

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



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

News Release

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

November 25, 2015

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 2
8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- Where:** VFW Post 2854
1347 S. Morley Street
Moberly, 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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News Release

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

November 20, 2015

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, November 25
9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- Where:** Hermann Lumber Do It Best
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:
- Meet Vet Center staff members
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November 10, 2015

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Truman VA to Support November 14 Access Stand Down for Local Veterans

Background: The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is committed to providing timely access to Veterans as determined by their clinical needs. The largest integrated healthcare delivery system in the nation strives for all Veterans to have safe, high quality, personalized, and timely care wherever they receive their health services. Toward this end, on Saturday, November 14, VA medical centers across the country will participate in a first ever Access Stand Down. Truman VA clinical leaders and administrators have endeavored to identify and reach out to all Veterans identified as having the most important and acute clinical needs to make sure they can be seen by VA or in the community.

What: Access Stand Down media availability

When: Saturday, November 14
9:00 a.m.

Where: Harry S. Truman Memorial Veterans' Hospital
800 Hospital Drive
Columbia, Mo.
Main Lobby

Why: Beginning in January 2014, officials at Truman VA have focused specifically on areas where Veterans were having access to care issues, e.g., waiting longer than 30 days for clinic appointments. The efforts have included paying community health providers for those particular services and building more internal capacity

MORE

by hiring more personnel, expanding specialty care services to VA community clinics and expanding clinic times and hours. When the nationwide access to care issues surfaced in 2014, those efforts were increased. As a result, average waiting times for new patients were significantly reduced for primary care, specialty care and mental health services. Overall, all patients – new and established – are receiving service and treatment in a more timely manner. For primary care and mental health services, 100 percent of all patients are being seen within 30 days. For specialty care services, 94 percent are being seen within 30 days. The focus areas for Truman VA are eye services (optometry and ophthalmology), podiatry, dermatology and orthopedic surgery.

How: The following are highlights of activities undertaken to address patient access:

- Truman VA's Cancer Fast Track System continues to assure that Veterans with a diagnosis or suspected diagnosis of cancer are seen and treated expeditiously.
- \$47 M spent for non-VA care in the community during FY 2015 to provide services for 13,270 Veterans.
- Through Veterans Choice Act initiative, 661 eligible Veterans received clinical service appointments from community providers.
- More than 50 additional positions were added in FY 2015 with Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act funds.
- Podiatry services are available Monday-Friday at the Jefferson City VA Clinic.
- Plans are underway to add optometry services at VA community based outpatient clinics in Jefferson City and Marshfield.
- MRI appointment slots were expanded into the evening hours.
- Tele-health applications have expanded and are employed liberally in all eight of Truman VA's community based outpatient clinics.
- An oral surgeon was hired in the Dental Service.
- Dermatology physician staffing was increased.
- Ophthalmology Clinic and GI Clinic patient slots are expanding.
- Saturday Audiology Clinic patient slots will continue to be available.

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November 10, 2015

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Truman VA Hospital to Conduct November 13 Town Hall Event

- Who:** Veterans and their families, other stakeholders including congressional staff, Veteran Service Organizations, community partners
- What:** Town Hall events allow and enhance feedback from Veterans and their families concerning health care and other VA benefits
- When:** Friday, November 13
1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- Where:** Harry S. Truman Memorial Veterans' Hospital
800 Hospital Drive
Columbia, Mo.
Second Floor Auditorium
- Why:** In 2014, Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert A. McDonald directed all VA health care 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. In addition, questions about financial benefits will be addressed by representatives of the St. Louis Veterans Benefits Administration Regional Office.
- How:** Questions/comments from the audience will be addressed as time allows. A brief "claims clinic" will be conducted following the Town Hall event.

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News Release

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L. Stephen Gaither (573) 814-6308 (Office)
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October 22, 2015

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Truman VA Hospital to Conduct November 13 Town Hall Event

- Who:** Veterans and their families, other stakeholders including congressional staff, Veteran Service Organizations, community partners
- What:** Town Hall events allow and enhance feedback from Veterans and their families concerning health care and other VA benefits
- When:** Friday, November 13
1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- Where:** Harry S. Truman Memorial Veterans' Hospital
800 Hospital Drive
Columbia, Mo.
Second Floor Auditorium
- Why:** In 2014, Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert A. McDonald directed all VA health care 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. In addition, questions about financial benefits will be addressed by representatives of the St. Louis Veterans Benefits Administration Regional Office.
- How:** Questions/comments from the audience will be addressed as time allows. A brief "claims clinic" will be conducted following the Town Hall event.

