



## Volunteer donates WWII POW diary

Father's diary of time in Stalag Luft III will be exhibited at Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center

By Jayna Legg  
Lovell FHCC Public Affairs

Army Air Corps Veteran Lt. Harry Reuse's World War II diary from his time as a prisoner of war remained hidden along with yellowed newspaper clippings and his old uniform until after his death in 2006 at the age of 90.

from months spent in Stalag Luft III will be preserved for all at the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center in Skokie, Ill.

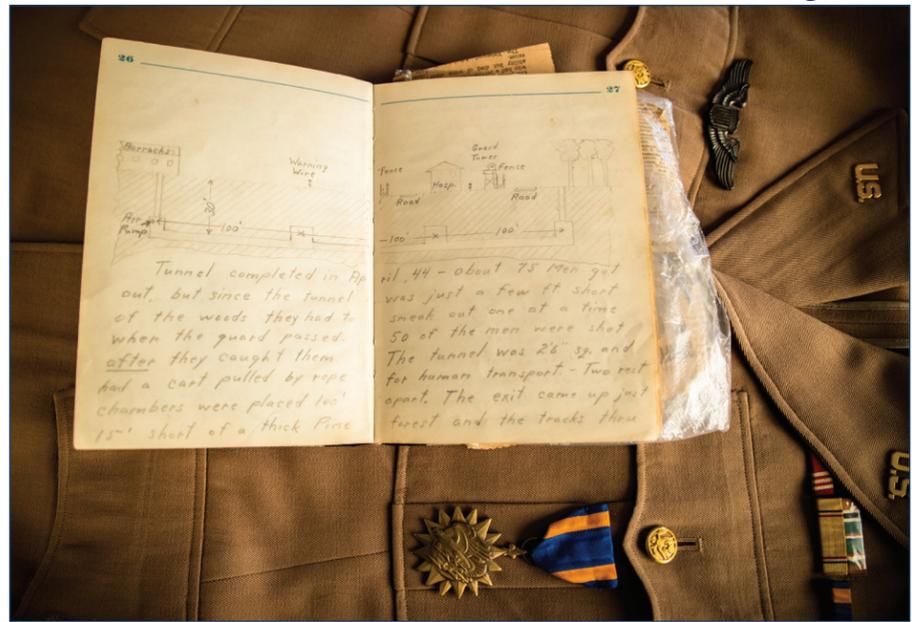
"I'm thrilled this is going to be picked up and shared with the public," said Reuse's son Craig Reuse, himself an Army Veteran. "I know my Dad would be proud to have it at the museum."

Today, thanks to his seven children, Reuse's writings and mementos

In November, Grayslake resident Craig Reuse handed over the diary

to museum curator Arielle Weininger during an informal presentation at the Lovell Federal Health Care Center in North Chicago, Ill., where the younger Reuse has volunteered since he retired.

"We found this in his foot locker after he died," Craig Reuse said. "No one had



Lt. Harry Reuse's diary contains a detailed drawing of one of the tunnels Allied prisoners of war dug and used to escape Stalag Luft III a few months before Lt. Reuse arrived. The prison break was immortalized in the movie, "The Great Escape." (Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Jacob Waldrop)

ever seen it before that. Dad never talked about it."

Craig Reuse said he and his siblings decided the diary should be preserved for future generations to view. "It belongs to the country," he said. "None of us should have it."

Weininger said the museum was very happy to get the diary. "What's really nice is that so much

of what we have was given to us by Jewish Holocaust survivors," she said. "We don't have that much material associated with American POWs in German camps, so it's really not well represented."

The 5- by 7-inch diary titled "A Wartime Log," is faded and frayed around the edges.

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FHCC volunteer Craig Reuse, left, talks with Illinois Holocaust Museum curator Arielle Weininger about his father's prisoner of war diary, which was donated to the museum. (Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Jacob Waldrop)

## Zika blood testing team makes extraordinary effort to meet deadline

Efforts of many ensure primary blood supply to the naval fleet isn't impacted by new Zika testing protocols

By Capt. Lynn Beach  
Lovell FHCC Blood Donor Processing Division Medical Director

Lovell FHCC provides approximately 75 percent of frozen blood product for the Department of Defense (DOD) worldwide, therefore making us a critical link to supply military forward-deployed units and Medical Treatment Facilities with both frozen and fresh blood products in the care of our active duty and beneficiary patient populations.

