

Ring in the New Year at Longacre

The Longacre House of Farmington Hills presents: *Swing Into the New Year*, at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 31.

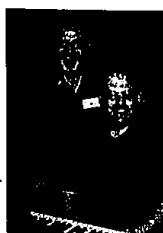
Welcome 2003 by popping the cork on champagne in front of a fire in the grand living room of this beautiful 1869 Georgian mansion.

This grand celebration will include dancing to Marty's Little Big Band, a three-piece combo that will provide an evening of classic "swing" music. Guests may also relax in the quiet elegance of the home's antique library.

A five-course gourmet dinner prepared by renowned Longacre Chef Russell Chessin will be the highlight of the evening. The sit-down dinner will include a choice of appetizers, soup and salad, three entree choices, as well as a tasty treat.

"The best part is dessert," Chessin said, "which will be caramel apple nut pie. It's one of my signature items. I make my caramel from scratch."

Entree choices are the classic Longacre prime rib, Bohemian Almond stuffed cornish game hens and salmon en croute. Chessin said the game hens, which can be difficult to cook, will have the almond bread stuffing placed between the skin and breast to seal in the



Percussionist Brian Golden, a Farmington resident, pianist Marty Mandelbaum and saxophonist Bill Zeider will perform New Year's Eve at the historic Longacre House.

juices.

The salmon en croute, he says, "is a fun item." The crust is shaped like a fish, and the salmon inside always comes out tender and moist.

Guests will receive two drink tickets, after which a cash bar is offered. At every table, there will be a bottle of champagne for the midnight toast.

Reservations are required; all proceeds will benefit the Longacre House, a nonprofit organization. For more information about this event contact the Longacre House at (248) 477-8404.

Concert on tap to assist in fight against cystic fibrosis

A concert and fund-raiser for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation is planned for 8 p.m. Friday, Jan. 10, in the Farmington High auditorium.

Headlining the concert will be the folk/bluegrass band Four Days, which is recording its first CD in New York and was recently featured on MTV's "Ft. Myer" program. The band also is receiving some air play on a Lansing college radio station.

Advance tickets purchased by credit card may be ordered by calling (248) 269-8759. The ticket cost is \$7 for students and \$12 general admission.

Military retirement could be short-lived

BY JONI HUBBARD
STAFF WRITER

Last month, Farmington Hills resident Col. Robert Schulkins II retired from the U.S. Army at Central Command, Mac Dill Air Force Base in Tampa, Fla.

Depending on how the world political picture changes, however, he may not stay retired.

A lifelong resident of the community, Schulkins was scheduled for retirement in November of 2001. National and world events put a crimp in those plans, and he was called back to active duty with the J5 Staff Section, responsible for plans, policies and programs at Central Command, serving under Rear Adm. James Robb who reported to Gen. Tommy Franks, commander in chief of Central Command.

Someone else might have considered it disappointing to be recalled so close to the end of his career, but not Schulkins. "It's an honor to serve," he said. "I don't want to leave my family, but if there aren't people to stand up and defend the U.S. and our way of life, how do we think we've gotten where we are?"

The Schulkins name has long been associated with the Farmington area and with military service. Five of Schulkins' uncles served during World War II; William Schulkins still lives on property that was part of the family farm.

Robert Schulkins was drafted out of college in 1965 for service in Vietnam. While in basic training at Fort Knox, he qualified for Officers Candidate School and was commissioned in 1967. While overseas - at the age of 23 - he was elevated to the position of company commander.

He came home and used his veteran's benefits to earn a commercial pilot's license and went to work as a corporate pilot.

"Everybody in that hangar was Army Reserves," Schulkins said. "A colonel talked me into going back."

With the Michigan Army National Guard and U.S. Army Reserve, he held a variety of positions, from company commander to an exercise con-



Denise Schulkins received a certificate recognizing her years of support and dedication at her husband's retirement ceremony.

troller during Strategic Crisis Exercises at the Army War College.

After 30 years' experience working with people he calls "leaders and managers of the highest integrity, loyalty and honor," he didn't hesitate to respond to another call to serve after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

"In peacetime, Central Command personnel is about 920. That triples in wartime," he said.

During Desert Storm/Desert Shield in the 1990s, the U.S. worked with 29 coalition countries. Operation Enduring Freedom coordinates 89, with 40 countries physically represented on location in Florida.

"The coalition is a wonderful thing," Schulkins said. "To see the world coming together is so positive."

While he couldn't speak specifically to his activities in the service, he called the process of putting services

together "exciting." Most people, he added, don't have a good idea of military logistics - for instance, he said, a carrier ship holds 6,000-7,000 people, plus a battle group.

When he retired, Schulkins received a touching memento of his years of service: a framed plaque displaying his ribbons and awards, which included Meritorious Service Medals, Army Commendation Medals, the Army Achievement Medal, Meritorious Unit Citation, National Defense Medals and the Vietnam Service/Campaign Medals with Battle Stars.

During his service in Vietnam, Schulkins earned the prestigious Combat Infantryman Badge, Bronze Star and Vietnam Cross of Gallantry.

He was also moved by a certificate given to his wife, Denise, recognizing her support and contributions over his career in military service. The couple has two daughters, Amy,



Col. Robert Schulkins spoke at a ceremony held in honor of his retirement from active duty in November.

who teaches at Beechview Elementary in Farmington Hills, and Kristyn, who teaches in Livonia Schools, where Denise also works.

"I'm very blessed to have a great family and good friends," Schulkins said.

Schulkins is a 1962 graduate of Farmington High School; Denise graduated from Detroit Mercy High School in 1963.

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