

TRUMAN VA BULLETIN

HARRY S. TRUMAN MEMORIAL VETERANS' HOSPITAL—COLUMBIA, MISSOURI

Inside this issue:

Korean War 60th Anniversary Today	1
July 4th Fireworks Information	1
Ol&T Corner- "Right Fax"	2
The Original GI Bill: June 1944	2
Information for Veterans about Health Care Reform	3
2010 Medication Copay Rate Change on July 1	3
Organizational Changes: Three New Services	3
New Employees	4
LEAD Graduates	4
Farewell	4

Korean War 60th Anniversary Today

June 25 marks the 60th anniversary of the beginning of the Korean War. The Republic of Korea owes its freedom and prosperity to the armed forces of the United States and 21 other nations that took on North Korean and later Chinese Communist forces as they crossed the 38th parallel and attacked the south on June 25, 1950.

South Korea will express its thanks to the nations that defended her and particularly to the military Veterans that fought in defense of freedom during the Korean War. The center piece of this recognition is a letter to each U.S. Korean War Veteran from the President of the Republic of Korea. VA

was asked to let Korean War Veterans know that the letter is available to them upon request. Those wanting to receive their letter need only submit an online application form by visiting the link below:

<http://eng.koreanwar60.go.kr/apply.asp>

or download the application and mail it to: US Branch ROK 60th AKW Commemoration Committee, 2450 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20008.



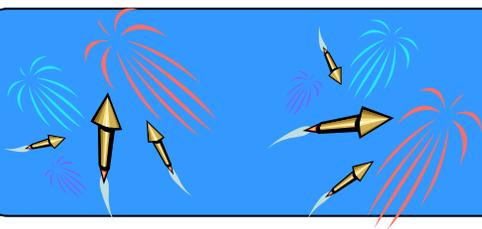
July 4th Fireworks Information

During this year's July 4th "Fire in the Sky" fireworks presentation, parking will be limited to a Lot A (visitor lot) and a portion of Lot D (employee lot) for patients, volunteers, employees, their families and guests only. The general public will not be allowed access to Truman VA parking areas. No tailgating or alcoholic beverages

will be permitted. At the conclusion of the fireworks presentation, all traffic will be routed via the "avenue of flags" to Monk Drive south (right turn only). Service Drive will not be open for either entrance or exit. University of Missouri Police Department staff will operate the traffic signals on Stadium Boulevard. Employees

scheduled to work the evening or night shifts on July 4 are encouraged to plan for expected traffic delays.





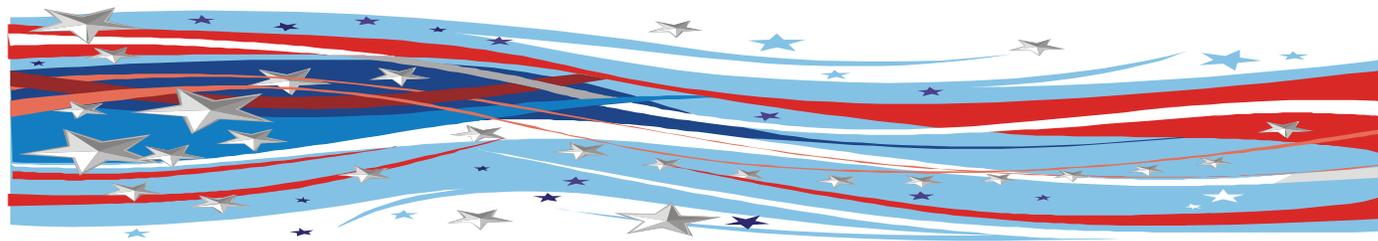
OI&T Corner—"Right Fax"

Faxing is an old system developed in 1966, but it is still a widely used technology in many industries including the medical field to provide communication between hospitals and providers. RightFax is a computerized fax system that utilizes the same protocols to send documents electronically over telephone lines developed by a company named Captaris.

