



VA BUTLER HEALTHCARE
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News Release

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For Immediate Release

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VA Butler Healthcare Celebrates Volunteers during National Volunteer Week, April 18-24

(Butler, Pennsylvania) – VA Butler Healthcare volunteers who tirelessly work to improve the lives of Veterans and their community will be celebrated during National Volunteer Week, April 18-24. VA Butler volunteers not only assist with programs at the main campus located in the heart of Butler County, but also perform vital functions at the facility's Community Based Outpatient Clinics in Lawrence County, Mercer County and the newly opened VA clinic located on Freedom Road in Cranberry Township, Pennsylvania. With the help of Volunteer drivers, Veterans in the local and outlying service areas of VA Butler are able to receive transportation to and from their VA medical appointments. Volunteers help VA Butler to reach out to Veterans everywhere, making their lives better.

Last year, VA Butler had 607 registered adult and youth volunteers who provided over 46,000 hours of service. Volunteers performed a variety of functions such as administrative/clerical, comfort item distribution, recreation, escort, greeter, "one-to-one" companionship, driving, and hospice support. Volunteers also assisted with special initiatives such as the **Homeless Veterans Program**, **Women Veterans Program**, the **MyHealthVet** on-line Veterans health program, the **Healthier USVeterans/Move Program** and the **Welcome Home Event** for Operation Enduring Freedom/Operation Iraqi Freedom (OEF/OIF) Veterans and Service Members.

The National Volunteer Week theme, "Volunteers: now more than ever," reflects the vital roles volunteers play in all facets of American life and the growing value of their service. National Volunteer Week is sponsored by the Points of Light Foundation & Volunteer Center National Network.

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“Volunteers perform countless acts of service and are one of America's most valuable assets,” said Patricia Nealon, director of VA Butler Healthcare. “During the past year, volunteers nationwide have continued to reach out to their neighbors both near and far, especially to the Veterans we care for and their families. National Volunteer Week is the ideal time to honor volunteers meeting community needs around the country and calling the public's attention to their tremendous contributions.”

During National Volunteer Week, VA volunteers nationwide will receive presidential recognition for their service to Veterans. Like National Volunteer Week, VA awards seek to inspire by example, honoring the service of our country's most committed volunteers and sharing their achievements to encourage more Americans to volunteer. VA Butler Healthcare has 138 volunteers who will receive special service awards and certificates for attaining certain benchmarks during the previous fiscal year. A summertime picnic is being planned at which time these volunteers will be recognized and receive their award.

VA Butler Healthcare's volunteers receiving awards this year are:

Youth: (50 hour) Samantha Kravits, Lauren Tarr and Kevin Weibel; (100 hour) Shannon Albert, James Begley, Jessica Begley, Dustin Birckbichler and John Carlson; (150 hour) Stephen Konyha, Kalie Love, and Drew Nowak; (300) Tanya Oesterling

10,000 hour service award: Carl Castellani and Arthur Reichenbach

8,750 hour service award: Cliff Musser

6,250 hour service award: Laura Bishop, Patrick Cody, Damian Hambley, Mary Hambley and Gertrude Zima

5,000 hour service award: Roy Hall

Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award (4,000 hours): Lloyd Hinchberger, Vern Patton, Virginia Reichenbach and Pearl Wilson

3,750 hour service award: Robert Harding and Ervin Werner

2,500 hour service award: Charles Jennings, Ryan McLafferty and Robert Riddell

1,750 hour service award: Kenneth Blauser, Richard Daller, Charles Frank and Al Nolte, Sr.

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1,000 hour service award: Edward Adamsky, Jr., William Brandenstein, Jane Croll, Carl Eakman, Jeff Geary, Clara Moraldi, Ruth Orłowsky, and Don Sherwin

750 hour service award: David Cavanaugh, Stella DeLess, Bart Farzati, Patty Grossman, Peter Hill, David Parrish, Larry Russo, Rita Snyder

500 hour service award: Sandy Campbell, Nancy Fair, Bob Faller, William Farrell, Clara Janikowski, Larry Pifer, Jack Robertshaw, Mark Salser, Phyllis Schraf, Joseph Smartz, Marian Weister, William Wikert

300 hour service award: Richard Bralski, Norm Carpenter, Andrew Farina, Joseph Gagliardi, Charles Kildoo, Rachel Koons, Gretchen Moran, Maryann Sheppeck, and Robert Skibo

100 hour service award: Douglas Bashline, Mark Bishop, James Blystone, Carolyn Bodnar, Lee Bowman, Chloe Buckner, Mary Callahan, June Cletta, Laurie Forbes, Wayne Frank, Thomas Franks, Dale Green, Kathleen Griffin, Virginia Hamilton, Joseph Huth, Peter Kelley, James King, Jerry Lombardo, Dennis Morgan, Frank Napolitano, Edgar Negley, Patricia Nicolazzo, Debra Smith, Valerie Tucci, Robert Warner, Jasper Wells, Jesse Wenck and Roger Wolfe

Hours and Years of Service (local certificate award): Abie Abraham, Jack Affolder, James Bachman, Alex Barna, Arthur Bishop Jr., Marjorie Blackburn, James Brady, Ginger Braho, John Brewster, William Cirillo, Henry Cochran, Rudy Cozad, Richard Curry, Helen Daller, Jeremy Fleeger, Gertrude Flick, Frances Forsythe, Floyd Green, Albert Hagen Jr., Helen Held, Arthur Hollerman, Marlene Hollobaugh, Larry Jack, Gene Karmanocky, Ermania Kelly, Herman Dale Klein, Genevieve Kovach, Clarence Maley, Patricia Mysliwiec, Carol Pash, John Pintirsch, Judy Pintirsch, Don Platt, James Reimer, Teresa Russo, Charles Shoaff, Emil Siovaila, Betty Slaugenhaupt, Betty Stuckie, Julia Tomlinson and Eugene Wise.

National Volunteer Week began in 1974 when President Richard Nixon signed an executive order establishing an annual celebration of volunteering. Every president since has signed a proclamation promoting the week.

“We hope that National Volunteer Week will motivate others to volunteer their time and talent to help our country’s most vulnerable residents – the homeless, the hungry, the elderly, at-risk youth, and the disabled,” concluded Nealon.

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VA Butler Healthcare is the provider of choice for over 18,000 Veterans throughout Armstrong, Butler, Clarion, Lawrence and Mercer counties; and parts of Ohio. With over 600 employees, VA Butler Healthcare provides primary care, specialty care, mental health and social support services to our nation's Veterans. For information about VA Butler Healthcare programs and services, log on to <http://www.butler.va.gov>. Media queries and requests should be directed to David Virag at (724)-285-2576 or David.Virag@va.gov.

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