The FHCC Blood Donor Processing Division (BDPD) is one of twenty blood collection sites for the Department of Defense (DOD). Our facility is uniquely positioned adjacent to the Naval Services Training Command, which processes more than 40,000 recruits for the Navy annually.

In September, 2016, we received notification that the FDA had mandated testing for Zika virus in all blood units collected across the country, at both civilian and military sites. All 20 donor sites

were enrolled in a Zika research study with Roche Molecular Systems, Inc.

As our facility falls under both Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and DOD oversight, we have unique requirements. We had to obtain separate VA Institutional Review Board (IRB) and Research & Development (R&D) committee approvals, institute dual VA/DOD training for all employees involved and complete dual administrative requirements – an almost impossible task to complete in the

six-week deadline given to us.

The implications of not meeting this deadline were that all blood collection would cease because blood units could not be tested for Zika virus until the research study documentation was complete and FDA approval was achieved.

Any delay could severely impact the blood supply for the nation's military.

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# From the Desk of the Director

## The 2016 presidential election brings ‘change and constants’

Dr. Holt: “I think it is clear that there will be an increased emphasis on the timeliness of care delivery”



By Dr. Stephen Holt  
Lovell FHCC Director

We have recently seen a very interesting Presidential election. The election showed that the country almost evenly divided between an agenda for largely maintaining the status quo versus an agenda for radical change. Obviously, the candidate proposing significant change won the White House. So what does that mean for federal health care and for Lovell in particular?

First, it is hard to predict exactly what changes the new administration will try to enact and will be able to enact. Clearly, for Department of Veterans Affairs medicine there will be attempts to redefine the business model, as well as both how and where Veterans receive care. For Department of Defense medicine there will be less change since there has been virtually no calls for change. I think it is clear that there will be an increased emphasis on the timeliness of care delivery. There will also be a sharper focus on quality and patient satisfaction. Without a doubt, there will be continued focus on accountability, especially at the senior levels of management and leadership. How far down the line that focus will go and what changes will occur to enable greater accountability remains to be seen.

While it hard to predict what changes we will see, it is easier to see and predict what will not change. Among the things that will not change are our core values of Integrity, Commitment, Advocacy, Respect and Excellence (I CARE

for the VA), and Honor, Courage and Commitment (U.S. Navy).

At the FHCC, we adopted all the above values as our core values. No matter what happens in terms of new programs, laws, etc., those values will remain visceral to how we act and perform. They are the basis on which we make our decisions and conduct ourselves, and will transcend any short-term policies or issues.

Another key thing that will not change is our need to attract and retain great people in our organization. We do that by creating a great culture that is about helping each other, our patients and their families. This is perhaps the most important thing we do since it translates directly to our ability to provide excellent, compassionate service. As each of us works hard to create a warm, friendly, considerate and family-like work environment, we significantly increase our abilities to give to and serve others, which is what the FHCC is here for. I cannot emphasize enough how critical your individual contributions to creating

and maintaining our culture truly is.

The last key area that will not change is the needs of those we serve. Specifically, they need to trust that we have their best interests always foremost in our minds when we are caring for them. Our patients need us to thoroughly understand how their service to our nation has affected their lives and their illnesses.

Because we care for a very select patient population (active duty, military dependents and Veterans) with which we have extensive experience, I truly believe no one else can care for them better than us. Virtually no other medical organization puts so much emphasis on how a patient’s occupation has influenced his or her health and wellbeing. Our patients also need us to provide timely care by having great access and fast response times (phone calls, secure messaging, communicating test results, etc.). Finally, our patients need to always know just how much we care for them, honor them, respect them, and appreciate their service to our great nation.

## Healing: Recovery in their own words

**(Editor’s Note:** “Healing is a series written in the first-person by Veterans and service members who have experienced significant recovery in their lives and are willing to share their stories.)

