



Truman VA BULLETIN

MARCH 7, 2008

WELCOME

Caitlin Alexander, Pharmacy Aid (Pharmacy)
Melissa Betts, Pharmacy Aid (Pharmacy)
Sairell Hinton, Food Service Worker (BUS)
Bich Huynh, MD, Staff Physician (PC)
Amanda Maddex, Claims Assistant (BUS)
Lisa Mitchell, PhD, Staff Psychologist (BH)
Candace Williams, Student EKG Tech (PS)

Remember to:
 "Spring Forward"
 This Weekend!

Please submit recipes by March 26 using the Diversity Day Recipe Template located on the hospital home page. Simply type in your recipe and click "submit."

FAREWELL

Rachel Chitwood, Sales Clerk (Canteen)
Josephine Kelly, Lead EKG Technician (PS)
Lynda Patterson, EEO Program Manager (DIR)
Thomas Patterson, Human Resources Director (HR)
Curtis "Rick" Russell, Chief Financial Officer (BUS)
Emily Spalding, RN (PS)



E.K.G. Tech **Josephine Kelly** Retires After 35 Years of Service



C. F. O. **Rick Russell** Retires After 37 Years of Service

MARCH SERVICE PIN RECIPIENTS

35-Years

Lloyd E. Wade, Food Service Worker Supervisor (BUS)

30-Years

Edwin A. Burchard, Inventory Management Specialist (VISN/LOG)
Sammie L. Fielder, Materials Handler (VISN/LOG)

25-Years

Barbara J. Wheelock, Health Technician (PC)

15-Years

Ronnie L. Huett, CRNA, Nurse Anesthetist (SC)

10-Years

D. S. Kurukulasuriya, MD, Staff Physician (PC)

5-Years

Machelle N. Dykstra, Office Automation Assistant (PS)
Brandi E. Graves, LPN (PC)
Christina L. Malone, Food Service Worker (Canteen)
Laura J. Speckhals, Occupational Therapist (CS)
James D. Toombs, MD, Staff Physician (PC)
Alan R. Willis, Respiratory Therapist (SC)

RECIPES FOR DIVERSITY DAY

Does your aunt make the best Hungarian Goulash? Do your friends swoon over your red beans and rice? Are you dying to get your hands on your co-worker's German chocolate cake recipe?

The hospital's EEO Committee invites you to "Celebrate Our Differences" by sharing your favorite family or cultural recipes. Those recipes will be compiled into a *Celebrating Our Differences Recipe Booklet*, which will be provided to attendees at the upcoming Diversity Day celebration on May 22.

The Veterans Canteen Service will prepare samples of featured recipes – maybe yours! Featured recipes will be selected based on adaptability for serving a crowd.

STAFF MEMBER ACHIEVEMENT

Denise Heet, LCSW, Homeless Veterans Program Coordinator at Truman VA, is serving as chair of the Governor's Committee to End Homelessness in 2008. Congratulations, Denise!

ECONOMIC STIMULUS PAYMENTS COMING

More than 130 million households should receive economic stimulus payments under the Economic Stimulus Act of 2008 beginning in May. The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) requested VA to assist in getting this information to veterans that may be eligible for these payments.

Taxpayers that have federal income tax filing requirements and certain taxpayers that do not have a federal tax filing requirement are eligible. It is simple and easy. All you have to do is file a 2007 tax return and the IRS will do the rest. The IRS will automatically figure the payment and send it out as a rebate check. For more information, check out the following Web sites:

<http://www.irs.gov/irs/article/0,,id=177937,00.html>
or www.va.gov/healtheligibility under "Hot Topics."



