

## HELPING HOMELESS VETERANS

U.S. Army Veteran Kitty Reno received a Humanitarian Service Medal for her efforts in bringing civilians out of Iran in '79/'80. Today, as a Veteran who has had personal experience with VA's homeless program, Kitty's dedication and determination in helping other homeless Veterans makes her a true humanitarian.

It was quite a few years after leaving the service before Kitty came to VA Butler Healthcare. After becoming unable to work, her husband passing away, and ultimately losing her house, Kitty found support through VA Butler's homeless program by way of

a HUD voucher.

The Department of Housing and Urban Development – VA Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) Program is a joint effort between HUD and VA to move Veterans and their families into permanent housing through its Housing Choice Voucher Program (Section 8).

As of August 1, Kitty is able to give up her HUD Voucher as she has secured a new home. "I'm glad to be done needing a HUD Voucher, but it really came through for me during a bad time in my life," explained Kitty. "I didn't know what I was going to do. It made a difference. And, now I'm

getting a house! I've made a big turn in my life."

Kitty previously volunteered with Catholic Charities helping homeless Veterans. She started a personal hygiene products store to help get homeless Veterans items they needed. "Everywhere I go – if I meet a homeless Veteran, I talk about the VA and programs available," she said. This fall Kitty will be volunteering to help homeless Veterans at the Veteran Stand Downs.

To other Veterans, Kitty advises, "Don't be afraid, or have too much pride to go to or call the VA and see what you're eligible for! It doesn't hurt to ask." Visit [va.gov/homeless](http://va.gov/homeless) to learn about



VA's programs for Veterans and to find out what you, your neighbors, and your community can do to help Veterans who are homeless or at imminent risk of becoming homeless.

“I'm glad to be done needing a HUD Voucher, but it really came through for me during a bad time in my life. It made a difference. And, now I'm getting my own house!” —Kitty Reno, U.S. Army Veteran

## THIS MONTH IN HISTORY...AUGUST

- 3 Airplanes are used for the first time in a military capacity when Italian planes reconnoiter Turkish lines near Tripoli (1911).
- 7 General George Washington authorizes the award of the Purple Heart for soldiers wounded in combat (1782).
- 7 U.S. War Department is established (*225th Anniversary*) (1789).
- 10 William Driver of Salem, Massachusetts, is the first to use the term "Old Glory" in connection with the American flag, when he gives that name to a large flag aboard his ship, the *Charles Daggett* (1831).
- 28 One of the largest demonstrations in the history of the U.S., the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, takes place and reaches its climax at the base of the Lincoln Memorial when Dr. Martin Luther King delivers his "I have a dream" speech (1963).



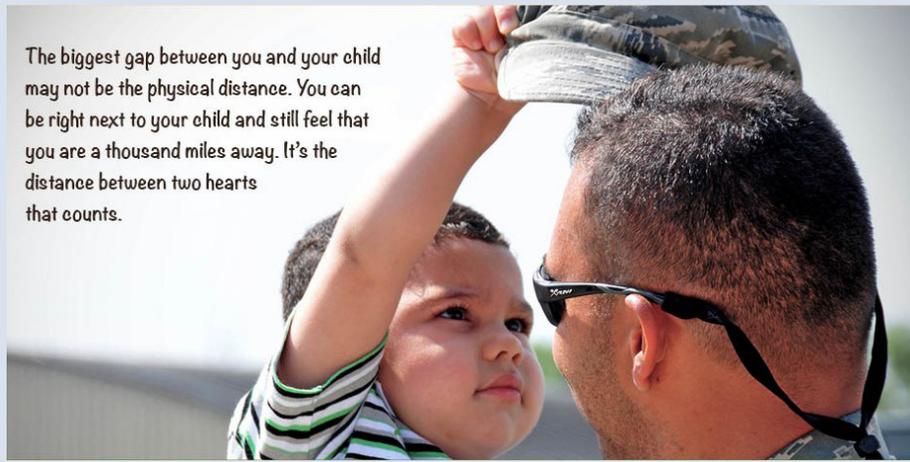
## VETERAN STAND DOWN

A stand down offers Veterans a day-long respite from the streets and an opportunity to put their lives back together. Services often include medical checkups, dental care, food, job search support, housing assistance, and more. Learn about VA Butler's upcoming fall stand downs at [www.butler.va.gov/services/homeless](http://www.butler.va.gov/services/homeless)

## VETERAN PARENTING

Does it ever feel like you and your kids are speaking different languages? VA's parenting course has tips on how you can stay connected with your children whether they are toddlers or teenagers. Visit [www.veterantraining.va.gov/apps/VeteranParenting](http://www.veterantraining.va.gov/apps/VeteranParenting).

The biggest gap between you and your child may not be the physical distance. You can be right next to your child and still feel that you are a thousand miles away. It's the distance between two hearts that counts.



## BACK TO SCHOOL? VA CAN HELP!

It's that time already...back to school! Transitioning from Servicemember to student can be a challenge. Skills that made you a good Servicemember will make you a good student too. If you're feeling uneasy about going back to school, check out some transition tips here: <http://go.usa.gov/jyQG>

As a Veteran, you may be eligible for educational benefits through numerous GI Bill programs. Once you've decided to use your GI Bill benefits it's important to choose the proper school and type of training. VA's decision-making tools can help you.

- **The GI Bill comparison tool** provides key information about college affordability and value so beneficiaries can choose the best education program for their needs.
- **CareerScope** is an interest and aptitude assessment tool used to determine the best career path for transition to civilian life.

Visit [www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/](http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/) to learn more, or talk to your VA Butler health care team!

## MEDICATION SAFETY

Remembering your car keys is one thing, but what about your medications? Do you know the right names of all the medicines you take and why you take them? Do you have trouble remembering if you took your medicine when you were supposed to? While medicine can help us feel better, thousands of people die each year because of medication mistakes. Veterans, use the tools and information on My HealthVet to help you manage your medicines! [www.myhealth.va.gov](http://www.myhealth.va.gov).



I HAVE A DREAM ...

We want to hear from you! Email [amanda.kurtz2@va.gov](mailto:amanda.kurtz2@va.gov) to share your story with us!

## EVENTS

### Welcome Home Event

② Saturday, August 2 • 12-6pm  
Regatta at Lake Arthur, Moraine State Park  
225 Pleasant Valley Road, Portersville

### Run for Shelter 5K

②③ Saturday, August 23 • 9am  
VA Butler Healthcare  
Call 724.284.5114 for more information

### Summer Health & Wellness Event and Farmers Market

②⑨ Friday, August 29 • 10am-2pm  
Outside Lawn, Primary Care Entrance  
VA Butler Healthcare



800.362.8262  
724.287.4781

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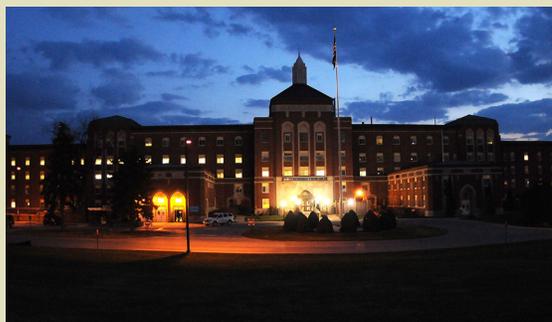
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