exciting month, and I cannot wait to enjoy the season together.

As always, my door is open. (Unless I'm in a meeting... 😊) Please stop by anytime with questions, ideas, suggestions, or just to say hello!

Health & Wellness Director

Ashlee Wyant, RN

Happy Fall Y'all! I miss all of you but, everything is going well with my new little one, Brycen, and our family of five! I can't believe it's already been a month since he joined us.

I hope you are all doing well and I am looking forward to being back the end of October/beginning of November. Until then, you're in good hands with Sara and Miranda.

Assistant Health & Wellness Director

Miranda Strauser, RN

September is here, and fall is right around the corner! Before we know it, the mornings will be cooler, the leaves will start changing, and we'll be enjoying some beautiful fall days.

As the weather starts to cool down, remember to grab a jacket or sweater when you head outside. Hopefully, we'll still have plenty of nice days to sit outside, get some fresh air, and enjoy the changing season. I'm looking forward to enjoying the fall season with all of you!

As always, if you need anything, just let me or one of the staff know. We're always happy to help and are here for you!

Emery Place's August Resident of the Month

Helen Ogren

Helen (Erickson) Ogren was born on June 6, 1937, in Duluth, Minnesota, to Ole and Mary Erickson. Growing up on a small rural farm just outside Duluth, Helen was one of five children: one boy and four girls. As the oldest daughter, she was someone her younger sisters always looked up to. Helen is proudly 100% Finnish, and her Finnish ancestry has always been an important part of who she is.

Helen graduated from Proctor High School in 1955 and went on to accomplish something especially meaningful: she became the first person in her family to attend college. She attended the University of Minnesota Duluth, where she was active in her sorority, and graduated in 1959 with a degree in business.

After college, Helen worked in the business office of a men's clothing store and later at a bank. That bank job would change her life because it was there that she met Vernon "Vern" Ogren.

Helen and Vern were married on June 18, 1960, in Duluth. Helen later became a high school business teacher, and together she and Vern welcomed two children: Daniel and Ann.

Helen and Vern raised their family in Duluth in a charming Tudor-style bungalow right along Lake Superior. It became Helen's home for an incredible 52 years.

Much of Helen's career was spent at the United Developmental Achievement Center, where she served as a school secretary for more than 25 years. Outside of work, however, Helen's greatest focus was always her family. Her days were filled with raising her children, attending sporting events, supporting school activities, and making sure the people she loved knew just how important they were.

Helen also knew how to make life fun. She was a formidable Scrabble player in her prime and wasn't easy to beat! She loved reading and had a wonderful gift for entertaining. Helen knew how to beautifully set a table, welcome guests into her home, and truly "roll out the red carpet." She was also the kind of person who never forgot a family member's birthday.

After 49 years of marriage, Vern passed away in 2009. Helen continued living in Duluth until 2017, when she moved to Cedar Rapids, Iowa, to be closer to her daughter, Ann, and her family. Even after moving, Helen continued doing what she had always done: showing up for the people she loved, including attending her granddaughter's sporting events and activities.



Helen with late husband, Vern, along with their beloved family.

(Emery Place celebrated 6 years with resident, Helen O., on May 28, 2026.)



Helen O. pictured with three of her grandchildren. (Helen is the proud grandmother of five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.)



Helen and her three younger sisters.



Emery Place neighbors make the best of friends!



Joyce O. and Julie H. had a great time at the cookout and car show.



This fun group went on the Emery Place bus for a trip to the Czech Museum. Pictured from left to right: Ed K., Life Enrichment Assistant Barb, Janet F., Jessie M., Roger W. and Leona G.



Chuck B. is Nurse Ashlee's Grandpa, and he was a very proud Great-Grandpa when she had her baby, Brycen.



Don W. enjoyed snacks at the housewarming party.



Better Living CEO, Dani Merlino, presents Kathy W. with the "Joy Maker" award, nominated by EP Executive Director, Sara Etter.



These ladies arranged pretty bouquets. Pictured left to right: Joyce S., Mary B., Carol B., Loretta M., Julie H. and Mary S.



Lucy M. and her daughter enjoyed the housewarming party.