RightFax offers many improved features including the removal of dependence on a single physical fax machine. RightFax is a faxing server that emulates a physical fax machine to send and receive faxes, thus eliminating dependence on a single physical fax machine. The server becomes a proxy

device in the middle of the fax communication and translates the data between analog phone lines and digital communications. Faxes received by RightFax are directed to a network printer and should that printer fail, faxes can easily be redirected to any other network printer. In addition, electronic documents can be sent by RightFax bypassing the need to print the document and insert it into a physical fax machine. Any document that can be printed can be faxed directly from your computer. Cover sheets are automatically generated and inserted with the desired information on every fax sent with the system removing yet another step of the faxing process.

If you have questions or would like more information about RightFax, please contact **James Dupre** at extension 56510.



The Original GI Bill: June 1944

On June 22, 1944, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the original GI Bill, an unprecedented act of legislation designed to compensate returning members of the armed services--known as GIs--for their efforts in World War II. Roosevelt's administration created the GI Bill--officially the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944--hoping to avoid a relapse into the Great Depression after the war ended.

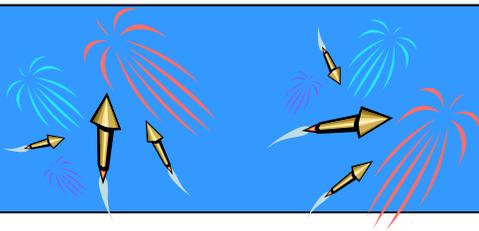
FDR particularly wanted to prevent a repeat of the Bonus March of 1932, when 20,000 unemployed Veterans and their families flocked in protest to Washington. The American Legion, a Veteran's organization, successfully fought for many of the provisions included in the bill, which gave returning servicemen access to unemployment compensation, low-interest home and business loans and--most importantly--funding for education.

By giving Veterans money for tuition, living expenses, books, supplies and equipment, the GI Bill effectively transformed higher education in America. Before the war, college had been an option for only 10-15 percent of young Americans. By 1947, in contrast, Veterans made up half of the nation's college enrollment; three years later, nearly 500,000 Americans graduated from college, compared with 160,000 in 1939.

As educational institutions opened their doors to this diverse new group of students, overcrowded classrooms and residences prompted widespread improvement and expansion of university facilities and teaching staffs. An array of new vocational courses was developed across the country including advanced training in education, agriculture, commerce, mining and fishing--skills that had previously been taught only informally. The GI Bill became one of the major forces that

drove an economic expansion in America that lasted 30 years after World War II. Only 20 percent of the money set aside for unemployment compensation under the bill was given out, as most Veterans found jobs or pursued higher education.

Low interest home loans enabled millions of American families to move out of urban centers and buy or build homes outside the city, changing the face of the suburbs. The impact of the original GI Bill was enormous, with 20 million Veterans and dependents using the education benefits and 14 million home loans guaranteed, for a total federal investment of \$67 billion.



Information for Veterans about Health Care Reform

Nothing in the new health care reform law changes anything about VA health care.

The law contains many complex provisions including many reforms to the practices of the health insurance industry.

Enrolled Veterans may still rely upon VHA for their health in the same manner as before the law.

Beginning in 2014, everyone will be required to have health care coverage.

The coverage must meet a minimum standard so that everyone will be able to have at least a minimum level of care.

Congress wrote a provision into the law that says the VA health care program, administered by VHA, meets the standard for health care coverage.

Enrolled Veterans do not have to purchase additional coverage.

Because the VA health care program meets the standard under the law, Veterans enrolled in the VA health care program do not need to obtain additional health care coverage.

Veterans may continue to purchase additional coverage if they wish, but the law does not require them to do so.



“This change does not affect Veterans in Priority Groups 2 through 6.”

“Nothing in the new health care reform law changes anything about VA health care.”



