



BENSON MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

FALL/WINTER 2025
HOMER SMITH FRENCH



Homer Smith French Jr. was born in Hanford Village, Ohio, a neighborhood of Columbus and attended and graduated from Columbus East High School. Although he was not on the school's basketball team that won the State Championship, he played the trombone in the high school band and orchestra. After completing high school, Homer attended Ohio State University, graduating with an Aeronautical Engineering degree. He took a job with McDonnell Aircraft and moved to Saint Louis, MO. McDonnell merged with the Douglas Aircraft Company in the mid-1960s, becoming McDonnell Douglas Corporation.

Homer moved to the Atlanta area in 1966, accepting a new position with Lockheed Georgia Company. Lockheed later merged with the Martin Marietta Corporation, becoming Lockheed Martin in 1995. During his time with the company, he worked on many projects including the C130 and C5 transport aircrafts, but his favorite was the YF-22 fighter prototype.



YF-22 ADVANCE TACTICAL FIGHTER PROTOTYPE

While living in Atlanta, among his passions have included being a member of the Peachtree Road United Methodist Church and participating in the singles ministry and activities, following his beloved Ohio State Buckeyes athletic teams, and attending musical concerts and theater productions at the Woodruff Arts Center. He is also a wildlife enthusiast (especially birds) and enjoys water sports.

Shortly after retiring, Homer joined the newly opened Dorothy C. Benson Center. He has been an active member for 25 years, even serving on the Friends of Benson Board of Directors for six years (2013 – 2018). He was instrumental in the building of the center's Bocce Courts and continues now as its unofficial coordinator. In addition to Bocce, Homer participates in the Soulful Strut Line Dancing classes and performances, many of the center's field trips and you will find him several days a week in the pool during Open Swim hours or the Fitness Room during Open Gym.

Earlier this year, Homer turned 90 years old, but you would not know it to look at him! He credits his good health and mobility to good genes, healthy eating, and exercise; never smoking and limited alcohol, although he admits to a weakness for Bryers Mint Chocolate ice cream!

When asked what he would tell someone considering joining the center, he says "There are a lot of things to do, and you'll meet a lot of nice people."

LOCKHEED C-130 HERCULES AIRCRAFT