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News Release

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L. Stephen Gaither (573) 814-6308 (Office)
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October 16, 2015

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:** Thursday, October 22
9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- Where:** Linn Thriftway
318 W. Main Street
Linn, 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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October 14, 2015

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:** Tuesday, October 20
9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- Where:** Monroe County Health Department
310 N. Market 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:
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News Release

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
L. Stephen Gaither (573) 814-6308 (Office)
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October 8, 2015

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 16
9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- Where:** Walmart Supercenter
3650 Stardust Drive
Hannibal, 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 1, 2015

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: Thursday, October 8
12:00 noon to 2:00 p.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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October 1, 2015

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: Thursday, October 8
9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Where: Lewis County Courthouse
100 E. 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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September 30, 2015

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:** Saturday, October 3
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- Where:** Versailles Olde Tyme Apple Festival
On Newton Street next to City Hall
Versailles, 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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September 23, 2015

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, September 30
9:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.
- Where:** Crawford County Courthouse
302 W. Main Street
Steelville, 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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September 15, 2015

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Truman VA Hosts Annual POW/MIA Recognition Day Ceremony ***“You Are Not Forgotten”***

- Who:** Former prisoners of war and family members, Veterans and other interested persons
- What:** Annual National Prisoner of War/Missing in Action (POW/MIA) Recognition Day Ceremony
- When:** Friday, September 18
2:00 p.m.
- Where:** Chapel (3rd Floor), Truman VA Hospital
- Why:** At Truman VA, we pause to remember the sacrifices and service of those who were prisoners of war, as well as those who are still listed as missing in action in Southeast Asia, and their families. Former prisoners of war in central Missouri have been invited to participate, and approximately 4-5 are expected to attend. (A copy of the program is attached.)

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September 14, 2015

VA Awards Local Grants to Prevent and End Homelessness Among Very Low-Income Veteran Families

Flexible Grants are Helping Lower Rates of Veteran Homelessness in Mid-Missouri

COLUMBIA, Mo. – Hundreds of very low-income Veteran families in mid-Missouri, who are permanently housed or transitioning to permanent housing, will have access to crucial services with the award of more than \$211,000 in grants under the Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) program.

SSVF funding, which supports outreach, case management and other flexible assistance to prevent Veteran homelessness or rapidly re-house Veterans who become homeless, went to 286 nonprofits and consumer cooperatives in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. Locally, Phoenix Programs, Inc., received grants totaling \$211,140 to serve Veteran families in 14 counties (Audrain, Boone, Carroll, Callaway, Chariton, Cole, Cooper, Howard, Miller, Morgan, Osage, Pettis, Randolph, Saline).

“SSVF is a key tool to promote housing stability among our most economically vulnerable Veterans and their families,” said **Wade Vlosich**, Director of the Harry S. Truman Memorial Veterans’ Hospital, Columbia. “This program empowers our community-based partners to provide the mix of services needed to prevent Veterans from becoming homeless and rapidly rehouse those who become homeless.”

SSVF grantees typically serve Veterans with incomes below 30 percent of the area median income. Grantees must follow the housing first approach, which centers on permanently housing homeless Veterans quickly without preconditions and providing supportive services as needed. Additional SSVF requirements are that grantees engage in outreach to find and serve Veterans in need, provide Veterans with case management and assist them in obtaining VA and other public benefits.

CONTINUED

p. 2 - VA SSVF Grants

Nationally, SSVF served 127,829 participants in fiscal year (FY) 2014 and is on track to serve 135,000 Veterans and their family members by the end of FY 2015.

As a result of these and other efforts, Veteran homelessness is down significantly since the launch of the Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness in 2010. Since 2010, nearly 230,000 Veterans and their family members have been permanently housed, rapidly rehoused or prevented from falling into homelessness by HUD's targeted housing vouchers and VA's homelessness programs.

Today's grant recipients successfully competed for renewal grants under a February 3, 2015, Notice of Funding Availability. Applications were due March 17, 2015. The funding announced today will support SSVF services in FY 2016, which starts October 1, 2015, and ends September 30, 2016.

