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THE RITZ-CARLTON RESIDENCES®
INNER HARBOR BALTIMORE



AN AGE FOR CHOICES

Seniors and early retirees have lots of options when they decide to leave the old homestead.

Left: Dr. David Mayer and his wife Cathy, an RN, chose The Ritz-Carlton Residences overlooking the harbor.

After their last child left for college, Dr. David Mayer and his wife, Cathy, downsized from their 4,800-square-foot suburban Chicago home to a high-rise apartment in the Windy City's downtown. "We loved being in the city, and when David retired from the University of Illinois hospital, that's where we thought we'd be."

"But with his expertise in patient quality and safety, offers poured in, and David realized he still wanted to work," says Cathy. David chose Medstar Health, the largest health-care provider in the Mid-Atlantic region.

And his wife was thrilled. "I was born in Maryland, but hadn't live there in 35 years," says Cathy, who has seven brothers and sisters here.

When the Mayers met with their Realtor, they knew exactly what they wanted. Cathy, 58, an RN who works part-time as an accreditation consultant

for medical practices, and David, 60, wanted a condominium where everything was taken care of so they could go away and not worry about anything. "We also wanted an active lifestyle—amenities like a pool, a gym, 24-hour concierge, activities, and restaurants within walking distance." The Mayers chose a two-bedroom, two-and-a-half-bath condo with beautiful water views at The Ritz-Carlton Residences on the shores of the Inner Harbor. Wine enthusiasts, the Mayers joined the wine club and Cathy also goes to book-club meetings.



Top: Deep water slips in the private Marina accommodate yachts or sailboats and provide direct access to the Chesapeake Bay. **Left:** A Model Residence boasts an airy, spacious kitchen. **Above:** The Mayers attending one of the many community events held at The Ritz-Carlton Residences.

The Mayers are not alone among boomers: According to Hank Greenberg, state director of AARP Maryland, many people who could retire chose to continue working full time or part-time if they find it fulfilling, with “fulfilling” being the key word—whether it’s working, volunteering, or following a passion, it must be living with purpose. And for many empty-nesters, their new life includes going to restaurants and theatre.

“Today’s retirees are trading in their lawn mowers for tickets to the symphony and Center Stage,” Greenberg says.

Joe Graziose, regional senior vice president for RXR Realty, owner of The Ritz-Carlton Residences, says that living in downtown Baltimore offers convenience and a wealth of activities. Restaurants are within walking distance and so are the shops. Or you can hop on a water taxi to reach Fells Point, Tide Point, Harbor East, Harborplace, Fort McHenry, or Canton. And of course, there are also concerts, theatres, museums, and pro sports.

The Mayers are typical of the boomer generation. In 2011, the first of the baby-boomer generation reached what used to be known as retirement age. And for the next 18 years, boomers will be turning 65 at a rate of 8,000 a day. With these huge numbers, “Boomers and the silent generations [the group between the greatest generation and the boomers] will redefine the institutions of aging,” says Bob Kramer, president of the Annapolis-based National Investment Center for the Seniors House and Care Industry. “They don’t want to be referred to as seniors. For the boomers, “e-words” will define their retirement—enjoyment, enrichment, engagement, and experience. Boomers want to be integrated, not segregated. They want to be part of the action.”

Douglas Brunner, 58, and his wife Elle were living in a 60-year-old Colonial in the Roland Park area when they decided

to move to a 2,000-square-foot condo. The old homestead was just too big for just two of them.

Douglas Brunner’s daughter and granddaughter live in Federal Hill and the Brunners both loved the idea of living in a more urban setting where they could easily walk to different venues.

Places like The Ritz-Carlton Residence are high-end condominiums in urban neighborhoods that are not age-restricted but attract many boomers. They are becoming examples of a “naturally occurring retirement community” or NORC, according to Kramer. And though there’s a mix of ages among many such residences, these places tend to

attract the over-50 set.

“Compared to 20 years ago, retirement housing options now offer incredible variety,” Kramer says. “And this trend will continue.”

“When AARP does their surveys, 90 percent of people say they want to age in place,” Greenberg notes. “And that includes staying in their home or in the area, even if it means in a different residence. Perhaps that’s because it was found that one of the most important things to retirees is spending time with family and friends.”

Below: The Lobby at the Ritz-Carlton Residences.





Left: The Mayers in the Game and Billiard Room—one of the most popular amenities among residents and their guests. **Above:** Residents enjoy close proximity to historic Federal Hill. **Below:** Social gatherings are an integral part of the The Ritz-Carlton Residences' community.

