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***Kyle Vowers Osborne honored for refusing to “act his age”***

*Newport News, Virginia resident recognized in national “Splendid Seniors Among Us” program celebrating people whose post-65 activities can inspire all ages.*

NASHVILLE, TN —For taking up a new hobby in his 70s, a new career in his 80s, and refusing to “act his age,” Kyle Vowers Osborne of Newport News, VA is being honored by Pearlson Press as its “Splendid Senior Among Us” for January 2008.

Osborne, who will be 85 in March, began teaching art at 80. A few years after taking his first painting class via the Newport News Department of Parks and Recreation at age 71, he began exhibiting his oil paintings at The Art Place in his hometown of Chilhowie, VA. The exhibit inspired him to further study drawing, oil painting and watercolor at the Midtown Community Center in Newport News. Osborne now teaches painting classes to other seniors two days a week at the Center.

According to his daughter Lynne Denney of Chilhowie, who nominated him as a “Splendid Senior,” Osborne served in the Army Air Corps during World War II, flying as a crew member on 71 combat missions over China and Burma. The young man who had been drafted into the military at 18 learned to drive a car on the Burma Road, ferrying soldiers in a troop carrier.

After WWII Osborne returned to Baltimore, MD, where he had been working in an airplane factory before the war, and enrolled in beauty school. He headed back to his hometown with his hairdresser’s license, but with no jobs available decided to enlist in the U.S. Air Force in 1947. He married his wife, Jane, in 1950, and served in Okinawa, Morocco and Germany, as well as less exotic locales, before retiring from the Air Force in 1964.

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After completing 22 years of active duty in the Air Force, Osborne and his wife opened Kyle's Salon of Beauty in Hampton, VA. The beauty shop was moved to Newport News in 1979. Osborne continues to work as a hairdresser as well as teaching art and continuing to paint.

As the "Splendid Senior Among Us" honoree for January 2008, Osborne receives a certificate and an autographed copy of *Splendid Seniors: Great Lives, Great Deeds* by Jack Adler, an original trade paperback published by Pearlsong Press in March 2007. *Splendid Seniors* celebrates 52 men and women through history who accomplished great things after age 65.

Pearlsong Press sponsored the year-long "Splendid Seniors Among Us" program in conjunction with publication of Adler's book in order to honor seniors who are living inspiration. The program runs through February 2008. To nominate someone, see the Pearlsong Press website at [www.pearlsong.com](http://www.pearlsong.com).

Pearlsong Press, founded in 2003 by psychologist and journalist Peggy Elam, Ph.D, specializes in books and resources that entertain while expanding perspectives on the self and the world.

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