



VA Heartland Network

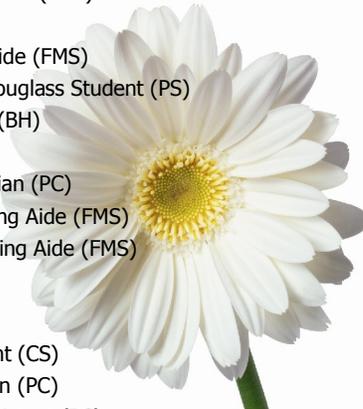
Maximum  
Veteran  
Benefit

# Truman VA BULLETIN

APRIL 20, 2007

## WELCOME

**Laura Albright** – Surgical Technician (PS)  
**Debbie Duncan** – Social Worker (BH)  
**Tadd Greenfield** – Nurse Manager (PS)  
**Harold Greer** – Claims Assistant (BUS)  
**Lynne Jerichow** – RN (PS)  
**Jeff Komisar** – Food Service Worker (BUS)  
**Cecily Myers** – RN (PS)  
**Michael Perry** – Housekeeping Aide (FMS)  
**Ayanna Prince** – Nurse's Aide/Douglass Student (PS)  
**Becky Ragland** – Social Worker (BH)  
**Dr. Didar Sarai** – Physician (PC)  
**Dr. Brooke Schwartz** – Physician (PC)  
**Phillip Wilkinson** – Housekeeping Aide (FMS)  
**Kenneth Windsor** – Housekeeping Aide (FMS)



## FAREWELL

**Wilfred Davis** – Autopsy Assistant (CS)  
**Dr. Mohsin Hasnain** – Physician (PC)  
**Lori Nevins** – Medical Support Assistant (PC)

## VOLUNTARY LEAVE TRANSFERS

**Dawn Wetrich** (PS), **Jeffrey Brooks** (SC) have been approved for the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program. Contact **Lena Warren** (HR) at extension 56397 for information.

## NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK

National Volunteer Week is scheduled April 15 – 21, which provides a formal opportunity for all of us to thank the dedicated volunteers that provide service to veterans year round. On Wednesday, April 18, 140 community volunteers were honored by Truman Memorial VA Hospital staff members and management officials at the annual volunteer recognition awards ceremony. The local VA volunteer program includes approximately 410 regularly scheduled volunteers that provide nearly 60,000 hours of service annually to veterans receiving care from the Columbia facility and its community based outpatient clinics. The nationwide VA Voluntary Service program is the largest centralized volunteer program within the federal government. VA volunteers have donated more than 676 million hours of service since the program began 60 years ago. In 2006, over 140,000 VA volunteers contributed more than 13 million hours of service – equal to 6,264 full time employees. Locally, 18 organizations have representatives on the VA Voluntary Service Committee and help provide volunteer manpower, gifts and donations. Wednesday's event was the 34th annual volunteer ceremony for Truman Memorial VA. Congratulations to the award recipients and **thank you** for your service!



## NATIONAL DONATE LIFE MONTH, 2007

President George W. Bush has proclaimed April 2007 as National Donate Life Month.

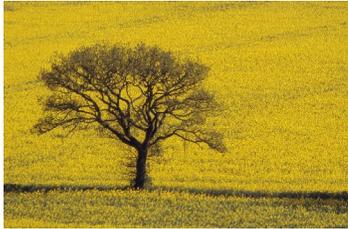
Donating organs, marrow, and tissue is a kind and compassionate act that can protect and enhance the precious gift of life. During National Donate Life Month, we recognize the generosity of donors and raise awareness of the importance of donating.

In recent years, there has been great progress in this important effort, and the rate of organ donation has steadily increased -- helping save thousands of lives. Despite this success, more than 95,000 Americans currently await organ transplants, and hundreds more are added to the transplant list each month.

Americans who wish to become organ and tissue donors can register with their State's donor registry, designate their intent on their driver's license, and sign and carry donor cards, which are available at [organdonor.gov](http://organdonor.gov). I urge all citizens to consider becoming donors and encourage all donors to inform their loved ones of their decision so their wishes can be fulfilled. Every human life holds inherent dignity and matchless value, and National Donate Life Month is an opportunity to celebrate our country's organ and tissue donors. The decision to donate the gift of life demonstrates the compassionate spirit of our Nation.

