



Volunteer Update

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Volunteers make the difference

I want to thank all of you who came to the annual volunteer awards luncheon. I hope you enjoyed it because we do it for you, to show our gratitude for all of your hard work and your giving of your time and talents. More than 800 of you volunteered more than 44,000 hours in fiscal year 2015! Your generosity is overwhelming. You support programs that do not have budgets, such as the Military Sexual Trauma (MST) program, the Walk-in Clinic for Homeless Veterans, the No Veteran Dies Alone (NVDA) program and Caregiver Support program.

Our Veterans who call the FHCC home are blessed to have your generous support of all of the activities and special events and the many items you donate. You gave more than \$424,000 in total donations this past year, which includes activities and donated items such as clothing, tickets, snacks, toiletries. etc. You volunteer in so many different

areas of the FHCC. Our greeters at the three front desks provide an invaluable daily service as do those who help escort Veterans to their appointments and activities. We always need more volunteers to greet and escort patients, so please spread the word.

We appreciate those who help with My HealthVet, as well as those who take water to bedridden patients, and those who assist at the kiosks. I cannot forget those who unselfishly sit with our Veterans who are in their last hours. This year, Master-at-Arms 1st Class Jessica Buffum received the Servicewoman of the Year Award from the American Legion Auxiliary. She coordinates our NVDA program. Congrats!

And lastly, we truly appreciate the many Recreation volunteers who

Upcoming Events

June 21, Patient Carnival

CLC Veterans 10:30 a.m.

All others 1 p.m.

June 28, FHCC Open House

10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Bldg. 133EF

July 16, Classic Car Show

11:30 a.m., Register; 1 p.m. show

July 22, Change of

Command, Capt. Buckley, 2 p.m.

Aug. 11, FHCC picnic

11:30 a.m., next to Parking Lot 1/T

provide the bingos, parties, cookouts, outings and pet therapy. You are the ones who help make the FHCC a home. I thank our wonderful volunteers for what you do to help keep the FHCC going. We love you! *Kenny List, Chief, Community Affairs*



Vietnam Veterans honored in March ceremony



Lovell FHCC held a special ceremony in March to honor Vietnam Veterans. Guest speakers were Retired Army officer James Mukoyama and Medal of Honor recipient Army Veteran Allen Lynch.

Mukoyama – who earned a Silver Star, received a Purple Heart and retired as a major general –said, “At a young age, I learned what’s important ... There were times I

didn’t know if I was going to be alive in the next moment or the next day.”

Nearly 200 Veterans, their families, FHCC staff, patients, volunteers,

supporters and community stakeholders gathered in Bourke Hall to do something that was a long time in coming – welcome home Vietnam Veterans.

Lovell FHCC, along with VA medical centers, the Department of Defense, and thousands of community partners across the country, to include civic and non-profit organizations and Veteran Service Organizations, are taking

part in a 50th commemoration of the Vietnam War. The ongoing commemoration has the goal of honoring 7.2 million living Veterans who served during the Vietnam era, in theater and out, from 1955-1975.

At commemoration events, Vietnam Veterans are presented with pins and personally thanked. At Lovell FHCC’s event, active duty Navy Sailors who work at the hospital and its clinics handed out the pins and shook the hand of every Vietnam Veteran in attendance.

Lynch has spent his entire life working for Veterans. “We stood up, and today thousands are getting compensation,” he said. “We worked to make the lives of all Veterans better.”

News Briefs

Lovell Legends Veterans Wheelchair Games team to compete in national competition in June

It’s that time again — the Legends are already practicing for the National Veterans Wheelchair Games in Salt Lake City, Utah, June 27-July 2. Eight athletes will be competing, including one brand new to the games. Thanks to those who have held fundraisers and otherwise support our team!

Rosalind Franklin donates \$1,500 for athlete to compete in national wheelchair games

Rosalind Franklin University recently donated \$1,500 to the FHCC, which is approximately the cost of sending one wheelchair athlete to the national games. The university is one of the FHCC’s academic affiliates. Thank you Rosalind Franklin!

Patient privacy and other “gentle” reminders

This is a reminder of the policies volunteers agree to follow when they start volunteering:

- * Protect patient privacy. Please don’t share or discuss patient information.
- * Wear your volunteer badge at the FHCC.
- * Log in or call in your hours.
- * Don’t solicit donations, except internally in your own organization.
- * Don’t exchange money with patients.
- * Do not transport patients in your car.
- * Do not discuss politics, per “The Hatch Act.”
- * Don’t sell anything on FHCC property.
- * Don’t take photos without permission
- * Don’t bring weapons, alcohol or illegal substances on the grounds.
- * Sexual harassment is not tolerated.

