



## NEW DRIVE SAFETY SIMULATOR

consider hand controls for his vehicle, so he contacted the VA and was introduced to the new drive safety simulator.

It provides a virtual reality driving experience in a safe environment. Built into a Ford Focus, the simulator lets drivers experience what it's like to drive in residential, commercial, country, rural, highway and/or interstate settings. Software tests for brake reaction time, steering reaction time, combination gas brake and steering, visual scanning, speed control, lane positioning, processing speed, and reactions to hazards. It also allows for the function of a left foot accelerator, or in Robert's case, hand controls.

"It was realistic to the point that you can get motion sickness by rocking the steering wheel. It really does feel like you're going down an interstate, and a car is coming up beside you. You think you're driving a new Ford," said Robert.

With hand control driving, one hand is steering, while the other operates the gas and brakes. "I have a lot of experience in running equipment, like backhoes and that kind of stuff, so I had a little bit of a foot up when it came to the hand/eye coordination part. But, I'd never done anything like this until the simulator," said Robert. "The simulator is a necessary step. I've been driving for a long time; there are some old habits you have to break."

The simulator provides a series of tests, all requiring proficient scores before proceeding in the Driving Rehabilitation Program. Robert has successfully graduated from the simulator after receiving the needed scores. He's on the road, and will soon have hand controls in his own vehicle!

Veterans interested in the Driving Rehabilitation Program should talk to their health care team at VA Butler.

For more than five years, VA Butler Healthcare has provided a Driving Rehabilitation Program to assess Veterans' driving aptitude, and assist them in learning new skills that may be needed to get back on the road. Recently, VA Butler upgraded to a new drive safety simulator and U.S. Navy Veteran Robert Edgar was one of the first to test it.

Robert's exposure to Agent Orange while serving in Vietnam resulted in severe neuropathy in his feet, limiting his driving abilities. He knew it was time to

“It actually does feel like you are going down an interstate, and a car is coming up beside you.” —Robert Edgar, Navy Veteran

## THIS MONTH IN HISTORY...MAY

- 5 Decoration Day is first observed in the U.S., with the tradition of decorating soldiers' graves from the Civil War. The date was later moved to the last Monday in May (better known as Memorial Day) and included all Americans who have died in military service for the U.S. (1865)
- 8 V-E day is celebrated in America and Britain [70th anniversary] (1945)
- 10 Mother's Day is observed for the first time. *Happy Mother's Day to all our Veteran moms!* (1908)
- 20 Amelia Earhart becomes the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic (1932)
- 23 The first Military Spouse Day is celebrated as President Ronald Reagan recognizes the profound importance of spouse commitment to the readiness and well-being of military members (1984)
- 30 The Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. is dedicated [*It is the most visited memorial in the U.S.*] (1922)



## WELCOME HOME! AND, THANK YOU VIETNAM VETERANS

VA Butler Healthcare is ready to provide health care and more to our Vietnam Veterans. Vietnam Veterans may be eligible for a wide-variety of VA benefits. Learn more at [www.benefits.va.gov/persona/veteran-vietnam.asp](http://www.benefits.va.gov/persona/veteran-vietnam.asp).





## MAY IS HEPATITIS AWARENESS MONTH

*An estimated 4.4 million Americans are living with chronic hepatitis; most do not know they are infected. Get tested during Hepatitis Awareness Month.*

**H**epatitis means “inflammation of the liver.” Hepatitis can be caused by a virus, such as hepatitis A virus, hepatitis B virus or hepatitis C virus. There are other conditions that can cause other types of hepatitis, but these are the main causes. While there is a vaccine for hepatitis A and hepatitis B, there is no vaccine for hepatitis C. Knowing you have hepatitis C can help you make important decisions about your health. Successful treatments can eliminate the virus from the body and prevent liver damage, cirrhosis, and even liver cancer.

Are you at risk? Take this five-minute hepatitis risk assessment developed by the CDC to get a personalized report—[www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/riskassessment/](http://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/riskassessment/). VA leads the country in hepatitis screening, testing, treatment, research and prevention. Talk to your health care team at VA Butler today.

## VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR

*Congratulations Sandra and Dave!*

**V**A Butler held the 2nd Annual Making Lives Better Volunteer of the Year program last month during National Volunteer Week to honor a male and female volunteer who exemplify the spirit of volunteering. Nominated by their peers and VA staff, this year’s female Volunteer of the Year is Sandra Wilder and male Volunteer of the Year (for two years in a row!) is Dave Cavanaugh. *Congratulations!*

VA Butler invites everyone in the community to explore how they can use their skills and unique assets to thank Veterans with service of their own. For those interested, VA Butler is currently seeking individuals to fill volunteer assignments as drivers, transportation schedulers, Community Living Center (CLC) volunteer aides, and My Health eVet.

For more information about volunteering at VA Butler Healthcare, contact VA Butler’s Voluntary Services Office at 800-362-8262, ext. 2575 or visit [www.butler.va.gov/giving](http://www.butler.va.gov/giving).

## MORE VETERANS ELIGIBLE FOR HEALTH CARE

*Elimination of Net Worth*

**E**ffective 2015, VA eliminated the use of net worth as a determining factor for both health care programs and co-payment responsibilities. Instead of combining the sum of Veterans’ income with their assets to determine eligibility for medical care and co-payment obligations, VA will now only consider a Veteran’s gross household income and deductible expenses from the previous year. Elimination of the consideration of net worth for VA health care enrollment means that certain lower-income, non-service-connected Veterans will have less out-of-pocket costs. Over a five year period, it is estimated that 190,000 Veterans will become eligible for reduced costs of their health care services. For more information, visit [www.va.gov/healthbenefits](http://www.va.gov/healthbenefits) or call VA toll-free at 1-877-222-VETS (8387).

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

## EVENTS

- 12 Behavioral Health Council Meeting  
Tuesday, May 12 • 10am  
VA Butler Healthcare, Room 218WS
- 20 5th Annual VA2K Walk & Roll  
Wednesday, May 20 • 11am-3pm  
VA Butler Healthcare



800.362.8262  
724.287.4781

[www.butler.va.gov](http://www.butler.va.gov)



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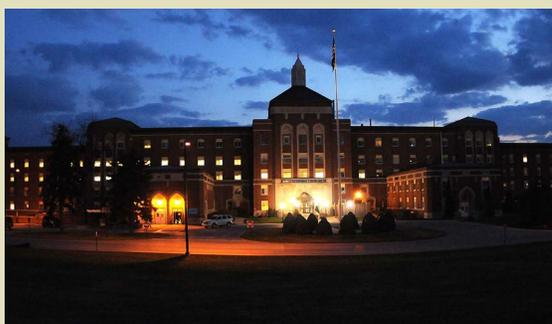
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