



Resident Profile Series: Victor Torrez

Victor Torrez, a resident of Meeker Commons, loves to golf in the summer and shoot pool year-round at the senior center. Now though, COVID-19 restrictions have shut down the senior center, which means no pool and no watching Broncos games with friends.

“I miss being in the main room and sitting in there. Being at home all the time feels like being in jail,” says Torrez.

86 years young, this isn't the first time in his life that Torrez has weathered changes. One of nine children and born in Greeley, Torrez left northern Colorado to join the U.S. Army 101st Airborne Division. There, he spent 20 months during the Korean War, jumping out of airplanes for exhibition shows. Discharged in 1957, he returned to Greeley and went to work at his dad's construction company. Interestingly, Torrez spent time at Meeker Commons before he ever moved there. During his time at the family construction company, he operated a backhoe and water truck, removing previous buildings, an old parking lot and trees that occupied where Meeker Commons now sits.

The only buildings left standing are the Oak & Adams House, built in 1883 and with the Artesian Well #5 nearby, and the C.A. Gale House— built in 1888. Both houses are on the Greeley Historic Register and are currently occupied by Meeker Commons families.

Soon after returning from the army and starting in construction, Torrez got married and had kids. Now, he's a proud grandpa and great-grandpa.

Torrez has done a lot of living. The last 20 years of that has been at Meeker Commons. He's seen staff and residents alike come and go; he says he knows change happens and as it has for most people, the pandemic has brought on difficulties, but he credits his faith with keeping him on solid footing.

“I try to keep a good attitude,” explains Torrez, “because if I don't make an effort to keep my mind straight, I'll go crazy. I have a strong faith and it keeps me in a peaceful state of mind.”

Torrez says that before COVID-19, it was the unique activities put on by resident services manager, Vonn Burnett, that he really looked forward to. Even now, with most activities on hold, Torrez says he credits Burnett with making Meeker Commons a place where residents are eager to participate again, as soon as possible.