**Name:** Lee Davis, Jr.  
**Branch of Service:** U.S. Marine Corps  
**Dates of Service:** July 1980-July 1983

I joined the military because my life was becoming unmanageable at a young age. I completed my three-year commitment in the Marine Corps and was honorably discharged when I was 24. My years in the military were pretty good, and it helped me to grow up. I had the opportunity to reenlist, but there was the promise of a good job when I got out, so I chose to go in that direction, which may not have been a good decision.

My childhood was pretty good up until my father left when I was 12. My mother was left to raise six kids on her own. She worked most of the time so my siblings and I had to take care of each other.

After graduating high school, I began getting into trouble and hanging with the wrong crowd. I got my first job right after high



*“If you believe you can change and believe in yourself, recovery is possible. I am living proof.”*

**Lee Davis, Jr.**  
**Marine Corps Veteran**

school, which helped to support my drug use. By age 20, my mother gave me a choice – joining the military or getting put out of the house. So I chose to join.

After the service, I became involved with drugs and my life became unmanageable again. I bounced from job to job. I couldn’t keep a relationship. I started to become depressed, angry, and withdrawn.

I really didn’t like myself, and this went on for many years. I went into treatment a couple of times but I would always go back to my old behaviors (people, places, and things). I started going to jail and using more. My life had reached rock bottom, and I decided enough was enough. I went into treatment at Hines VA, which helped me to make some lifestyle changes.

I decided to continue my treatment and went to Building 66 (Domiciliary) in North Chicago (Lovell FHCC), where I learned cognitive therapy and learned about the 12 Step programs. I began to feel better about myself. I was able to address my issues and received treatment for my physical problems

After Building 66, I went on to New Horizons (TLS) in Hebron, Ill. where I stayed for two years and continued to work on 12 Steps, my spirituality, and receive regular counseling. I have now lived independently for the past eight and a half years. I am able to maintain employment and have a relationship.

### Words of advice

If you believe you can change and believe in yourself, recovery is possible. I am living proof.

### The Apollo

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# From the Desk of the Commanding Officer

## We all make a difference in the lives of patients, coworkers



**By Captain Bradford L. Smith**  
Lovell FHCC Deputy Director/  
Commanding Officer

As we celebrate time with family and friends and look towards the promise of the new year, it is a good time to reflect on the amazing accomplishments this year and

the amazing growth that we have experienced at the Capt. James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center. It is also a wonderful opportunity to focus on what we want to accomplish in the future.

I am seeing firsthand the incredible work we do for our patients on a daily basis. It is clear we are poised to take this institution to the next level of excellence. As I say at every opportunity I have to interact with staff, everything we do is for our patients; our nation's past and future heroes.

We have accomplished so much this year, and it is important for all to realize that each and every member of FHCC, regardless of his or her role, is responsible for our accomplishments. Each one of you is absolutely critical to our future success as well. That is why it is imperative that we continue to dedicate ourselves to

providing top notch care while taking care of each other. Each decision, action, encounter, and task should be framed in the context of realizing what a difference you are making in our patients' and each other's lives.

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*"I am seeing firsthand the incredible work we do for our patients on a daily basis."*

**Capt. Bradford L. Smith**  
**Capt. James A. Lovell Federal**  
**Health Care Center**  
**Deputy Director & Commanding**  
**Officer**

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The smallest act can have a profound impact on those around you, both patients and colleagues. We have a common purpose, and that is providing world class care to our veterans and active duty

beneficiaries – the most deserving patients in the world.

As we continue to work together and support each other, there is no limit to what we can accomplish. I have absolutely no doubt that we will continue to excel and lead the way in federal health care, both in the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense.

I am proud to be part of this incredible institution, proud to work with all of you, and look forward to working together as we move forward on our journey of continued excellence and growth.

Thank you for your dedication, your commitment, and for everything that you do each and every day!

## FHCC outreach event for women veterans raises awareness, entertains

*Evening out included town hall, health fair and Rivendell Theatre's critically acclaimed "Women at War"*

Lovell FHCC Communications

More than 70 people enjoyed a special presentation of "Women at War," as well as a health fair when they attended an outreach event for women veterans co-sponsored by Lovell Federal Health Care Center in November.