NATIONAL Assisted Living WEEK

SEPTEMBER 13-19, 2026

♥ Join us every Tuesday for sweet treats and even sweeter company! ♥

SUNDAY SEPT. 13 	THEME: NATIONAL GRANDPARENTS DAY 	DRESS-UP DAY: <i>Hawaiian Bash</i> 	FUN SNACK/TREAT:  POPCORN & ROOT BEER	GAME/ACTIVITY: <i>Resident Face Bingo!</i> 2:00 PM 
MONDAY SEPT. 14 	THEME: PATRIOTIC DAY 	DRESS-UP DAY: RED, WHITE, & BLUE 	FUN SNACK/TREAT:  STRAWBERRY, BLUEBERRY, SUGAR COOKIES	GAME/ACTIVITY: <i>Ron Burgess Concert</i> 2:00 PM 
TUESDAY SEPT. 15 	THEME: FLOWER POWER HIPPIE DAY 	DRESS-UP DAY: FLOWER POWER HIPPIE DAY 	FUN SNACK/TREAT:  COSMIC BROWNIES	GAME/ACTIVITY: <i>Leroy Mann Concert!</i> 2:00 PM 
WEDNESDAY SEPT. 16 	THEME: SOCK HOP 	DRESS-UP DAY: SOCK HOP 	FUN SNACK/TREAT: ICE CREAM TRUCK! <i>+ Fun Drink for Happy Hour!</i> 	GAME/ACTIVITY: <i>Chorus Sing Along</i> 3:30 PM 
THURSDAY SEPT. 17 	THEME: VIVA LAS VEGAS 	DRESS-UP DAY: <i>Vegas Glitz & Glam</i> 	FUN SNACK/TREAT: 1000 GRAND COOKIES 	GAME/ACTIVITY: <i>Elvis Concert</i> 2:00 PM 
FRIDAY SEPT. 18 	THEME: YOUR ERA DAY 	DRESS-UP DAY: DRESS FROM YOUR ERA! 	FUN SNACK/TREAT: POPCORN 	GAME/ACTIVITY: <i>Abigail Rae Concert!</i> 3:00 PM 

♥ ♥ Let's celebrate our community, our residents, and the memories we make together! ♥ ♥

Join us in celebrating Emery's
August Employee of the Month:

Leslie E.



Leslie is 22 years old, and was adopted when she was two years old. Her favorite color is purple, and she absolutely loves going on long walks. When she says long walks, she means longgggg walks!

One of the quickest ways to her heart is definitely good food. Food, crafts and activities are absolutely her love languages!

One of the biggest parts of her life is her job at Emery Place and the residents. She truly loves spending time with them, getting to know their personalities, hearing their stories, making them smile, and being part of their everyday lives. Working with residents is more than just a job to her. It is something she genuinely enjoys and cares about.



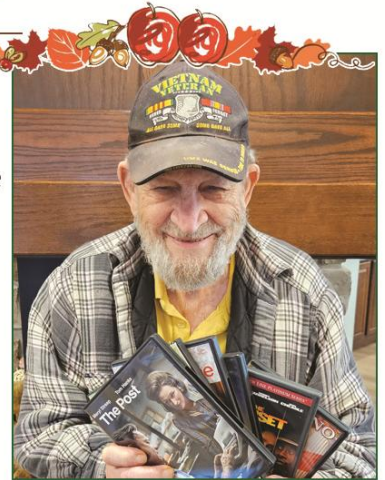
Leslie and her sister enjoyed a painting class together.

Emery Place Activities...

Ray's MOVIE HOUR

Hello everyone! If we haven't had the pleasure of meeting yet, my name is Ray, and my wife and I live in Apartment #503. Please feel free to stop by and say hello anytime!

As an avid movie lover, I am excited to serve as the president of Ray's Movie Hour, happening every Saturday and Sunday afternoons at 1:00pm.



Here are the movies we'll be enjoying this month:

Sept. 5: Pale Rider (Starring Clint Eastwood)

Sept. 6: Jonah Hex (Starring Josh Brolin)

Sept. 12: To Catch A Thief (Starring Cary Grant)

Sept. 13: The Bodyguard (Starring Kevin Costner)

Sept. 20: All Of Me (Starring Steve Martin)

Sept. 26: Sleepless in Seattle (Starring Tom Hanks & Meg Ryan)

See you all in the family room!