DIRECTIVE PROMOTES RESEARCH WITH PRIVATE SECTOR

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) will issue a new directive to enhance collaboration between VA and private sector sponsors that will help promote research and innovations that will lead to improvement in veterans' lives. The directive, which will take effect March 26, requires the use of Cooperative Research and Development Agreements for industry-sponsored research at all VA medical centers. The requirement is designed to streamline the process for VA and other health care providers and companies to collaborate when conducting research study in human volunteers to answer specific health questions, commonly called clinical trials. VA researchers at medical centers participate in many clinical trials each year that rely, in part, on funding and other resources from pharmaceutical, biotechnology and medical device industry sponsors.

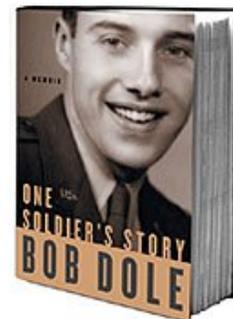
The agreements will create consistency throughout the VA system, making it easier for VA investigators to participate in multisite clinical trials, which occur in later stages of research and involve a number of locations and a large number of participants. These collaborative agreements permit VA to accept funds, personnel, services and property from a party working with the Department on a clinical trial. In turn, VA can provide personnel, services, access and property to the collaborator. Collaborators benefit from VA researchers' expertise in discovery and innovation as well as their experience in the development of products with commercial potential. VA researchers have won three Nobel prizes, six Lasker awards and numerous other awards.

The agreements will serve to ensure that veterans' information is kept confidential and protect collaborators' privileged, commercial or financial information. The agreements create an enforceable contract between VA and its industry partners and spells out ownership and licensing agreements before any inventions are made. Additional information on Cooperative Research and Development Agreements can be found at www.research.va.gov.

DOLE TELLS *ONE SOLDIER'S STORY*

Former U.S. Senator and presidential candidate Robert "Bob" Dole's new best-selling book, *One Soldier's Story*, is a touching personal account of his experience as a severely wounded Army veteran in World War II whose recovery included care, treatment and therapy at several Army hospitals, with help from VA. Dole's book is a tribute to those who served in the military in WWII and to those nurses, doctors, health care professionals, friends and family that helped in his recovery. His experiences after the war parallel the development and growth of VA in its early days of caring for WWII veterans.

The book describes Dole's early years growing up with a close-knit family in Russell, Kansas, who taught him the virtues he has displayed throughout his life. It recounts his experiences in the wartime Army and his service as a lieutenant in the 10th Mountain Division in Italy. Dole's gripping account of his wounding gives full credit to his fellow platoon mates for saving his life. While he was twice decorated for achievement and received two Purple Hearts and two Bronze Star medals, he does not think of himself as a hero.



The book describes his recovery, beginning with a brief stay at an Army field hospital in Italy before being transferred to the Winter General Army Hospital in Topeka, which is known today as the Colmery-O'Neil VA Medical Center. Dole also received care and treatment at Walter Reed Army Hospital and the Percy Jones Hospital in Battle Creek, Michigan. Bob Dole recovered from his wounds well enough to go to law school using the GI Bill and launched a distinguished public service career as a U.S. Congressman and Senator. After his unsuccessful presidential campaign in 1996, he served as chair of the National World War II Memorial and received the President's Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian award. Dole recently co-chaired the President's Commission on Care for America's Returning Wounded Warriors, commonly referred to as the Dole-Shalala Commission. The commission report provides a series of recommendations on ways to improve care, treatment and benefits for service members and veterans.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH PROGRAM

The Black History Month program, sponsored by the hospital EEO Committee, originally scheduled on Feb. 22 was postponed because of inclement weather. The rescheduled program took place last Friday, Feb. 29, and featured a presentation by **Howard Clark**, president of the Columbia Community Teachers Association and Frederick Douglass High School faculty member. **Jeff Kimbro** (SC), newly appointed African American Special Emphasis Program Manager, served as master of ceremonies. The program included music from the Truman VA Choir, a poetry reading by **Yvonne Matthews** and a rendition of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech by **Jimmy Powell** (HR).

ENJOY YOUR FREEDOM? THANK A VETERAN!