"It was the highlight of the year for me, from the young enlisted (sailors) greeting us at the front door, to the little bags, the free blood pressure, the food, the absolutely wonderful play and the panel of veterans," said Antioch resident Elaine, who asked her last name not be used. She heard about the event, which was held from the Midwest Veterans Closet in North Chicago.

The FHCC received a WomenHeart National Hospital Alliance Capacity Building Grant to partner with the Gurnee American Legion Post 771 and host the event, which included a reception, heart health screenings, Veterans Resource Fair, a talk by a WomenHeart cardiologist, and Rivendell Theatre Ensemble's "Women at War" at the Red Iguana in Waukegan.

"Women at War" has received acclaim for its diverse, richly complex stories of real military women's service to their country and return home. Elaine said she appreciated the real-life stories.

"I've shared their stories with many people, and they were surprised," she said. "If you do this wonderful event again, I want to be there!"

Joye Williams echoed Elaine's sentiments. "Words cannot express the emotions I experienced during the performance," she said. "It was so moving! Awesome! Electrifying! Touching!"

FHCC Women Veterans Program Manager Janice Muhammad said the goal of the event was to educate women veterans and their supporters about heart health and health in general, especially women who have served in combat.

"It's important to note a 2017 VA (Department of Veterans Affairs) priority focus area for consistent delivery and access to services that meet the unique needs of women veterans," Muhammad said. "The average age of women veterans is 48 years. PTSD, hypertension, and depression are the top three diagnostic categories for women veterans treated by the FHCC.

"More than 57 percent of female veterans of Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation New Dawn have received care from the VA, and nearly 90 percent have used it more than once," Muhammad said. Stress experienced by veterans during or after active duty may lead to increased risk of smoking, substance abuse, sedentary lifestyle, medication non-adherence and sleep disturbances, which may contribute to development of heart disease, Muhammad added.

Lovell FHCC is aligned with WomenHeart: The National Coalition for Women with Heart Disease and has two WomenHeart champions – Navy Veteran Kelsey



*in left photo, left to right, FHCC Minority Veterans Program Coordinator Alfreda Rhodes-King, Women Veterans Program Manager Janice Muhammad and FHCC WomenHeart Champions Kelsey Gumm and Denise Lear provided resources to women veterans at the event. (Photos provided by Janice Muhammad)*

Gumm and former Lovell FHCC employee Denise Lear. The two handed out "Red Bags of Courage" to attendees and provided women's heart health information.

With the assistance of the VA Mobile Vet Center, FHCC hospital corpsmen volunteers conducted health screenings and cardiac risk assessments. Of 25 blood pressure checks, one woman with high blood pressure was referred to medical care, Muhammad said. Several attendees received counseling and referrals for follow-on care with Vet Center professionals.

"We wanted to help communicate the VA/FHCC mission ... and looked to use the blending of health advocacy and awareness with the art of theater to involve and elicit the voice of the Veteran," Muhammad said. "We wanted to let them know that Lovell FHCC is concerned about their experiences and how military service may affect whole health."

Muhammad said the idea for the Rivendell performance came from FHCC Attending Senior



*Attendees were treated to a performance of "Women at War," by Rivendell Theatre.*

Gynecologist Dr. Ahmad Taheri, who saw the play at Jesse Brown VA Medical Center. The grant was made possible through the Edwards Lifesciences Foundation, which focuses on improving lives of patients suffering from heart valve disease and other critical illnesses.

Starting March 14, WomenHeart Champions Lear and Gumm will lead a support group at 6 p.m. every second Tuesday at the FHCC. For information, call 224-610-1123.