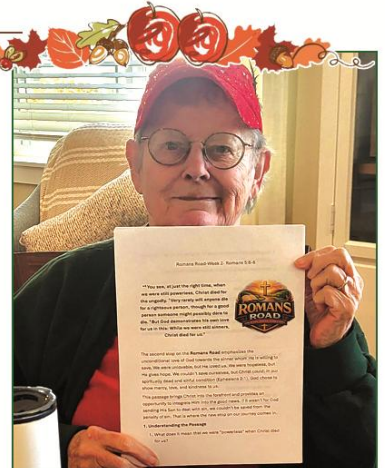
Susan's BIBLE STUDY

Greetings and blessings to all! I have been happily married to the movie lover himself, Ray.

I am honored to lead our weekly Bible Study every Friday at 1:00pm. All are welcome — we would love to have you join us!

This month, we're diving into a series through The Psalms. Each week, we will explore a different rich and powerful message throughout the bible. All are welcome, come on down and join us as we learn more from The Psalms.

We can't wait for you to see you - meet us in the library!



Funny Autumn Leaf Raking Story

It was a beautiful autumn morning, and Frank had one goal: rake every leaf in his yard into the biggest pile the neighborhood had ever seen. After an hour of hard work, Frank stood proudly beside his masterpiece. "Now THAT is a leaf pile," he announced.

-Continued on bottom of next page.

Hosted by Your Neighbors!

The EMERY PLACE CHORUS

Hello! My name is Barb and along with my friend, Bug, who is our wonderful pianist, we share our love of music together with everyone at Emery Place!

We practice every Tuesday at 1:00pm in the family room. Join us at our Sing-Along on September 16th at 3:30pm.

We would love to see you there!



Jessie M. and Roger W. enjoyed the bus trip to the Czech Museum.



Mary S. is prettier than the flowers she had fun arranging.

Blanchard's BAKING CLUB

Hello everyone! My name is Carol Blanchard, and it is an honor to have been nominated as the official president of the Blanchard's Baking Club!

Each Tuesday, we gather to bake delicious treats and enjoy time together. I am excited for all the recipes we'll be trying this month.



Here's what we'll be baking this month:

- Chocolate Pudding Pie
- Lemon Cookies
- Orange Pineapple Cake
- Oreo Fluff
- Oatmeal Chocolate Peanut Butter Bars



Fire Department Snacks:

- Scotcheroo Truffles

We can't wait to bake, laugh, and make sweet memories!

Funny Autumn Leaf Raking Story Continued:

Just then, a gust of wind blew through. Whoooooosh! Every single leaf flew across the street and landed perfectly in his neighbor Bob's freshly raked yard. Frank froze.

Bob walked outside, looked at his yard, then slowly looked at Frank. Frank smiled nervously. "Good news, Bob. Fall came early to your house." Bob stared at him for a moment.

Then another gust of wind came through. Whoooooosh! The entire pile blew back into Frank's yard.

Bob smiled. "Looks like fall changed its mind."



Sales Director, Sarah, and Jim B. discuss smiling for the camera.



John F. was a sport wearing the birthday hat to celebrate.

Housewarming party

SEPTEMBER

SUNDAY

27

2PM - 3:30PM

Join us for fellowship and refreshments as we welcome our new neighbors who moved into the Emery Place community this past August:
Ethel Temme and Helen Tielebein.

We are also celebrating residents with Emery Place Anniversaries:
Chuck Beck, Richard Hargens, Julie Hoffman, Carole Johnson, Ed Kovarik,
Harold & Betty Opsahl, and Marilyn Steinkamp.

We're excited to make this a monthly gathering so we can all connect,
build friendships, and get to know each other better.

We hope to see you there!

*Emery
Place*

901 S. Mentzer Rd., Robins, IA 52328

If your name is on this list, please let Sales & Marketing Director,
Sarah Zimmerman, know who you would like her to invite for you!

Time with Emery Place friends make fun memories!



These gals enjoyed fellowship and fruit smoothies together. Pictured left to right: Joyce S., Julie H., Mary B., Kimbra W., Carol B. and Lorraine D.



Life Enrichment Director, Michael, and family smile for the camera.



