



Department of Veterans Affairs

Harry S. Truman Memorial
Veterans' Hospital
800 Hospital Drive
Columbia MO 65201
www.columbiamo.va.gov

Media Advisory

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
L. Stephen Gaither (573) 814-6308 (Office)
Public Affairs Officer (573) 355-4852 (Blackberry)
(573) 424-8130 (Cell)

November 24, 2014

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Columbia Vet Center Schedules Outreach Event With Readjustment Counseling Service Mobile Vet Center Vehicle

- Who:** Area combat Veterans and their families, the general public
- What:** The outreach event is designed to discuss Veterans benefits and to answer questions about services provided by Vet Center staff
- When:** Wednesday, December 3
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Where:** City Hall
112 S. Main Street
Paris, Mo.
- Why:** The Columbia Vet Center opened in 2010. VA Vet Centers, established following the Vietnam War, are available to provide counseling services, particularly for combat Veterans and their families. This event provides opportunities to:
- Meet Vet Center staff members
 - Learn more about Vet Centers
 - Learn about the 40 foot Mobile Vet Center, which is used for national emergencies, medical aid to remote regions and outreach for the Vet Center program
 - Obtain information on services provided to Veterans and their families.



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- What:** The outreach event is designed to discuss Veterans benefits and to answer questions about services provided by Vet Center staff
- When:** Wednesday, December 3
8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
- Where:** Hermann Lumber
603 Market Street
Hermann, Mo.
- Why:** The Columbia Vet Center opened in 2010. VA Vet Centers, established following the Vietnam War, are available to provide counseling services, particularly for combat Veterans and their families. This event provides opportunities to:
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- Who:** Area combat Veterans and their families, the general public
- What:** The outreach event is designed to discuss Veterans benefits and to answer questions about services provided by Vet Center staff
- When:** Tuesday, December 2
8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
- Where:** Bowling Green City Hall
16 W. Church Street
Bowling Green, Mo.
- Why:** The Columbia Vet Center opened in 2010. VA Vet Centers, established following the Vietnam War, are available to provide counseling services, particularly for combat Veterans and their families. This event provides opportunities to:
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November 24, 2014

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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- Who:** Area combat Veterans and their families, the general public
- What:** The outreach event is designed to discuss Veterans benefits and to answer questions about services provided by Vet Center staff
- When:** Monday, December 1
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Where:** Lewis County Courthouse
100 East Lafayette
Monticello, Mo.
- Why:** The Columbia Vet Center opened in 2010. VA Vet Centers, established following the Vietnam War, are available to provide counseling services, particularly for combat Veterans and their families. This event provides opportunities to:
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- Who:** Area combat Veterans and their families, the general public
- What:** The outreach event is designed to discuss Veterans benefits and to answer questions about services provided by Vet Center staff
- When:** Monday, December 1
8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
- Where:** Knox County Courthouse
107 N. 4th Street
Edina, Mo.
- Why:** The Columbia Vet Center opened in 2010. VA Vet Centers, established following the Vietnam War, are available to provide counseling services, particularly for combat Veterans and their families. This event provides opportunities to:
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November 14, 2014

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Local Veterans Day Essay Contest Winners Announced

Columbia, Mo. – Eight Columbia Public School District students are winners in the annual Veterans Day essay contest sponsored by the Harry S. Truman Memorial Veterans' Hospital.

Open to middle school and high school students in the Columbia district, entries were reviewed by a language arts teacher at each school prior to submission. Truman VA staff members judged and determined the winning essays. Cash prizes from donated funds were awarded to the winners on Monday, Nov. 10, at a recognition ceremony in Truman VA's auditorium.

Winners in the middle school division were **Grace Gomez-Palacio**, West Middle School (first place); **Natalie James**, West Middle School (second place); **Kaylee Faddis**, Oakland Middle School (third place); and **Andrew Yarbrough**, West Middle School (honorable mention). High school division winners were **Katherine Byars** (first place); **Evann Twitchell** (second place); **C J Phillips** (third place); and **Ali Schrupp** (honorable mention). All four are Rock Bridge High School students.

The essays will be posted on Truman VA's website.



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November 14, 2014

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Truman VA Hospital to Conduct Nov. 18 Town Hall Event

- Who:** Veterans and their families, other stakeholders including congressional staff, Veteran Service Organizations, community partners
- What:** Town Hall Event to allow and enhance feedback from Veterans, their families and other beneficiaries.
- When:** Tuesday, November 18
5:30 to 7:00 p.m.
- Where:** Harry S. Truman Memorial Veterans' Hospital
800 Hospital Drive
Columbia, Mo.
Second Floor Auditorium
- Why:** Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert A. McDonald has directed all VA healthcare and benefits facilities to conduct quarterly town hall

events. The goal of each event is “to listen and learn from those who use” the VA healthcare system.

How: Event attendees are encouraged to arrive early in order to find parking. Questions/comments from the audience will be addressed as time allows.



