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THE FOREST AT DUKE
KEEP GROWING℠

Durham Mayor Joins The Forest at Duke in Celebrating Six Centenarians

Annual celebration brings residents, families, and friends together to honor six residents age 100 and older

DURHAM, N.C., October 21, 2026 – Durham Mayor Leonardo "Leo" Williams joined The Forest at Duke on Monday, October 12, 2026, for "A Century of Stories," the continuing care retirement community's annual centenarian celebration. The event honored six residents age 100 and older, welcoming fellow residents, family members, and friends to the community's auditorium. Registration for the celebration reached capacity.

The honorees were Jean Bradley Anderson, Nancy Deutsch, Robert "Bob" Jennings, Margaret "Peg" S. Lewis, Mary Ann Ruegg, and Shirley Sukonick. Their backgrounds reflect careers, interests, and service that have helped shape Durham, The Forest, and communities beyond.

Jean Bradley Anderson is a local historian, author, genealogist, and preservationist known for her work documenting the history of Durham County.

Nancy Deutsch's interests have included both editorial work and painting. She served as an editor for a monthly publication and explored her creativity through art.

Robert "Bob" Jennings is a Duke University professor emeritus whose career focused on medicine and pathology.

Margaret "Peg" S. Lewis became the first woman elected president of The Forest's Residents' Association in fall 1997. She also helped develop the community's library and volunteered in its Health Center. A Forest Pioneer, Lewis has called the community home since it opened in 1992.

Mary Ann Ruegg is also a Forest Pioneer. She and her late husband became active in campus life through committee work, volunteer service, and the creation of the "Lunch Bunch," which brought residents together for monthly luncheons and dinner outings. Ruegg is often seen around campus in bright colors and sparkly fairy hair.

Shirley Sukonick attended business college, worked in fundraising, and volunteered with the American Red Cross. She remains an enthusiastic bridge player.

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The event was hosted by The Forest at Home, The Forest at Duke's on-site home care service, managed by Home Care Administrative Manager Tiketha Collins.

About The Forest at Duke
Since opening in 1992, The Forest at Duke has been recognized as a premier continuing care retirement community in Durham, North Carolina. The community offers a full continuum of care along with a variety of residential options, including classic and contemporary apartment homes, duplex cottages, and single-family homes. Health services include an on-site Duke-affiliated clinic, rehabilitation services provided by Legacy Healthcare Services, and The Cohen Center for Health, a state-of-the-art, small-house model designed to support personalized, resident-centered care.

Supporting quotes

"Each of these residents brings a perspective shaped by more than a century of experience, and each continues to contribute to life at The Forest. We were pleased to welcome Mayor Williams and grateful to the families and friends who joined us to give these six residents the recognition they deserve." – ***Greg Garrett, CEO (The Forest at Duke)***

"One of the pleasures of our work is getting to know people beyond the care they need. You learn about their sense of humor, what they enjoy, and the experiences they still love to talk about. Those everyday conversations are what make a celebration like this feel personal." – ***Tiketha Collins, Home Care Administrative Manager (The Forest at Home)***

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