

FRONT & CENTER

Providing News to Our Veterans

September 2013

“HOOKED” ON THE WHEELCHAIR GAMES

In 1972, U.S. Navy Veteran John Michael Kellner broke his back, and after many years and surgeries, he ended up in a wheelchair. Three years ago, while John was spending time at VA Butler Healthcare as an inpatient for therapy, a VA therapist suggested he get involved in the National Veterans Wheelchair Games (NVWG). John participated in his first NVWG in 2011 and has been “hooked” ever since!

The NVWG is a

rehabilitation and sports program for military service Veterans who use wheelchairs for sports competition due to spinal cord injuries, amputations, or certain neurological problems. It is the largest annual wheelchair sports event in the world.

The 2013 Games were held in Tampa, Fla. and John won four medals. He received silver medals in bowling, archery, and the 100 and 200 meter races. “This was my first year receiving more than

one medal, so I’m really happy,” John said. He competes in the senior division, class 5 and enjoys archery the best. (He took home the gold at his first Games in the novice division.)

The 2014 NVWG takes place August 12-17 in Philadelphia and John is already preparing. “I work at it year round. Being in a wheelchair is not the end of the world, and the Games give you something to look forward to each year. I enjoy just being there and competing

against other Veterans.”

John is able to participate annually in large part because of funding he receives from the Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA). He encourages other Veterans to reach out to the PVA, as well as get involved in the Games or other sports/events. “There are so many things available for Veterans in wheelchairs.”

In addition to the NVWG, Veterans have the opportunity to participate in other annual, national Veteran sports programs:



The National Veterans Summer and Winter Sports Clinics, the National Veterans Golden Age Games, and the National Veterans TEE Tournament. No matter the disability, age or skill level, an adaptive sports opportunity exists. Learn more at www.va.gov/adaptivesports/. ★

“Being in a wheelchair is not the end of the world, and the Games give you something to look forward to each year.”

- U.S. Navy Veteran John Michael Kellner

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY...SEPTEMBER

- 2** General Douglas MacArthur accepts the Japanese surrender from General Umezu aboard the USS *Missouri*—officially ending the war in Japan in World War II (1945) [known as Victory in Japan Day (VJ Day)]
- 14** Francis Scott Key writes the *Star-Spangled Banner* as he waits for the outcome of the British assault on Fort McHenry during the War of 1812 (1814)
- 18** George Washington lays the foundation stone for the U.S. Capitol (1793)
- 24** The first flight using only instruments is completed by U.S. Army pilot James Doolittle (1929)
- 27** The first Gold Star Mothers’ Day takes place (1936)
- 29** Congress votes to create a U.S. Army (1789)

NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY IS SEPTEMBER 20, 2013

On National POW/MIA Recognition Day, VA Butler honors the sacrifices of Veterans captured as prisoners of war. We also remember those who remain unaccounted for and wish their families some small comfort in knowing America has not forgotten them. VA Butler has dedicated staff serving our former POWs. For more information, contact 724-285-2492 or visit www.butler.va.gov/services/Former_Prisoner_of_War_FPOW_Program.asp. ★





SEPTEMBER FLU CLINICS AND HEALTH FAIRS

The single best way to protect against the flu is to get vaccinated each year. VA Butler Healthcare is offering flu vaccination clinics to Veterans at the main campus and other community locations this month. For more information, call 724-285-2223 or visit www.butler.va.gov/calendar.asp.

September 17, 2013 • 7am-12pm
VA Butler Healthcare, Auditorium
325 New Castle Road, Butler, PA 16001

September 19, 2013 • 10am-5pm
Senior Expo, George Junior Republic
233 George Jr. Road, Grove City, PA 16127

September 21, 2013 • 9am-1pm (*flu clinic only*)
VA Butler Healthcare, Primary Care Clinic
325 New Castle Road, Butler, PA 16001

September 24, 2013 • 10am-2pm
American Legion #299
1395 East State Street, Sharon, PA 16146

September 26, 2013 • 10am-2pm
VFW #2145 (Annual Autumn Leaf Festival)
603 Liberty Street, Clarion, PA 16214

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

VETERAN STAND DOWNS THIS FALL

Stand Downs are collaborative events, coordinated between local VAs, other government agencies, and community agencies who serve the homeless. Stand Downs provide services to homeless Veterans such as food, shelter, clothing, health screenings, VA and Social Security benefits counseling, and referrals to a variety of other necessary services, such as housing, employment and substance abuse treatment.

The first Stand Down was organized in 1988 by a group of Vietnam Veterans in San Diego. VA Butler Healthcare participated in its first Stand Down in 2011, and has continued to do so annually since then. This fall, VA Butler Healthcare will participate in the Armstrong County Veterans Stand Down on Saturday, September 14, from 9am-3pm at Ford City Park and the Lawrence County Veterans Stand Down on Saturday, October 19, from 10am-3pm at Cascade Park Pavilion in New Castle. To learn more, call 800.362.8262, ext. 4437 or visit www.butler.va.gov/services/homeless/index.asp. ★



SEPTEMBER IS PAIN AWARENESS MONTH

Pain Awareness Month is a time to raise public awareness about pain and pain management. VA Butler Healthcare is here to help you manage your pain. We offer twice monthly Chronic Pain Groups, and Veterans may join or leave at any time. Talk to your VA health care team or visit www.va.gov/painmanagement/ for more information.

EVENTS

5 September Podcast • Hospice & Palliative Care
Thursday, September 5 • 12pm
butler.va.gov/news/MediaCenter.asp

13 Farmers Market
Friday, September 13 • 10am-2pm
Outside Lawn, Primary Care Entrance

14 Armstrong County Veterans Stand Down
Saturday, September 14 • 9am-3pm
Ford City Park



800.362.8262
724.287.4781

www.butler.va.gov



butler.va.gov



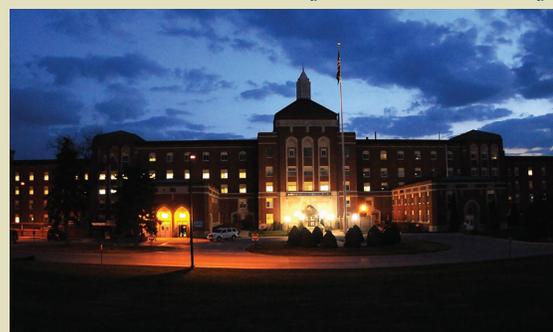
facebook.com/vabutlerpa



twitter.com/vabutlerpa



talkshoe.com/tc/85029



325 new castle road . butler pa 16001