The SSVF program is authorized by 38 U.S.C. 2044. VA implements the program by regulations in 38 CFR part 62. Visit www.va.gov/homeless/ssvf.asp to learn more about the SSVF program.

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September 10, 2015

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, September 16
12:00 noon to 3:00 p.m.
- Where:** Howard County Courthouse
1 Courthouse Square
Fayette, 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
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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:** Wednesday, September 16
8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
- Where:** Chariton County Courthouse
306 S. Cherry Street
Keytesville, 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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August 24, 2015

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Truman VA Schedules Aug. 28 VA Summit for Mental Health & Homeless Services

“Sustaining our Joint Commitment to Improve the Mental Health of Veterans and Their Families”

- Who:** State and local community agencies and organizations that partner with Truman VA mental health services and other community stakeholders including congressional staff and Veteran Service Organizations
- What:** A summit for Truman VA partners and community stakeholders to enhance mental health care for Veterans and their family members through dialogue and collaboration
- When:** Friday, August 28
8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- Where:** Harry S. Truman Memorial Veterans' Hospital
2nd Floor Auditorium
Columbia, Mo.
- Why:** The day-long event will provide and opportunity to explore how psychosocial variables surrounding treatment access, housing and employment impact mental health needs for Veterans and their families as well as a panel discussion about caregiver support. (See attached agenda.)

###

2015 VA Summit: Sustaining our Joint Commitment to Improve the Mental Health of Veterans and Their Families

August 28

Agenda

	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Format</u>
8:30-8:45	Welcome	
8:45-9:00	Review of 2014 Mental Health Summit Overview of 2015 Summit	
9:00-9:15	Introductions	
9:15-10:15	<i>The Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act of 2014</i>	Didactic
10:15-10:30	Break	
10:30-11:30	Caregiver Support	Panel
11:30-12:00	Psychosocial Rehabilitation Programs Part 1: Veterans Justice Outreach, Psychosocial Therapy Services	Didactic
12:00-1:00	Lunch	
1:00-2:00	Psychosocial Rehabilitation Programs Part 2: Housing, Vocational Programs, Peer Support	Didactic
2:00-2:15	Break	
2:15-2:45	Family and Couples Resources	Didactic
2:45-3:30	Future Directions and Evaluation	

Facilitators/Presenters

Wade Vlosich, Director
Lana Zerrer, MD, Chief of Staff
Christopher Chuick, PhD, Psychologist & Mental Health Summit Coordinator
Sarah Froese, LCSW, Supervisor, Psychosocial Rehabilitation Team
Katie Burnham Wilkins, LCSW, Coordinator, Health Care for Homeless Program
Denise Heet, LCSW, Caregiver Support Program
Natalie Gough, LCSW, Caregiver Support Program
Melody Slusher, Family Caregiver and Elizabeth Dole Foundation Fellow
Danielle Easter, LCSW, Veterans Justice Outreach Coordinator
Jessie Holdinghaus, LCSW, Psychosocial Rehabilitation Therapist
Kristi Stephens, LCSW, Grant and Per Diem Liaison
Amy Bantz, LCSW, Compensated Work Therapy/Transitional Residence Manager
Blake Witter, LCSW, HUD/VASH Program Coordinator
Lonnie Peterson, Homeless Veteran Community Employment Coordinator
Chris Longdon, Peer Support Specialist
Kristy Lee Boresi, Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist

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August 18, 2015

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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, August 20
12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m.
- Where:** Schuyler County Courthouse
1 Courthouse Square
Lancaster, 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:** Thursday, August 20
9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
- Where:** Putnam County Courthouse
1601 Main 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:
- Meet Vet Center staff members
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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, August 18
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Where:** Scotland County Courthouse
117 South Market 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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August 13, 2015

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:** Tuesday, August 18
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
- Where:** Clark County Courthouse
111 East Court Street
Kahoka, 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.