# ONE TEAM *Extra*

News Employees Can Use

## Nurses receive Sept. and Nov. Daisy Awards



Family Practice RN Sharon Bartmer, left, shakes the hand of Lovell FHCC Director Dr. Stephen Holt at the September Daisy ceremony. Bartmer won the Daisy Award for nursing excellence after "accomplishing what no one else had," wrote her nominator, who went on to explain how a calm, confident and compassionate Nurse Bartmer built a relationship with the nominator's autistic child to the point that he was able to get through his medical appointments "without fear and fuss" after years of struggles at the doctor's office. Nursing Assistant Barbara Fischer, to Dr. Holt's right, was the other September nominee. (Photo by Hospitalman James Stewart)



RN Kristen Frey, in the foreground, received the November Daisy Award. Her nominator praised her compassionate, kind and professional demeanor and thanked her for going above and beyond to help ensure the nominator could get the appropriate medication and therefore go on a long-planned anniversary cruise. "She consistently exuded kindness and compassion to a situation that certainly was no emergency to her, but yet she chose to help me meet what some might deem a selfish goal ... I know that I was not her only patient, only issue, only crisis, only special circumstance that day, yet, I felt like I was." (Photo by Israel Molina)

## FHCC staff present at PTSD research event

Lovell FHCC doctors and students presented at the "Classics for PTSD/TBI/Moral Injury Research" event, sponsored by One World Medical Foundation and Highland Park American Legion.

Guests admired more than 300 classic automobiles at Klairmont Collections Private Museum, owned by World War II Marine Veteran Larry Klairmont. Presenters included Dr. John Bair (FHCC PTSD Programs/Rosalind Franklin University), Dr. Bharathi Swaminathan (FHCC Department Head Physical Medicine and Rehab Services/ RFU), Maj. Gen. (Ret.) James Mukoyama (Veteran's Outreach, FHCC Patient Advisory Council), and doctoral students. One World Medical Foundation provides scholarships for students and researchers in



Left to right: Dr. James Bair, Maj. Gen. (Ret.) James Mukoyama, researchers, museum owner Larry Klairmont and entertainer Bill Post attend the One World Medical Foundation event. (Photo provided)

the areas of PTSD, Traumatic Brain Injury, and Moral Injury. "It was an exciting show of support for this important mission," Bair said.

## Sailors help with Great American Smokeout



Did you quit smoking Nov. 17? Thank you to the FHCC volunteers who manned health fair tables at the student Galley 535 at Naval Station Great Lakes for the Great American Smokeout: PO1 Marcus Billingsley, PO3 Richard Brown, SN Justin Carter, PO2 Donald Cousins, PO3 Brionte Davis, PO3 Anthony Martinez, PO1 Miguel Mays, Mr. David Reid, SN Christian Rodriguez, PO1 Hugo Sanchezolomos, PO1 Aaron Spaulding and SN Jacob Ulanski. The Smokeout was observed base-wide and at Lovell FHCC during the month to increase awareness. Approximately 2,000 students went through the food lines and past the tables, many stopping to get information. Health Promotion Coordinator David Reid said, "This initiative demonstrated the FHCC's commitment to reducing the leading cause of preventable death in the country." (Photo by Glen Williams, Lovell FHCC Communications volunteer).

## Congratulations!

- **Doctors Irfan Waheed, Darshan Dhingani, Yashwanth Yeramalla and James Davis**, all four FHCC pulmonary fellows, passed the pulmonary boards, thus continuing the FHCC's 100 percent success rate.
- **Lt. j.g. Patrick McEachern, MSC**, who works in Resources Management, was named Junior Officer of the Quarter, for the third quarter, 2016.
- **Petty Officer 1st Class (PO1) Jeremiah Spasojevich**, Geriatrics and Mental Health, was named Senior Sailor of the Quarter, 4th Quarter FY16.
- **PO2 Caleb Stricklin**, Fleet Medicine, was named Sailor of the Quarter, 4th Quarter FY16.
- **PO3 Akhapun Jandranima**, Clinical Support Services, was named Junior Sailor of the Quarter, 4th Quarter FY16.
- **Seaman Keyon Barnes**, Clinical Support Services, was named Blue Jacket of the Quarter, 4th Quarter FY16.
- **Lt. Joseph Malizia, MSC**, Clinical Support Services, Physical Therapy, was named Junior Officer of the Quarter for 2nd Quarter, FY16.
- **The Lovell Legends Veterans Wheelchair Games team** won 22 medals (15 gold, four silver and three bronze) at the 36th annual National Veterans Wheelchair Games competition in Salt Lake City, Utah. Team members were **Ramon Calderon, Daniel Dorsch, William Watson, Steve Aoyagi, Edward Tolliver, Joel Van Cleve, Babette Peyton and Karen Van Benschoten**. The team again was accompanied by FHCC Recreation Therapists **Susanne Brown and Karen Fleming**.
- **Maj. Gen. (Ret.) James Mukoyama, Jr.**, co-chair of the Lovell FHCC Patient Advisory Council, received the Volunteers of America Lifetime Service Award.
- **Kenny List**, Chief of Community/Voluntary Affairs, was honored for 35 years of federal service in November and also was the keynote speaker at the FHCC National Disability Employment Awareness Month event in October. The theme was "Inclusion Works."

