



# Truman VA BULLETIN

February 9, 2007

## WELCOME

**Lawrence Brady**, Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist (BH)  
**Pamela Burkett, RN** (PS)  
**Grant O'Neal, PhD**, Staff Psychologist (BH)  
**Mike Russum, PharmD**, Supervisory Pharmacist (Pharmacy)  
**Jennifer Walker, SNT** (PS)  
**Crystal Williams, LPN** (PS)  
**Sonya Willis, SNT** (PS)



## FAREWELL

**Rhonda Mahan**, Medical Supply Technician (PS)  
**Dorothy Robinson**, Medical Instrument Technician – EEG (SC)  
**Harry White, MD**, Staff Neurologist (SC)

## TOWN HALL MEETINGS, FEB. 20

The next quarterly Town Hall meetings are scheduled on Tuesday, Feb. 20 at 7:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. in the auditorium. All employees are invited to attend.

## FEBRUARY SERVICE PIN RECIPIENTS

### 30-Years

**Robert G. Bedford** (SC) ♥  
**Vicki J. Freelon** (PC) ♥  
**Pamela D. Isaacson** (SC) ♥



### 25-Years

**Richard A. Munson** (CS) ♥  
**Robert S. L. Williamson** (VISN/LOG) ♥

### 15-Years

**Lenworth N. Johnson, MD** (SC) ♥



### 5-Years

**Patricia L. Drane, LPN** (PC) ♥  
**Daniel G. Mertz, RN** (PS) ♥  
**Kristan A. Webb, RN** (PS) ♥

## VOLUNTARY LEAVE TRANSFER

**Richard Berry** (Police), **Brenda Brown** (PS), **Ashley Forbis** (BUS) and **Lori Nevins** (PC) have been approved for the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program. Contact **Lena Warren** (HR) at extension 56397 for information.

## BLACK HISTORY MONTH PROGRAM - FEB. 15, 2:00 P.M., AUDITORIUM

**Dr. Wanda Brown**, Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Education for the Columbia Public Schools, will be the featured speaker at the Black History Month program in the auditorium at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 15. The Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Committee will present the annual program. This year's theme is "From Slavery to Freedom: The Story of Africans in the Americas." All employees and volunteers are invited to attend.



## BLACK HISTORY MONTH WEB SOURCES

### **2007 theme: *From Slavery to Freedom: The Story of Africans in the Americas***

- Association for the Study of African American Life and History presents 2007 theme: <http://www.asalh.org/>
- Blacks in military site: <http://www.infoplease.com/spot/bhmmilitary1.html>
- Good black history month Web site: <http://www.infoplease.com/spot/bhm1.html>
- Census Bureau 2004 feature page: <http://www.census.gov/pubinfo/www/multimedia/AfricanAm.html>
- LA Public Library Background and References: <http://www.colapublib.org/bhm/>

## NEW VA MRSA INITIATIVE

On Jan. 12, a new Veterans Health Administration directive about a Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA) Initiative was published. This directive requires each VA medical center to implement a standardized program to decrease the risk of MRSA infections. A local work group headed by **Kathy Kormann, RN**, Infection Control Practitioner and local MRSA Initiative Coordinator, has begun working on implementation of the initiative. The initiative is organized into several processes that include (1) active surveillance/screening; (2) contact precautions; (3) hand hygiene; and (4) culture change. The initial efforts will focus on the facility's Intensive Care Unit and as soon as feasible will extend into all other inpatient units. The intent of this nationwide VA initiative is to interrupt the chain of transmission of MRSA and decrease the number of patients at risk for MRSA infection. A successful pilot program was initiated earlier at the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System. Much more information will follow as the local work group gets busy.

## NATIONAL SALUTE TO HOSPITALIZED VETERANS, FEB. 11-17

The annual National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans is scheduled Feb. 11-17 at all VA medical centers and many state veterans' homes. The annual Salute began in 1978 when VA took over sponsorship of a program started in 1974 by No Greater Love, Inc., a humanitarian organization. The program encourages the participation of the community through visits with patients at VA medical centers, nursing homes, state veterans homes and other facilities as well as through service as VA volunteers. For the fifteenth consecutive year, the nationally syndicated column started by Ann Landers, now called Annie's Mailbox, devoted a column to the National Salute asking readers to send Valentine cards and letters to hospitalized veterans. As a result, more than a million cards and letters are sent to VA patients each year.



## NURSING MANAGEMENT NOTE

**Ladonna Crum, RN, BSN**, has been selected for the position of Nurse Manager for Truman VA's Step Down Unit. She brings a number of years of clinical experience to her new position and has stated a goal to enhance the care provided to patients with a satisfied staff and a comfortable work environment. Congratulations, Ladonna!



## MANDATORY TRAINING AVAILABLE ON VALO

Another means of accessing mandatory employee training courses was recently announced. The following mandatory and required Web-based training courses are now available on **VA Learning Online (VALO)**: (<https://www.vcampus.com/vcekpvalo/servlet/ekp/login/>)

- ➔ Traumatic Brain Injury
- ➔ Alternative Dispute Resolution — Online Awareness Training
- ➔ VA Cyber Security Awareness
- ➔ VHA Privacy Policy
- ➔ Controlled Substance/Drug Diversion Inspection Certification

VALO's ability to manage user-heavy courses ensures quick system response and easy accessibility as well as enhanced search capabilities. Since VALO is accessible 24 hours a day through the VA Learning University (VALU) Web site or the Internet, employees can complete courses at work or at home.

As part of the transition, VALO was upgraded, which affects the way employees enter the campus. Additional updates and status information will be provided via e-mail and through the *Weekly Educator*, which is distributed each Thursday, and on the EES Web site.

## THANK YOU LETTER

I wanted to let you know what a wonderful **ER** you have. We were at the Doctor in January for my husband. They thought he was having a heart attack. So, I went up to his room, which was very warm. When I went back out in the hall, I fainted.



When I came to, I had never seen so many folks working on me. They were all so nice. My nurse, **Kathy Crews**, was super and was so good to me. She has patience and knew that I was nervous. Later, I fainted again and had to go to the ER again. Once again, the group was very good to me. They sent me over to the University Hospital and everything turned out okay.

I'm glad I was in the VA hospital when all of this activity occurred. I just wanted to let you know what a great group of staff you have there and how special Kathy Crews was to me. God Bless!

**VW**

ENJOY YOUR FREEDOM? THANK A VETERAN!