Annual Volunteer Luncheon Snapshots

Former NASA astronaut and Retired Navy Capt. James A. Lovell once said, "There are people who make things happen, there are people who watch things happen, and there are people who wonder what happened. To be successful, you need to be a person who makes things happen."

Our volunteers at the Lovell Federal Health Care Center make things happen, whether it's greeting patients, sharing pet therapy dogs, or manning library carts and sponsoring events. We can't do what we do here without our volunteers. We're truly indebted to them and thankful for every minute and every dollar they contribute to help us provide the best patient-centered care around to Veterans, military members and military families. This year is especially important, because the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Voluntary Services is celebrating the 70th anniversary of volunteerism within the VA. The annual luncheon every spring during national Volunteer Appreciation Week is one way we can express our appreciation. Nearly 800 volunteers gave approximately 45,000 hours at Lovell FHCC during Fiscal Year 2015. If their service is translated into dollars, the total impact is worth approximately \$1 million. Monetary and non-monetary donations bring that total up to more than \$1.5 million. Volunteer Michael Hiley was recognized for the most volunteer hours, at 22,500. Monica Ply and Robert Sittler were honored for each volunteering 12,500 hours. Other top honorees were Craig Reuse, 7,500 hours; Donald Nys and Robert Patterson, 6,250 hours; Kenneth Bradley and Denis Parker, 3,750 hours and Neil Donachie, 2,500 hours. THANK YOU! For the rest of the story and photos, go to Facebook: <http://ow.ly/ShGJ300qknL>

Photos in this issue were taken by MC2 Darren Moore, HN James Stewart, Stephanie McCrobie and Kenny List.



Loomis, pet therapy dog, accepts an award with owner Hardy Evans.



Long-time volunteer Monica Ply receives an award for donating 12,500 hours.



Above, Sandy and Don Nys are long-time FHCC volunteers and help with many special programs. Below, Kenny List, chief of community affairs, was the emcee.



Volunteers gathered at the Holiday Inn for the luncheon. The theme this year was, "Our volunteers are out of this world."



VA Voluntary Service celebrates 70th anniversary

Members of the FHCC Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service Committee celebrated the 70th anniversary of VAVS at the group's regular meeting in May. Lovell FHCC Director Dr. Stephen Holt and Deputy Director/Commanding Officer Captain Robert Buckley attended to personally thank VAVS for so many years of dedicated service to patients and their families.

Chief of Community Affairs Kenny List also thanked the committee members, who represent organizations that support Lovell FHCC by volunteering, as well as by donating goods, money and sponsoring activities.

"These organizations do so much for our Veterans who live here, and they do so much to keep the hospital going, we're indebted to them," List said.

List estimated about 300 of the FHCC's volunteers come from VAVS. They assist with many recreational activities such as bingo and cookouts, and they also donate substantially. "They keep some of the programs going that don't have budgets," List said, "such as the Walk-in Center for Homeless Veterans."



Volunteers, we need you!

Escort volunteers – Volunteers are needed to help inpatient Veterans get to and from the wards to their clinic appointments.

Greeters - Volunteers are still needed to serve as greeters at facility entrances.

No Veteran Dies Alone – Volunteers are needed to sit with, and be companions to Veterans who are in their final

days and who may or may not have family to be with them. Training will be provided.

GetWell Network - Volunteers are needed to visit patient rooms and assist with them with using the GetWell Network, including watching TV and movies, as well as health education videos.

Volunteers, please note as of Jan. 1, the meal allowance for

volunteering four hours or more increased to \$5.50.

For information about volunteering at the FHCC, call 224-610-3714.

Donations and financial support are welcome for the following programs:

Haircuts for indigent Veterans – each haircut costs \$9, and some cannot afford it.

Funds for the Social Work indigent account, which helps indigent Veterans with their transportation from home to

outside appointments or outside job interviews by bus or train.

Gift cards to Walmart to purchase supplies for patient activities. Walmart has things we need for activities.

Gift cards to area restaurants for inpatient community outings like Golden Corral, Denny's, Olive Garden, Cracker Barrel, McDonald's and Culver's are welcome.
