

# Enjoying the 'Wright' Life at ST. JAMES PLANTATION



## *A seatown, a hometown, a timeless way of life.*

SOUTHPORT, NORTH CAROLINA: Homer Wright, developer of St. James Plantation, took risks that served him well. As a fresh-faced 19 year old, Homer was stationed in Naples, Italy, with the 85th Infantry Division during WWII. "With the allies victory in hand, our job changed from war to processing thousands of soldiers rotating home," reminisced Wright. "I met a 12-year-old boy whose sister was killed in the war. I had empathy for his story and helped smuggle him back to the U.S. on a military ship. It was risky and we got caught, but ultimately he became a citizen. Today, he lives in Texas and we still keep in touch every so often."

### **POCKETFUL OF MIRACLES**

Homer's eye for risk and opportunity continued throughout his real estate career. In the early 1990s, he purchased 2,500 rural acres in coastal North Carolina and founded St. James Plantation. It was a strategic business decision that carried great potential, but no assurance of success.

"A good friend had surveyed the area and kept raving about the land and climate," said Wright. "Since it is locat-

ed in the upper limits of a subtropical climate, you rarely need more than a light sweater, even in the dead of winter."

Homer rolled up his sleeves and made St. James Plantation the best selling community in the coastal Carolinas for almost two decades.

"Early on, I felt I faced impossible odds and each time luck was on my side," said Wright. "Working with the state and Army Corps of Engineers was daunting.

"Because St. James Plantation is set along the Intracoastal Waterway, the entitlement process was complicated and slow moving. I often worked three shifts to keep up with the paperwork," said Wright. "Winston Churchill is my hero. His refrain of 'Never give up! Never give up! Never give up!' became my rally call."

St. James Plantation was incorporated as a town in 1999 and now has its own mayor, fire department, and EMS.

"It's a beautiful place, our community," proudly stated now 91-year-old Wright. "We have the greatest homeowners I could ever hope for. They are intelligent, interested in what we're doing and cooperative. From day one, they have been my priority." ■

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