Bob B. and RA Amanda pick some cherry tomatoes off our plants.



Gary S. and his wife took a great picture together!



Kathy A. enjoyed the car show at EP and helped name "Best in Show."



Ray and Susen L. enjoyed a sweet drink during the car show.



Balloon Volleyball looked competitive. Pictured left to right around the circle: Julie H., Susen L., Ray L., Kimbra W., Bob B., Mary B., Sherry S., Phyllis C., Carol B. and Kathy A.



Bug was a big "winner" at the EP County Fair doing the TP toss - bringing home three rolls!

We Love Generously to Elevate Every Moment Together!



Ray and Susen L. along with Life Enrichment Director Michael's son and Sales Director Sarah's grandson look at the ducks during the EP County Fair. (Sarah's sons and daughter-in-law stand in the background by the goats - animals courtesy of them.)



Sales Director Sarah's son has a nice chat with Don W. about raising ducks.



Loretta M. had a slushy lemonade on the patio.



Kimbra W. and Shirley R. admire llama, Simon, and his "senior" wig.



The Prairie Patch Farm llamas, Earl and Simon, visited us on National Senior Citizen Day - sporting their best "senior" look. Pictured left to right: Carol B., Housekeeper Shayla, Joyce S., Kathy W., Kimbra W., Julie H. and Mary S.



Jessie M. was happy to enjoy the EP Country Fair and lemonade.

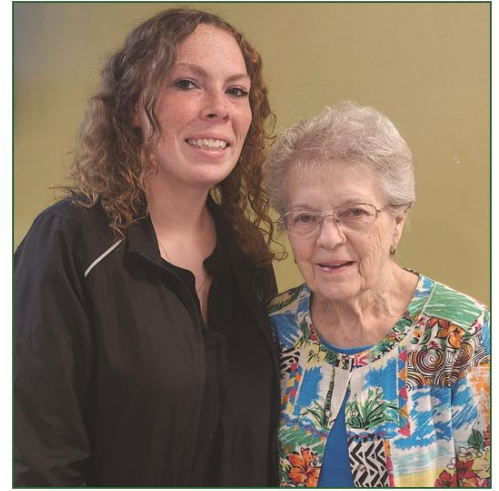
Administrative Assistant

Ashlyn Buck

I'm excited to be the new Administrative Assistant here at Emery Place! My new role will include greeting all who enter our community, training new staff, and supporting Executive Director, Sara Etter, with residents and family needs.

I've been part of the Emery Place team for a little over a year, and before stepping into my new position, I worked as a Resident Assistant. My time as an RA gave me the opportunity to build so many special relationships with our residents, and I'm grateful that I can still spend time with them every day.

I truly love being part of this community! I'm excited to take on this new opportunity, continue to grow and learn, and make a positive difference for everyone who calls Emery Place home!



Administrative Assistant, Ashlyn Buck and Barb S. are happy to get their picture together.

Sales & Marketing Director

Sarah Zimmerman

Fall is a great time to move to Emery Place! If you have friends or family members you would love to call your neighbors, have them contact me! Although we have been full for a while now, it is still beneficial to join our priority waitlist.

Join ED, Sara, and me as we celebrate our newest residents who moved in during August, along with some celebrating their Emery Place anniversaries! Our Housewarming Party will be in the dining room on September 27 from 2-3:30pm. Be sure to check out the invitation flyer in this newsletter. If your name is listed, please get me the addresses of the friends and family members you would like to invite to join us for refreshments and fellowship. *(All residents are invited!)*



Sales & Marketing Director, Sarah Zimmerman, and Mary B. enjoy a cool drink on the patio.