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November 10, 2014

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Columbia Vet Center Schedules Outreach Event With Readjustment Counseling Service Mobile Vet Center Vehicle

- Who:** Area combat Veterans and their families, the general public
- What:** The outreach event is designed to discuss Veterans benefits and to answer questions about services provided by Vet Center staff
- When:** Friday, November 14
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- Where:** Memphis City Hall
125 W. Jefferson Street
Memphis, Mo.
- Why:** The Columbia Vet Center opened in 2010. VA Vet Centers, established following the Vietnam War, are available to provide counseling services, particularly for combat Veterans and their families. This event provides opportunities to:
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November 7, 2014

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Truman VA Hospital Schedules Nov. 18 Town Hall Event

- Who:** Veterans and their families, other stakeholders including congressional staff, Veteran Service Organizations, community partners
- What:** Town Hall Event to allow and enhance feedback from Veterans, their families and other beneficiaries.
- When:** Tuesday, November 18
5:30 to 7:00 p.m.
- Where:** Harry S. Truman Memorial Veterans' Hospital
800 Hospital Drive
Columbia, Mo.
Second Floor Auditorium
- Why:** Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert A. McDonald has directed all VA healthcare and benefits facilities to conduct quarterly town hall events. The goal of each event is "to listen and learn from those who use" the VA healthcare system.

How: Event attendees are encouraged to arrive early in order to find parking. Questions/comments from the audience will be addressed as time allows.



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News Release

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October 27, 2014

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New Truman VA Chief Financial Officer Appointed

Columbia, Mo. – **Deborah J. Henderson** has been appointed chief financial officer of the Harry S. Truman Memorial Veterans' Hospital.

She has served as Truman VA's assistant financial officer since March 2013 and was the acting chief financial officer from October 2013 until her appointment. In her new role, Henderson will be responsible for managerial responsibility of the facility's financial management operations, which includes (1) formulation, justification and execution of the budget (\$282 million in fiscal year 2014); (2) financial information and advice to the facility's executive leadership team; and (3) internal quality assurance audits.

Henderson earned a bachelor's degree in education from Columbia College and a Missouri life teaching certificate in social studies and business at the secondary level. Since joining VA, she has completed numerous job related training courses.

Henderson began her VA career in 1976 as a work study student clerk stenographer and clerk typist at Truman VA. After a seven year break in service, she rejoined the Truman VA staff in 1988 and served in a variety of positions including budget assistant and budget analyst in research service (1988 to 1996), program analyst and budget analyst in financial management (1996 to 2013) before her appointment as assistant financial officer.



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October 27, 2014

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New Truman VA Learning Resources Officer Appointed

Columbia, Mo. – **Sara Hake** has been appointed learning resources officer of the Harry S. Truman Memorial Veterans' Hospital.

She has served as a program specialist for organizational development since 2012 and was the acting learning resources officer from July 2014 until her appointment. In her new role, Hake will be responsible for managerial responsibility of the facility's learning resource service, which includes (1) employee education and development; (2) nursing education; (3) library services; and (4) audiovisual services.

A native of Missouri, Hake earned a bachelor's degree in English education from the University of Missouri. She is a graduate of facility and VA Heartland Network leadership development programs as well as the Columbia Chamber of Commerce Leadership Columbia program. She served on the Job Point business advisory council from 2011 to 2012.

Hake began her VA career in 1990 as an editorial assistant in research service at Truman VA. She has served in a variety of positions including equal employment opportunity (EEO) program manager from 2007 to 2012. During her tenure in that role, Truman VA received the 2012 VA Secretary's Diversity and Inclusion Excellence Award and the 2012 Columbia Values Diversity group award.



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October 21, 2014

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Columbia Vet Center Schedules Outreach Event With Readjustment Counseling Service Mobile Vet Center Vehicle

- Who:** Area combat Veterans and their families, the general public
- What:** The outreach event is designed to discuss Veterans benefits and to answer questions about services provided by Vet Center staff
- When:** Friday, October 24
10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- Saturday, October 25
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- Where:** American Legion Conference
Capitol Plaza Hotel
415 W. McCarty
Jefferson City, Mo.
- Why:** The Columbia Vet Center opened in 2010. VA Vet Centers, established following the Vietnam War, are available to provide counseling services, particularly for combat Veterans and their families. This event provides opportunities to:
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October 15, 2014

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Columbia Vet Center Schedules Outreach Event With Readjustment Counseling Service Mobile Vet Center Vehicle

- Who:** Area combat Veterans and their families, the general public
- What:** The outreach event is designed to discuss Veterans benefits and to answer questions about services provided by Vet Center staff
- When:** Friday, October 17
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- Where:** The American Legion Post 228
601 E. Spring Street
Milan, Mo.
- Why:** The Columbia Vet Center opened in 2010. VA Vet Centers, established following the Vietnam War, are available to provide counseling services, particularly for combat Veterans and their families. This event provides opportunities to:
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October 15, 2014

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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- Who:** Area combat Veterans and their families, the general public
- What:** The outreach event is designed to discuss Veterans benefits and to answer questions about services provided by Vet Center staff
- When:** Thursday, October 16
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- Where:** The American Legion Post 34
110 S. 18th Street
Unionville, Mo.
- Why:** The Columbia Vet Center opened in 2010. VA Vet Centers, established following the Vietnam War, are available to provide counseling services, particularly for combat Veterans and their families. This event provides opportunities to:
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