###

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



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

News Release

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

August 11, 2015

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Columbia Vet Center Schedules Outreach Event at State Fair 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:** Sunday, August 16
8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- Where:** Missouri State Fair
Outside James L. Mathewson Exhibition Center
2503 West 16th Street
Sedalia, 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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Harry S. Truman Memorial
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U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

News Release

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

August 11, 2015

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, August 14
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- Where:** Crocker Presbyterian Church
414 S. Commercial Street
Crocker, 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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Harry S. Truman Memorial
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800 Hospital Drive
Columbia MO 65201
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News Release

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

July 31, 2015

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Engagement Opportunity: Truman VA's Monthly Stakeholder Meeting

- Who:** Local news media are invited to cover Truman VA's monthly meeting with its stakeholders
- What:** Truman VA management officials conduct a monthly meeting with stakeholders including representatives from Veteran Service Organizations, congressional staff members and representatives from Student Veteran Centers at MU and Columbia College. A report of ongoing activities and initiatives is provided and stakeholders have an opportunity to provide feedback gleaned from Veterans.
- When:** Monday, August 3
3:00 p.m.
- Where:** Harry S. Truman Memorial Veterans' Hospital
800 Hospital Drive
Columbia, Mo.
Third Floor Conference Room B-344
- Why:** Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert A. McDonald is celebrating his one-year anniversary in that role. During the past 12 months, VA and local facilities such as Truman VA have worked diligently to fulfill the mission of serving America's Veterans.
- How:** Contact **Sylvia Jackson, Back Up Public Affairs Officer, at 573-814-6405**, if you plan to cover the activity.

###

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



News Release

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
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Public Affairs Officer (573) 424-8130 (Cell)

July 27, 2015

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Truman VA Hospital to Conduct July 29 Town Hall Event in Jefferson City

- Who:** Veterans and their families, other stakeholders including congressional staff, Veteran Service Organizations, community partners
- What:** Town Hall events allow and enhance feedback from Veterans and their families concerning health care and other VA benefits
- When:** Wednesday, July 29
1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- Where:** American Legion Post 5
1423 Tanner Bridge Road
Jefferson City, Mo.
- Why:** Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert A. McDonald directed all VA health care 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. In addition, questions about financial benefits will be addressed by representatives of the St. Louis Veterans Benefits Administration Regional Office.
- How:** Questions/comments from the audience will be addressed as time allows. A brief “claims clinic” will be conducted following the Town Hall event.

###

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



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

News Release

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

L. Stephen Gaither (573) 814-6308 (Office)
Public Affairs Officer (573) 424-8130 (Cell)

July 24, 2015

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, July 31
3:00 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.
- Where:** Jefferson City Jaycees Cole County Fair
1445 Fairgrounds Road
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:
- 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.

###

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



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

News Release

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

July 23, 2015

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, July 29
5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
- Where:** Walmart Supercenter
15584 Highway 54
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:
- 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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Harry S. Truman Memorial
Veterans' Hospital
800 Hospital Drive
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U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

News Release

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

July 20, 2015

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, July 24
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- Where:** City Hall
1000 City Parkway
Osage Beach, 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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Harry S. Truman Memorial
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U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

News Release

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

July 14, 2015

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Truman VA Hospital to Conduct July 29 Town Hall Event in Jefferson City

- Who:** Veterans and their families, other stakeholders including congressional staff, Veteran Service Organizations, community partners
- What:** Town Hall events allow and enhance feedback from Veterans and their families concerning health care and other VA benefits
- When:** Wednesday, July 29
1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- Where:** American Legion Post 5
1423 Tanner Bridge Road
Jefferson City, Mo.
- Why:** Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert A. McDonald directed all VA health care 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. In addition, questions about financial benefits will be addressed by representatives of the St. Louis Veterans Benefits Administration Regional Office.
- How:** Questions/comments from the audience will be addressed as time allows. A brief “claims clinic” will be conducted following the Town Hall event.

Harry S. Truman Memorial
Veterans' Hospital
800 Hospital Drive
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News Release

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Public Affairs Officer (573) 424-8130 (Cell)

July 14, 2015

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Truman VA Hospital to Conduct July 29 Town Hall Event in Jefferson City

- Who:** Veterans and their families, other stakeholders including congressional staff, Veteran Service Organizations, community partners
- What:** Town Hall events allow and enhance feedback from Veterans and their families concerning health care and other VA benefits
- When:** Wednesday, July 29
1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- Where:** American Legion Post 5
1423 Tanner Bridge Road
Jefferson City, Mo.
- Why:** Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert A. McDonald directed all VA health care 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. In addition, questions about financial benefits will be addressed by representatives of the St. Louis Veterans Benefits Administration Regional Office.
- How:** Questions/comments from the audience will be addressed as time allows. A brief “claims clinic” will be conducted following the Town Hall event.