Organizational Changes: Three New Services

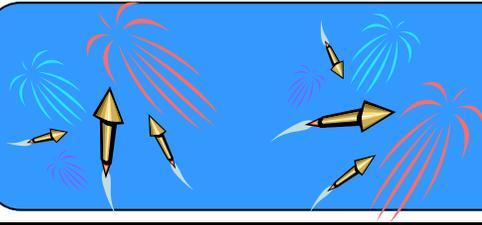
Truman VA’s Specialty Care Service Line has been divided into two clinical services - Specialty Care and Surgery. **Hunter Hofmann, MD**, previously the Director of the Specialty Care Service Line, is now the Chief, Specialty Care Service. **Richard Schmaltz, MD**, has been selected as the Chief, Surgery Service. **Paula Clark** will serve as Operations Manager for Specialty Care and **Paul Kurzejeski** will serve as Operations Manager for Surgery Service. **Darlayna Scott** will serve as service secretary for Specialty Care and **Jayna Hofstetter** will serve in the same capacity for Surgery Ser-

vice. Both services will remain in the temporary space on the second floor until renovations on the sixth floor are completed.

Another recent change was the re-establishment of a stand-alone Pharmacy Service at Truman VA. Previously, the Pharmacy was organized within the Office of the Chief of Staff. As announced in April, **Michael Russum, PharmD**, was selected as Chief of the new Pharmacy Service. **Brenda Zumwalt** serves as the Operational Officer and **Angela Obrian** is the service secretary.

2010 Medication Copay Rate Change on July 1

- Effective July 1 – Veterans enrolled in Priority Groups 7 and 8 will pay an additional \$1 for each 30-day supply of outpatient medication. This increase from \$8 to \$9 is the first change in VA’s medication copay since Jan. 1, 2006.
- This change does not affect Veterans in Priority Groups 2 through 6. They will continue to pay \$8 for each 30-day supply of medications for their non-service connected conditions, with a maximum amount paid capped at \$960 annually, unless otherwise exempted from copay.
- There is no medication copay associated with treatment of conditions related to military service. Veterans that have an injury or illness connected with their military service resulting in a disability rated 50 percent or greater (enrolled in Priority Group 1) do not pay copays for their outpatient medications. Nor do other Veterans that are exempt as a matter of law, for example, former Prisoners of War.
- Local Veterans that have difficulty paying copayments for outpatient medications should discuss the matter with **Jan Boone**, Accounts Receivable Technician, at extension 53183 or **Gary Markovich**, Accounts Receivable Technician, at extension 56445.
- All enrolled Veterans will be informed of the \$1 increase for Veterans in Priority Groups 7 and 8 via an insert in their monthly billing statements. Additionally, brochures and posters will be available at local VA medical centers and on the Internet.



New Employees

May 26, 2010

- James Burns**
General Engineer (FM)
- Brandy Caston**
Health Systems Management Trainee (DIR)
- Gilda Cornejo**
HACU Intern (PS)
- Donald Irvin**
Housekeeping Aid (FM)
- Thomas Teel**
Air Conditioning Equipment Mechanic (FM)
- Brianne Wienhoof**
Biological Science Aid (Research)

Facility LEAD Class Graduates

On June 16, eight Truman VA employees graduated from the latest facility LEAD class. The local leadership development program began in 2004. Congratulations to the successful participants in the program! The 2010 class includes the following individuals, with their mentors:

<u>LEAD Graduate</u>	<u>Mentor</u>
Felicia Casady (PC)	Sara Hake
Harold Cline (FIN)	Cheryle Kelly
Julie Fairchild (PC)	Laura Jacobs
Denise Heet (BH)	Mary Wideman
Larry McBride (PS)	Veronica Ramnarine
Scott Sandstedt (BH)	Marc Magill
Teresa Smith (SC)	Denise Schehl-Geiger
Sonja Williams (BH)	Jimmy Powell

Congratulations!

Farewell

- Jordane Anderson**, Pharmacy Technician (Pharmacy)
- Bradley Andresen, PhD, Research Health Scientist** (Research)
- Melisa Betts**, Program Support Clerk (FIN)
- Katherine Gee**, Supervisory Health Systems Specialist (PC)
- John Guzman**, Laborer (FM)
- Jessica Libla**, Student Trainee (Research)
- Amanda Moore**, Program Support Clerk (FIN)
- Mary Peterson**, Audiology Trainee (SC)
- Elbert Pollion**, Food Service Worker (PS)
- Stefanie Sauble, RN**, Staff Nurse (PS)
- Lynne Schenk**, Audiology Trainee (SC)

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