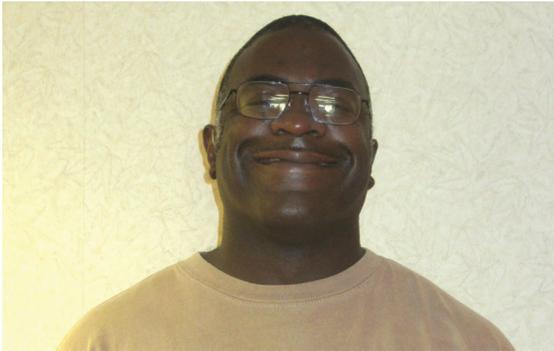


FRONT & CENTER

Providing News to Our Veterans

September 2012



A PLACE TO GO

Darryl Brown served in the U.S. Army as a hawk missile controlman, including a two-year deployment in Germany. After being discharged, he suffered from alcohol and drug addiction and homelessness. In August 2011, Darryl came to stay in VA Butler’s Domiciliary for 30 days, and he hasn’t looked back since!

“I told my brother I needed help; I was tired of living like that. He suggested I come to VA Butler Healthcare. I came here with nothing – just one bag of clothes. After I left, I got my own house, I’m now working in VA Butler’s CWT program, I’m a certified recovery specialist,

and I’m going to school to become a social worker.”

VA Butler’s Domiciliary is a 56-bed residential facility that helps Veterans struggling with homelessness, addiction and behavioral health issues. “The Domiciliary helped get me on my feet – it’s a wonderful program, and the staff really care about Veterans,” said Darryl. “When I left the Domiciliary, I didn’t have to worry about securing housing; I had a place to go.”

Darryl, who now owns his first house, encourages other Veterans to “never give up, and to get into a VA program, like the Domiciliary.” VA Butler offers many programs to help Veterans struggling with addiction and homelessness.

On September 15, VA Butler is partnering with Armstrong County to host a Stand Down. A stand

down offers Veterans and their families a day-long respite from the streets and an opportunity to put their lives back together. Services available include medical checkups, food, job search support, housing assistance, and more. To learn more, call 724.545.9016.

“Stand downs provide a lot of resources to help Veterans get out of their homeless situation,” said Darryl. Darryl has been to stand down events in Pittsburgh, and will be at the upcoming Stand Down in Armstrong to help other Veterans. “That’s why I’m going to school for social work – I want to help others.”

Veterans who are homeless or at-risk for homelessness may contact VA Butler’s Homeless Program Coordinator at 800.362.8262, ext. 2439 or call the National Call Center for Homeless Veterans at 1.877.424.3838. ★

“When I left the Domiciliary, I didn’t have to worry about securing housing; I had a place to go.”

Darryl Brown, U.S. Army Veteran

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY...SEPTEMBER

- 1 The first Labor Day is observed in New York City by the Carpenters and Joiners Union (1882)
- 3 The first professional American football game is played in Latrobe, Pennsylvania (1895) [Let’s Go Steelers!]
- 3 The American flag is carried into battle for the first time by a force under General William Maxwell (1777)
- 6 The last American and Korean prisoners are exchanged in Operation Big Switch, the last official act of the Korean War (1953)
- 11 The “Star Spangled Banner” is sung at the beginning of a baseball game for the first time in Cooperstown, NY (1916)
- 26 The U.S. Army establishes the Military Police Corps (1941)

**Veterans
Crisis Line**



1-800-273-8255
PRESS 1

**SEPT. 9-15 IS NATIONAL
SUICIDE PREVENTION WEEK**

Are you, or someone you know, at risk for suicide? Veterans and their loved ones can call 1-800-273-8255 and Press 1, chat online at www.veteranscrisisline.net, or send a text message to 838255 to receive confidential support 24/7/365.



KEEPING THE PROMISE

National POW/MIA Recognition Day is September 21, 2012

On National POW/MIA Recognition Day, VA Butler honors the sacrifices and remarkable determination 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.

One of the highest priorities of VA Butler is meeting the needs of Former Prisoners of War (FPOWs), extraordinary men and women who have endured captivity, suffered extreme deprivation and sacrificed their own freedom to preserve freedom for all Americans.



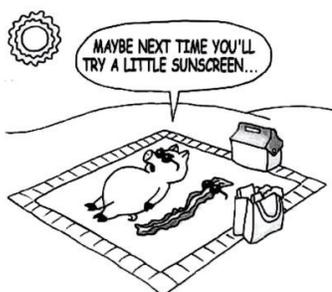
Former POWs receive special priority for health care in all VA hospitals and clinics. They are exempt from

making means test copayments for inpatient and outpatient medical care and medications.

They also are eligible for dental care, eyeglasses, and hearing aids.

Extended care services such as in-home care and nursing home care are also available.

VA Butler has dedicated staff serving our former POWs. For information, contact VA Butler's FPOW Advocate, Karen Gliebe at 724.285.2492. You can also visit www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/benefits/pow/ for more information. ★



SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL SKIN CARE AWARENESS MONTH

It's important to take good care of your skin – the largest organ of the

body. This month (and every month!) take time to learn about protecting your skin from the dangers of the sun, how diet and exercise affect skin, and how taking care of your skin is crucial to your overall health. Talk to your VA health care team about getting routine skin exams!

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

Nearly 11,000 Veterans who are seen at VA Butler are utilizing My HealthVet, VA's online personal health record – yet only 7,000 of Veteran users have completed the In-Person Authentication process; and of those Veteran users only 3,000 of them have Opted In to participate in *Secure Messaging*.

Join us Tuesday September 18, from 7 am-12 pm in the Auditorium for VA Butler Healthcare's second annual My HealthVet Day. VA Butler's My HealthVet Champions will be available to assist Veterans with My HealthVet registrations, help them to complete the In-Person Authentication (IPA)

MY HEALTHVET DAY



process, guide them on the *Secure Messaging* Opt In procedure, answer questions, and more. Registered and IPA'd Veterans can track their health, view labs and appointments, communicate with their doctors online through *Secure Messaging*, and much more.

To learn more about My HealthVet and *Secure Messaging*, plan to join VA Butler on September 18 for My HealthVet Day, or contact VA Butler's My HealthVet Coordinator at 724.285.2595.

EVENTS

- 6 September Podcast • *Secure Messaging*
Thursday, Sept. 6 • 12-12:30 pm
Call in: 724.444.7444 (Call ID: 85029)
- 14 Farmers Market *Locally grown produce*
Friday, Sept. 14 • 10 am-2 pm
VA Butler Primary Care Entrance Lawn
- 15 Armstrong Co. Veteran Stand Down
Saturday, Sept. 15 • 9 am-3 pm
Mechling-Shakley Veterans Center
1413 State Rt. 268, Cowansville, PA 16218
- 18 Flu Clinic Kick-Off/Health Fair
Tuesday Sept. 18 • 7 am-12 pm
VA Butler Healthcare Auditorium



325 new castle road · butler pa 16001

800.362.8262
724.287.4781



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