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FHCC Navy employees frocked to next rank



FHCC employee honored as Chicago Wolves "Hometown Hero" in Allstate Arena

- Lovell FHCC leaders make holiday video
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# Diary contains drawing of ‘The Great Escape’ tunnel (cont.)

Continued from page 1

It is held together with black electrical tape. The contents describe in detail the elder Reuse’s imprisonment and include intricately drawn pictures of the tunnels dug and used by the 76 Allied prisoners who escaped Stalag III in early 1944, a few months before Reuse arrived at the camp. Nearly all of the POWs who made it out were recaptured and executed. The prison break was famously portrayed in the 1963 movie “The Great Escape,” starring Steve McQueen.

Harry Reuse, who grew up in Chicago, was piloting a B17 that was shot down over Hungary in July, 1944. His diary entry from that day reads: “July 2, Fatal mission – My ship No. 041 – over 200 missions, and due for a few engine changes. Lost one engine before target, did a 360 degree turn over Budapest, dropped behind and lost another engine – hit by three

*“April 29, 1945 - My birthday, and what a day! We were awake early due to tank guns firing in the distance ... at 12:00 Noon, Old Glory went up on the flagpole.”*

**B17 pilot Lt. Harry Reuse  
POW Diary entry**

ME-109s – shot out another engine and started a fire in #4 engine. Bailed out.”

Lt. Reuse entered Stalag Luft III Aug. 19, 1944, after weeks of

suffering primitive conditions in several jails, camps and cattle cars as he was transported by rail to what was then Sagan, Germany – today Poland.

The prisoners – Allied pilots – lived eight men to a room in one-story wooden buildings. Lt. Reuse’s roommates each wrote their own diary entries, listing their hometowns and describing how they were captured. On several subsequent pages, precisely sketched diagrams show the room configurations, and camp maps depict the measurements of the double barbed wire fences. A stark warning reads: “North Compound: To step over the warning wire means that you will be shot without challenge.”

Other pages in the diary contain poems by Lt. Reuse, excerpts from mail he received and love notes to his future bride, Bernice. Many pages recount daily life in the Stalag, highlighting the importance of American Red Cross packages containing soap, chocolate, coffee, canned meat, crackers, milk, Oleo, and dried fruit.

Thanksgiving found Lt. Reuse thankful for all he “had gained in spirit and mind” during his imprisonment and hopeful for a bright future with his future wife. By Christmas, coal was scarce and the prisoners ate their meals by candlelight. They made the candles themselves from wax from the date boxes in the Red Cross Christmas issue.

The day he was liberated – April 29, 1945, reads: “My birthday,



Illinois Holocaust Museum Curator Arielle Weininger, left, and FHCC volunteer Craig Reuse hold the World War II prisoner of war diary of Reuse’s father Lt. Harry Reuse. (Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Jacob Waldrop)

and what a day! We were awake early due to tank guns firing in the distance. Soon we could hear the bullets zinging over the tents ... at 12:00 Noon the tanks arrived at our gate ... and by 1:20, Old Glory went up on the flagpole.”

