

Jemison TREASURE Forest/Tree Farm Welcomes Veterans

By Elishia Ballentine, Editor

It was one of those sultry summer days, when it's too hot to do much of anything except fish. And that was exactly the goal for some specially invited guests at a 50-acre Chilton County certified TREASURE Forest/Tree Farm near Jemison. Landowner William E. "Billy" Noble of Birmingham welcomed a group of eight veterans from the Birmingham Veterans Administration (VA) Hospital to his property for a day of fishing and relaxation.

These men, all blind, spanned in age from 30 to 70 years old. Originating from various parts of the country with diverse backgrounds, they had one thing in common . . . each had experienced combat, although serving in different wars. But on this particular day, the only battle they were anticipating was with the bass and bream in this five-acre lake.

The idea of Myra Grissom, she not only coordinated the event with the Nobles but her family-owned and operated "Miss Myra's Barbecue" restaurant in Birmingham also sponsored it. A volunteer once a week at the VA, she had recognized the need for a fishing outing for these veterans, making the transportation arrangements and lining up a few more hospital personnel to assist and ensure the safety of the fishermen.

Set up around the bank and along the 45-foot pier and a smaller 10x12 dock, the men caught over 60 fish that day. One veteran said it was the first fish he had caught in 40 years. All agreed it was indeed a fine catch, with the landowner noting that it was most rewarding to host such an occasion. The fishermen themselves couldn't decide which was most enjoyable . . . catching the fish or eating them at the fish fry! 🍷



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