

FRONT & CENTER

Providing News to Our Veterans

July 2012



WE'RE HERE WITH OPEN ARMS

Retired Marine Corps Infantry Staff Sergeant Joshua Caskey and his wife Kelly have been married for over 12 years. During his military career, Josh served two tours in Iraq and 14 months unaccompanied in Okinawa, Japan. While serving on his second deployment, he was injured by a Vehicle-borne IED. "It was June 19, 2007, a day after his 26th birthday, and a day that forever changed our lives...and we didn't even realize it then," said Kelly.

Today, Kelly is the primary caregiver for her husband, as well as a mother to their four children. "Being a caregiver for my husband is a constant, sometimes lonely job," said Kelly. "I now do most everything for our family down to the little things like carrying in the groceries. Sometimes even changing a light bulb becomes a frustration for us both."

Together Kelly and Josh came to VA Butler Healthcare for help.

"VA's caregiver services help me to not feel alone," said Kelly. "I feel like I have a team behind me waiting to help and wanting Josh to do well. I have walked into the Caregiver Support Coordinator's office – in the middle of an emotional breakdown during a really bad day for Josh – and she was there with open arms, getting us all the help we needed."

Kelly currently uses the caregiver counseling services at VA Butler, and hopes to attend some of the support groups soon. VA Butler offers many programs and services to provide caregivers with the support they need. From home-based health care and respite care, to support groups and counseling, VA is here to help caregivers care for the Veteran they love and for themselves.

"Stay in the fight is my advice to other caregivers. When it gets lonely or hard, lean on others who understand for support," said Kelly. "And remember to take a little time for yourself, I love a drive in the car with my favorite music."

For more information about VA's caregiver support services, call VA Butler's Caregiver Support Coordinator at 724.285.2492 or VA's National Caregiver Support Line toll-free at 1.855.260.3274. ★

“VA's caregiver services help me to not feel alone. I feel like I have a team behind me waiting to help.”
Kelly Caskey, Veteran Caregiver

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY...JULY

- 2** Army Air Corps is established (1926)
- 12** During World War II, in the Battle of Kursk, the largest tank battle in history takes place (1943)
- 21** The Veterans Administration is created (1930)
- 26** The U.S. postal system is established by the Second Continental Congress, with Benjamin Franklin as its first postmaster general (1775)
- 27** The Korean War ends with the signing of an armistice by U.S. and North Korean delegates at Panmunjom, Korea (1953)
- 31** The U.S. Patent Office first opens its doors. [The first U.S. patent was issued to Samuel Hopkins of Vermont for a new method of making pearlsh and potash] (1790)



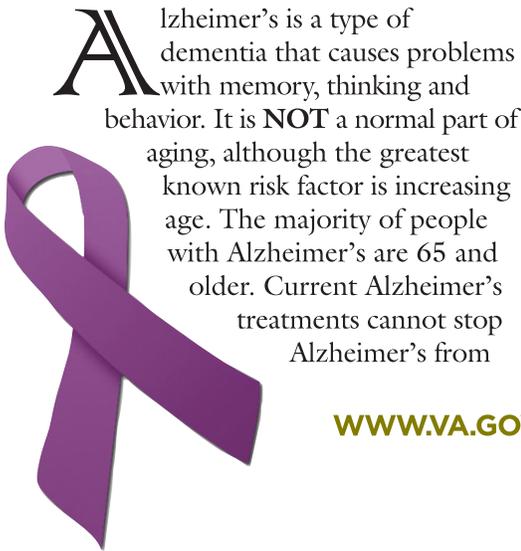
HAPPY 4TH OF JULY!

Independence Day celebrates the birthday of the U.S., the adoption of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, and reflects on the honor and sacrifice of our nation's Veterans – without them, we would not be celebrating this day.

Thank you Veterans!



JULY 6-12 IS ALZHEIMER'S AWARENESS WEEK



Alzheimer's is a type of dementia that causes problems with memory, thinking and behavior. It is **NOT** a normal part of aging, although the greatest known risk factor is increasing age. The majority of people with Alzheimer's are 65 and older. Current Alzheimer's treatments cannot stop Alzheimer's from

progressing, but they can temporarily slow the worsening of dementia symptoms and improve quality of life for those with Alzheimer's and their caregivers. Today, there is a worldwide effort under way to find better ways to treat the disease, delay its onset, and prevent it from developing.

If you or a loved one has been diagnosed with Alzheimer's or a related dementia,

you are not alone. Care for Veterans with Alzheimer's or dementia is provided through a full range of VA health care services. Depending on the Veteran's needs, services may include home-based primary care, homemaker and home health aide services, respite, adult day health care, hospice care, and more. Caregiver support is also available and an essential part of all of these services. ★

WWW.VA.GOV/GERIATRICS/ALZHEIMER_S_AND_DEMENTIA_CARE.ASP

OEF/OIF/OND

WELCOME HOME OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM, OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM, & OPERATION NEW DAWN VETERANS!

Join us at the Bantam Jeep Heritage Festival on Saturday August 11 from 9 am – 5 pm at the Butler County Fairgrounds so we can personally thank you for your selfless service to safeguard us and our way of life...and welcome you home!

For more information, contact the OEF/OIF/OND Program Office at 800.362.8262, ext. 2493. ★

We want to hear from you!
Email amanda.kurtz2@va.gov or lauren.heiger@va.gov to share your story with us!

EXPANDED WOMEN'S HEALTH SERVICES COMING SOON!

A culture change is under way at VA and it's all about our women Veterans. We're training our staff and providers in women's health topics and updating policies related to women's care. We're also reminding staff of some little things

that make a big difference, like not assuming every Veteran is a "Mr."

VA Butler recently hired a new Women's Health Consultant and will soon be expanding and adding more health services for our women Veterans. Some of the new services coming

soon include IUD insertions (birth control) and tele-gynecology care. *Stay tuned!*

To learn more about health care services specific to women Veterans' needs, contact VA Butler's Women Veterans Program Manager at 724.285.2756. ★

EVENTS

5 July Podcast • VA Outpatient Clinics
Thursday, July 5 • 12-12:30 pm
Chat link: talkshoe.com/tc/85029
or Call in: 724.444.7444 (Call ID: 85029)

14 Bikers for Vets Rally
Saturday, July 14
Registration 9:30-11 am; Departs 11:15 am
VA Butler Healthcare

20 Farmers Market
Friday, July 20 • 10 am-2 pm
VA Butler Primary Care Entrance Lawn



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