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U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

News Release

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

L. Stephen Gaither (573) 814-6308 (Office)
Public Affairs Officer (573) 424-8130 (Cell)

July 14, 2015

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:** Tuesday, July 21
5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
- Where:** Miller County Fairgrounds
8th Street and Maple Street
Eldon, 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.

Harry S. Truman Memorial
Veterans' Hospital
800 Hospital Drive
Columbia MO 65201
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News Release

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

July 6, 2015

New Primary Care Service Chief Appointed at Truman VA

Columbia, Mo. – **Nicholas Havens, MD**, has been appointed chief, primary care service at the Harry S. Truman Memorial Veterans' Hospital.

In this new role, Havens has supervisory responsibility for all primary care clinics at the Columbia VA hospital and eight community based outpatient clinics located in Jefferson City, Kirksville, Marshfield, Mexico, Osage Beach, Saint James, Sedalia, and Waynesville. Also, the primary care service includes the emergency department, inpatient medicine, palliative care, two home based primary care teams, the health promotion disease prevention program, services for visually impaired Veterans, and the patient communications center.

He joined the Truman VA hospital medical staff in 2012 as a hospitalist after completing a residency in Internal Medicine-Pediatrics and

CONTINUED

p. 2 – Truman VA Primary Care Service Chief Appointed

a fellowship in Infectious Disease at the MU School of Medicine. In addition to his hospitalist duties, Havens has chaired the facility's pharmacy and therapeutics committee and served as the physician utilization management advisor.

A native of the Rolla, Mo. area, he earned his medical degree from the MU School of Medicine in 2006 after graduating summa cum laude from the University of Missouri-Rolla, with bachelor's degrees in biological science and psychology.

Harry S. Truman Memorial
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U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

News Release

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

L. Stephen Gaither (573) 814-6308 (Office)
Public Affairs Officer (573) 424-8130 (Cell)

July 6, 2015

Truman VA Hospital Appoints Deputy Chief of Staff

Columbia, Mo. – **Aaron Zuidema, MD**, has been appointed deputy chief of staff at the Harry S. Truman Memorial Veterans' Hospital.

In this new clinical leadership position at the Columbia VA facility, Zuidema will provide assistance to the facility's chief of staff with primary responsibility for (1) non-VA care coordination, (2) telehealth applications and support, (3) VA compensation and pension examinations, (4) the facility's pharmacy service, and (5) My HealthVet, VA's online personal health record for Veterans. VA chiefs of staff are appointed and have supervisory responsibility for all clinical activities within a VA medical center/health care system.

CONTINUED

p. 2 – Truman VA Deputy Chief of Staff Appointed

He joined the Truman VA hospital medical staff in 2007 as a primary care provider after completing a residency in Internal Medicine at the MU School of Medicine. Zuidema served as chief of the primary care service since June 2010.

A native of Naples, Fla., he earned his medical degree from St. George's University School of Medicine in the West Indies in 2003 after graduating magna cum laude from Mercer University in Macon, Ga., with a bachelor's degree in psychology. Zuidema was named Truman VA's medical staff member of the year in 2010.

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U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

News Release

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L. Stephen Gaither (573) 814-6308 (Office)
Public Affairs Officer (573) 424-8130 (Cell)

July 2, 2015

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:** Thursday, July 9
9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.
- Where:** Macon County Expo Center
1303 S. Missouri Street
Macon, 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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News Release

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

July 1, 2015

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:** Tuesday, July 7
6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
- Where:** Shelby County Fairgrounds
Highway 15 North
Shelbina, 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.

Harry S. Truman Memorial
Veterans' Hospital
800 Hospital Drive
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U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

News Release

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

L. Stephen Gaither (573) 814-6308 (Office)
Public Affairs Officer (573) 424-8130 (Cell)

June 25, 2015

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:** Tuesday, June 30
9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.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:
- 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.