News of Lt. Reuse’s release reached home via a war correspondent, and the resulting news clipping was tucked into the back of the diary. He returned to Chicago, married Bernice and raised a family. He remarried after the death of Bernice, Craig Reuse’s mother. Craig Reuse was his father’s primary caregiver in his father’s later years, until Lt. Reuse died while in hospice care at Lovell FHCC.

“My Dad was a very humble man ... He didn’t talk much about his service,” Craig Reuse said. “But at

the end of his life, he would drift off and think he was back in prison camp again. I’d take him out for a walk and he’d say, ‘we can’t go outside because the guard won’t let us out.’”

Craig Reuse was proud to follow in his father’s footsteps and serve in the military. He was drafted in 1968, went to infantry school and was on orders to go to Vietnam until he was pulled at the last minute and sent to drill sergeant school in California.

Weininger said the diary, newspaper clippings and other mementos will be part of 2018 special exhibit highlighting people and objects related to World War II. Family members, including Craig Reuse, will be asked to reflect on the pieces they donated in writing and participate in other ways.

# Zika team accomplished near ‘insurmountable task’ in record time (cont.)

Continued from page 1

The BDPD leadership to include Division Officer Lt. Colleen Cordrick, Technical Supervisor

Marti Pope and myself tackled the mountains of administrative paperwork, staff training, and numerous high-level meetings with the goal to meet the mid-November

deadline for the study package submission.

Multiple levels of approval were required even before reaching the FDA to include the Navy Blood Program Office, U.S. Army Medical Research Material Command Office, and Roche Clinical Research Office. Each of these sites had to review our package, adding specific requirements that had to be met before moving to the next step.

and staff fully understood the importance and implications of this study and provided valuable input to expedite review and approvals in record time.

There were 22 BDPD staff members enrolled as investigators. Each staff member had to complete individual investigator requirements that included filling out numerous forms and passing many VA and DOD training modules – both online and “live.”

The BDPD staff had never participated in a research study before. The FHCC R&D Office led by Administrative Officer Jeff Young, Research Coordinator Susan Dent and Research Compliance Officer Brandon Burton provided expert guidance and assistance to navigate the complex and often tedious process to achieve a research protocol approval in the VA system.

We were the only donor site that had to have separate IRB and R&D Committee approvals, which for us falls under the Hines VA Hospital. Fortunately, their committee chairs

I am ecstatic that I can say the BDPD was the first Navy site to submit a complete package up the chain and receive FDA approval. We started testing on Dec. 1. Our staff, with the assistance of great DOD and VA leadership, was key to achieving this almost insurmountable task in record time. Their collaboration and dedication ensured that the blood supply for our nation’s active duty and beneficiary patients, whether deployed outside the country or here in the United States is safe, and I personally thank them for their efforts.



Above photo: In the Lovell Federal Health Care Center Blood Donor Processing Division (BDPD), Hospitalman Matthew Hamlin, a medical lab technician, labels frozen blood products according to the new protocols for Zika testing. The new labels, shown in the photo on the right, are used to indicate the blood product tested negative for the Zika virus. (Photos by Jayna Legg)



# FHCC cuts ribbon on training manikin in veteran's honor

By Jayna Legg  
Lovell FHCC Public Affairs

Long-time Lovell FHCC benefactor Mrs. Monica Ply decided the time had come for her to go public with one of her donations to the facility – this time a state-of-the-art training manikin in honor of her late husband, Navy Chief Storekeeper (SKC) Robert W. Ply.

“Education, education, education, it’s so important,” said Ply, who fought back tears as she spoke at the ribbon-cutting Nov. 8 of “Chief Bob Ply the Manikin.”

“There’s so much to learn, and with the merger here of the Navy and VA (Department of Veterans Affairs), we can do so much ... we have possibilities here, but none of this would have been possible without God,” she said.

Ply emphasized that her donations and volunteering are for “God and country,” a mantra that appears on the plaque that will hang by the manikin in FHCC’s simulation center.

A large audience of Ply’s friends, family members, fellow volunteers, FHCC staff, even

the facility’s namesake - former astronaut and retired Navy Capt. James A. Lovell - gathered in the simulation center for the ceremony.