Life Enrichment Director

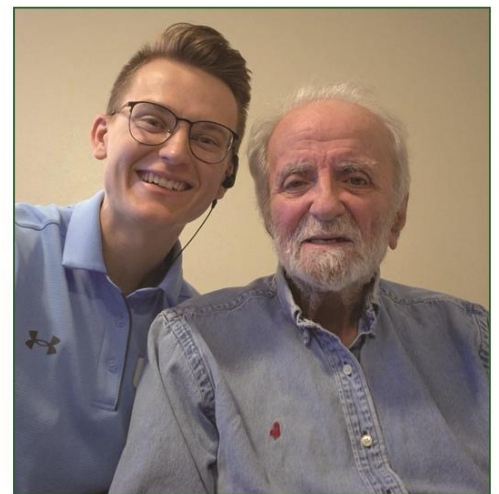
Michael Guinane

I'm super excited for everything we have in store this month! Our biggest celebration will be National Assisted Living Week, September 13-19! We'll kick things off on National Grandparents Day and keep the fun rolling all week with treats, dress-up days, and activities. We'll wrap up the week Saturday afternoon with a Tractor Club coming to EP! *(See details in this newsletter.)*

Our Museum Club is hitting the road again! On September 24, we'll head to the Cedar Rapids Museum of Art for a morning of exploring and enjoying some incredible artwork together.

We're also introducing Thursday Morning Scenic Bus Rides! Starting at 9:15am, we'll hop aboard, get some fresh air, see some sights, and enjoy time on the road. Look for sign-up sheets.

It's hard to believe how quickly this year is flying by. Before we know it, the leaves will be changing, the temperatures will be dropping, and — one of my personal favorites — playoff baseball will be here! 🍁 I can't wait!



Life Enrichment Director, Michael Guinane, and Bob B. smile for the camera.

Professionally Managed By:



Directors:

Executive Director

SARA ETTER

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ASHLEE WYANT

(ON MATERNITY LEAVE AUG-OCT)

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Life Enrichment Director

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Maintenance Director

JOSH WHITE

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Our Mission

To love generously, serve passionately, and elevate every moment for our residents, families, and team members.

*Senior Living...
Only Better!*

Maintenance Director

Josh White

Hello, September! Here's a fun fact for you! The month of September gets its name from the Latin word septem, meaning "seven," because it was originally the seventh month of the Roman calendar.

It has now been just over a month since I joined the Emery Place family, and I absolutely love it here! Now that I've finally gotten all of my original hire training out of the way, I'm excited to really settle in.

I want to thank each and every one of you for making me feel so welcome. It has been a great first month, and I'm looking forward to everything ahead!

You may hear me stomping around on the roof at some point this month, weather permitting, as I check vents and help get our community prepared for the colder months ahead. So, don't be surprised if you look up and see me up there!

If we haven't had a chance to talk yet, stop me in the hall and say hi! I'd love to get to know you, hear what's important to you, and see what I can do to help you live your best life here at Emery Place.



Maintenance Director, Josh White, took a minute to play balloon volleys with Kimbra W.!

National Assisted Living Week: September 13-19, 2026

Fun dress up days - everyone is welcome to participate!

Sept. 13: Hawaiian Bash - Bring out those grass skirts!

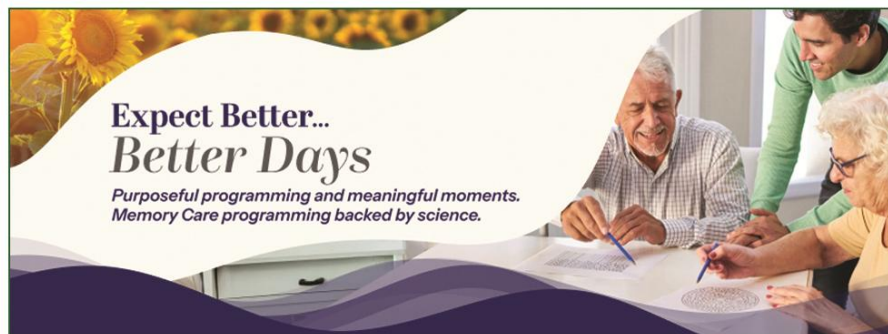
Sept. 14: Patriot Day - Wear red, white and blue!

Sept. 15: Flower Power Hippie Day - Be groovy today!

Sept. 16: Sock Hop Day - Let's bring back the '50s in style!

Sept. 17: Las Vegas Day - Glitz and Glamor! Elvis will be in the house!

Sept. 18: YOUR Era Day - Dress up from your era!



**Expect Better...
Better Days**

*Purposeful programming and meaningful moments.
Memory Care programming backed by science.*



*Our Deepest Sympathies go out to the families
in the passing of their dear loved ones
and our Emery Place friends,
Merrienne Kinney and Aletha Panek,*