Harry S. Truman Memorial
Veterans' Hospital
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Columbia MO 65201
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News Release

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

June 22, 2015

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Truman VA Invites Community to “Summer of Service” Open House

- Who:** General public and community organizations interested in building more partnerships to better serve eligible Veterans
- What:** As part of VA’s nationwide initiative – a “Summer of Service,” the open house is designed to spur increased local engagement and welcome members of the community interested in supporting the needs of Veterans.
- When:** Monday, June 29
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- Where:** Main Lobby
Harry S. Truman Memorial Veterans’ Hospital
800 Hospital Drive
Columbia, Mo.
- Why:** This event provides opportunities to help meet the following goals:
- Increasing the number of volunteers and voluntary donations;
 - Increasing community partners;
 - Recruiting medical professionals and support staff;
 - Hosting congressional staff.

Harry S. Truman Memorial
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U.S. Department
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News Release

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

June 18, 2015

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:** Thursday, June 25
9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- Where:** Walmart Supercenter
855 Cherokee Drive
Marshall, 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
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News Release

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

June 16, 2015

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:** Tuesday, June 23
9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- Where:** Walmart Supercenter
2150 Highway B
Boonville, 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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U.S. Department
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News Release

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Public Affairs Officer (573) 424-8130 (Cell)

June 11, 2015

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:** Thursday, June 18
9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- Where:** Walmart Supercenter
185 St. Robert Blvd.
St. Robert, 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
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L. Stephen Gaither (573) 814-6308 (Office)
Public Affairs Officer (573) 424-8130 (Cell)

June 9, 2015

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:** Tuesday, June 16
9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- Where:** Walmart Supercenter
500 S. Bishop Ave.
Rolla, 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
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Harry S. Truman Memorial
Veterans' Hospital
800 Hospital Drive
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News Release

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

June 5, 2015

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:** Thursday, June 11
9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- Where:** Walmart Supercenter
1301 E. Highway 24
Moberly, 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
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Harry S. Truman Memorial
Veterans' Hospital
800 Hospital Drive
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News Release

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

June 5, 2015

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Truman VA and Columbia Vet Center to Host 9th Annual Welcome Home Event and Car Show on June 6

Who: Combat Veterans and their families, any interested Veterans and their families

What: Welcome Home events are designed to share information about Veterans benefits and services to Combat Veterans and their families. In addition to the car show, the event will include refreshments and activities for children.

When: Saturday, June 6
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Where: Harry S. Truman Memorial Veterans' Hospital
800 Hospital Drive
Columbia, Missouri

Why: Veterans who have served in Afghanistan and/or Iraq are eligible for specific VA benefits, including health care and counseling, as a result of serving in a combat area.

Event Contacts:

Stacey Dennis, 573-814-6639

Mark Johnson, 573-355-8519

Harry S. Truman Memorial
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800 Hospital Drive
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www.columbiamo.va.gov



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

News Release

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

L. Stephen Gaither (573) 814-6308 (Office)
Public Affairs Officer (573) 424-8130 (Cell)

June 2, 2015

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:** Tuesday, June 9
9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- Where:** Walmart Supercenter
4820 S. Clark Street
Mexico, 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
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News Release

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

May 27, 2015

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Truman VA and Columbia Vet Center to Host 9th Annual Welcome Home Event and Car Show on June 6

Who: Combat Veterans and their families, any interested Veterans and their families

What: Welcome Home events are designed to share information about Veterans benefits and services to Combat Veterans and their families. In addition to the car show, the event will include refreshments and activities for children.

When: Saturday, June 6
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Where: Harry S. Truman Memorial Veterans' Hospital
800 Hospital Drive
Columbia, Missouri

Why: Veterans who have served in Afghanistan and/or Iraq are eligible for specific VA benefits, including health care and counseling, as a result of serving in a combat area.

Event Contacts:

Stacey Dennis, 573-814-6639

Mark Johnson, 573-355-8519

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



News Release

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Public Affairs Officer (573) 424-8130 (Cell)

May 26, 2015

“Summer of Service” to Bolster Volunteer Assistance for Veterans

Calls Upon Individuals, Organizations, Communities to Serve Veterans in Nationwide Effort

Columbia, Missouri - A new nationwide initiative – a “Summer of Service” – seeks the help of citizens in the mid-Missouri area to create and build partnerships to grow the number of individuals and organizations serving Veterans here.

The Harry S. Truman Memorial Veterans’ Hospital is renewing its commitment to Veterans by inviting the community to visit and explore opportunities to serve Veterans during an open house from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Monday, June 29.

In the coming weeks, Truman VA will be working closely with Congressional partners, Veteran service organizations, local government officials, private sector and non-profit organizations, and VA employees to identify new and innovative ways to support VA’s commitment to care for those who “have borne the battle” and their families.