“We are incredibly blessed to have Mrs. Ply as a generous benefactor for our facility,” said FHCC Director Dr. Stephen Holt, adding that Ply has volunteered more than 12,000 hours at Lovell FHCC. “You can see her every day at her desk in the Community Living Center ... She’s all heart, all spirit, all dedication for the patients. She is the embodiment of dedication.”

Holt said the new manikin will help facility medical professionals “train as we fight. It is vital that our medical staff receive realistic training so that they can provide world-class care to meet the real-world needs of our patients – Veterans, active duty military personnel and military family members.”

Ply donated The Harvey® Cardiopulmonary Patient Simulator through her Parkinson’s and Heart Disease Foundation, which supports cardiology and Parkinson’s education at Lovell FHCC and research at FHCC’s academic partner Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science.

FHCC. Monica Ply started volunteering at the FHCC in 2009, the year after her husband died.

“Education about Parkinson’s and heart trouble is so important for the CNAs (certified nursing assistants), nurses, doctors, everyone,” Monica Ply said. “There have been many advancements in treatment everyone involved in patient care needs to know about.”

Lovell FHCC clinical staff as well as medical students from Rosalind Franklin University and other area colleges will benefit from training with the multi-functioned manikin, which realistically simulates any cardiac disease at the touch of a button by varying blood pressure, pulses, heart sounds and murmurs. The manikin will be nicknamed “Chief Bob Ply.”

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*“Education about Parkinson’s and heart trouble is so important for the CNAs (certified nursing assistants), nurses, doctors, everyone.”*

**Mrs. Monica Ply**  
**FHCC donor and volunteer**

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Left to right, former astronaut and Navy Capt. (Ret.) James A. Lovell, FHCC Assistant Department Head for Education and Training Mark Bisbee, FHCC Deputy Director/Commanding Officer Capt. Bradford Smith, Mrs. Monica Ply, Rosalind Franklin University Executive Vice President for Research Dr. Ronald Kaplan, FHCC Director Dr. Stephen Holt and FHCC Chaplain Father Alexander Inke cut the ribbon on the new cardiopulmonary patient simulator. (Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Jacob Waldrop)

Chief Ply retired from the Navy in 1968 after 21 years of active duty and then worked as a parts manager for the Chrysler Corp. During their 53-year marriage, the couple raised two sons in Gurnee Township and volunteered together for many years at the USO and at the Naval Station Great Lakes chapel.

Chief Ply had a heart attack in 1964, before leaving active duty, and he later developed Parkinson’s disease and was cared for at the former North Chicago VA Medical Center, today Lovell

The ceremony’s keynote speaker Mark Bisbee, FHCC assistant department head for education and training and a Veteran himself, demonstrated some of the many heart sounds the manikin simulates.

“Think about what a difference 30 years can make in cardiac learning,” said Bisbee, referring to when he started his nursing education. “It was very different then, when you’d have to invite your friends to listen to a real patient’s heart to hear a cardiac murmur ... this manikin simulates more than 100 cardiac diseases, a much better and more efficient way to learn.”

Holt said Ply’s generous donation of the manikin is a “loving and long-lasting tribute” to her late husband, whose birthday was Nov. 8. “It’s also a few days before Veterans Day,” he noted.

“That also seems appropriate because the new simulator will greatly benefit current and future Veterans and their family members through the invaluable education it will provide medical staff and students,” Holt said.

## Patients enjoy Thanksgiving meal in new Lovell FHCC dining room

*Volunteers serve FHCC patients holiday meal in renovated space*

Lovell FHCC’s long-anticipated and newly renovated patient dining room opened just in time for Thanksgiving.

Volunteers from Veteran Service Organizations (VSOs) generously gave their time to serve patients the Thanksgiving meal. “The presentation of the meal was great,” said Veteran Rob Baldwin. “The wait staff (civilians) were very nice. The food was good as well.”



Above, veteran Rob Baldwin is served his Thanksgiving meal by Lovell FHCC employee, and volunteer, Chris Ebert. To the left, FHCC patients gathered on Thanksgiving to enjoy their holiday meal in the newly renovated Bldg. 66 dining room. (Photos by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Jacob Waldrop)