## VFW COMMENDS VA FOR INSPECTIONS

WASHINGTON, March 22, 2007 — The Department of Veterans Affairs released a facility inspection report yesterday that should reassure America's veterans that the poor maintenance conditions uncovered in one building at nearby Walter Reed Army Medical Center are not rampant problems inside the VA's 1,400 clinics and hospitals.



Approximately 90 percent of 1,100 identified problems can be attributed to normal wear and tear, such as worn carpets and the need for fresh paint, wall repair and ceiling tile replacement. The report

deemed 10 percent of the problems as more serious, such as water leaks, mold, and in one case, bats that have access to the interior space of a building.

*The VA should be commended for acting swiftly and for the thoroughness of their inspection, said Gary Kurpius, the commander-in-chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. Everything that was identified can be immediately fixed, and a more aggressive maintenance program will help ensure that the small things don't become larger problems in the future.*

The VA inspection came in the aftermath of the disclosure of substandard living conditions inside an off-installation building that Walter Reed used to house wounded outpatients. The public uproar forced the VA and the Department of Defense to ensure that every government medical facility meets established health and safety standards. DOD has yet to publish the results of their inspection.

Kurpius said the VA has been lauded in independent studies and surveys as the nation's best healthcare provider, public or private. He is now calling upon his nationwide network of VFW volunteers and service officers to ensure that the VA stays at that high level of service. He wants his members to work with local staff to ensure that the identified problems are corrected, and that new problems are quickly addressed.

*There are hundreds of thousands of dedicated military and civilians employees within our VA and DOD healthcare systems who perform miracles every day of the week, said Kurpius. What occurred at Walter Reed was an isolated incident. Now the nation must refocus its attention back on supporting our troops and to not allow the good name of Walter Reed — or the VA and DOD healthcare systems — to become synonymous with anything other than hope and healing.*



## MY HEALTHVET USERS ENJOY MORE FEATURES

My HealthVet, VA's Web-based portal that allows veterans to register and record personal health information and combine it with parts of their electronic health records, will add new features throughout 2007 that will enable veterans to improve management of their health care.

The portal recently was named a "Top 5" Excellence.Gov program winner for 2007 by the Industry Advisory Council for its innovative use of technology to achieve strategic goals and objectives. Veterans who register on the web site can record personal health information and combine it with parts of their VA electronic health records.

Once registered, veterans can record and store health information and measurements such as blood pressure readings, cholesterol counts, temperatures, and health histories, refill their VA prescriptions, and access medical information from reliable health libraries. Aiden Barr, Acting Program Manager for My HealthVet said new features to be introduced in 2007 will enable veterans who have registered on the web site to add electronic copies of portions of their VA medical records to their personal health records.

Among the newest My HealthVet features are screening tools for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), depression and alcohol use. The "Healthy Living Centers" provide medical information and tips on healthy eating, physical activity, and smoking and tobacco use cessation.

The "Condition Centers" offer information on medical conditions such as diabetes, heart disease, hypertension and stroke, plus tips on managing those conditions. Information on support groups is also available on the site.

To ensure the security and privacy of their personal health record, veterans must register on the My HealthVet web portal and complete an "In Person Authentication," (IPA) at their medical facility. Once a VA patient has registered on the portal and completed the authentication, Barr said they will see their prescription drug name, in addition to the prescription number. Future additions will enable these same veterans to see their VA appointments, co-pay balances, and copies of chemistry and hematology lab reports. Since VHA introduced My HealthVet in 2003, registrations have rapidly increased, reaching nearly 375,000 in March, 2007. Following the release of online prescription refill in August, 2005, veterans have electronically submitted nearly 2.4 million refill requests.

There have been more than 10 million visits since the portal debuted in 2003, with over 4 million of those visits occurring in 2006. Veterans can register on the My HealthVet Web portal at [www.myhealth.va.gov](http://www.myhealth.va.gov). A demonstration account is available to view what the sites to offer. The User ID is mhvuser; the password is mhvdemo#1.



**ENJOY YOUR FREEDOM? THANK A VETERAN!**