- MORE -

VA Summer of Service – p.2

As part of VA's Summer of Service, Truman VA will host the June 29 open house to spur increased local engagement and welcome members of the community interested in supporting the needs of Veterans. The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has established the following goals to achieve by Labor Day:

- Increasing the number of volunteers: Committed to engaging with 100,000 volunteers nationwide to support care and benefits programs and local events.
- Increasing Community Partners: Committed to expanding current agreements to provide services and support reaching more than 15,000 Veterans and family.
- Recruiting Medical Professionals: Hiring clinicians and clinical support staff to further expand access to care and homelessness.
- Congress: Host Congressional Members and Staffs at VA facilities across the country.

VA has an outstanding volunteer program, which will be highlighted throughout the country this summer. VA will build upon the ongoing work of its more than 350,000 employees and 76,000 volunteers around the nation – and the 858 volunteers at Truman VA. While the central focus of the campaign will be increasing volunteerism and partnerships, it will also provide individuals and communities an opportunity to support other important priorities.

- MORE -

VA Summer of Service – p.3

Despite a hiring effort that brought more than 11,000 net-new employees onboard over the past year, VA still needs more health care providers, claims specialists, medical support assistants, and cemetery directors to continue to expand needed services. VA's partners can help by getting the word out this summer.

In an effort to improve Veterans' customer service experience, VA has begun the most comprehensive reorganization in its history. The initiative, called MyVA, has been guided by ideas and recommendations from Veterans, employees and stakeholders.

Volunteers can help serve Veterans by visiting <http://www.volunteer.va.gov/> to find out the needs of the local VA facility. Follow #VASummerOfService on [Vantage Point](#), [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#), and join VA in caring for America's Veterans.

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U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

News Release

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April 27, 2015

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Truman VA Hospital to Conduct May 2 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 and their families concerning health care and other VA benefits
- When:** Saturday, May 2
1:00 to 2:30 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. In addition, questions about financial benefits will be addressed by representatives of the St. Louis Veterans Benefits Regional Office.

Page 2 – May 2 Truman VA Town Hall Event

How: Event attendees are encouraged to arrive early in order to find parking. Questions/comments from the audience will be addressed as time allows. A brief “claims clinic” will be conducted by representatives of the St. Louis Veterans Benefits Regional Office. following the Town Hall event.

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News Release

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April 16, 2014

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Columbia Vet Center Establishes Vet Outreach Station *Regular Off-Site Weekly Outreach in Crocker, Mo.*

- Who:** Area combat Veterans and their families as well as all Military Sexual Trauma Veterans
- What:** Provide Veterans and their families a place to discuss post war/conflict readjustment issues and obtain other counseling services
- When:** Every Friday and Saturday (starting in April)
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- Where:** Crocker Presbyterian Church
414 South Commercial St. (just off Highway 17)
Crocker, 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. For eligibility information and appointments, contact the Columbia Vet Center, 4040 Rangeline St., Columbia, Mo., at 573-814-6206.

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April 14, 2015

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Truman VA Hospital to Recognize Volunteers

Who: Hundreds of volunteers at the Harry S. Truman Memorial Veterans' Hospital, Columbia, Mo., who earned awards for hours served

What: 41st annual volunteer recognition and award ceremony

When: Thursday, April 16
11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Where: Peachtree Banquet Center
120 E. Nifong Blvd.
Columbia, Mo.

Why: The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Voluntary Service program was formally organized in 1946 and is one of the largest volunteer programs in the federal government. In 2014, 855 volunteers provided more than 48,000 hours of service to Veterans served by Truman VA Hospital and its community clinics. The activity will culminate National Volunteer Week activities.

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April 14, 2015

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Truman VA Hospital to Conduct May 2 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 and their families concerning health care and other VA benefits
- When:** Saturday, May 2
1:00 to 3:00 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. In addition, questions about financial benefits will be addressed by representatives of the St. Louis Veterans Benefits Regional Office.

Page 2 – May 2 Truman VA Town Hall Event

How: Questions/comments from the audience will be addressed as time allows. A brief “claims clinic” will be conducted following the Town Hall event.

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March 20, 2015

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:** Saturday, March 28
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- Where:** VFW Post 2657
505 Collier Lane
Fulton, 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.