

## NOT THE EASY WAY OUT

Butler County's Veterans Treatment Court (VTC) celebrated the graduation of five Veterans on August 12. Among them was U.S. Army Veteran Ethan Landis, who after a second DUI arrest came to VA Butler's Domiciliary for help. It was there that he learned of Butler's VTC.

VTCs divert those with non-violent criminal charges, mental health, substance abuse, and homelessness issues from the traditional justice system, helping them access treatment and tools for rehabilitation

and readjustment.

Shortly after starting VTC, Ethan participated in Post-traumatic Stress Disorder and Traumatic Brain Injury programs. He returned to school and completed all of his community service, and other VTC requirements.

"At the beginning of VTC, accountability was the most challenging and the most helpful for me. Having to make sure I got to all our appointments – VA, probation, court, etc. There was a lot we were held accountable for."

VTC allows the Veteran to remain in the community while



undergoing treatment, but a judge regularly checks on the Veteran's progress. If the Veteran fails to meet the requirements of the program — for example, if he or she fails drug screenings or disobeys court orders — the Court imposes sanctions,

which may include community service, fines, jail time, or a transfer out of Veterans Treatment Court back to a traditional criminal court.

Ethan recommends VTC to other Veterans, and offers this advice: "If you're just doing this to try to get a lesser charge, and not to better yourself, you're going to find yourself in jail more often than not. It's definitely not the easy way out. If you're going to do it, do it because you're ready."

Ethan plans to return to school this spring. Currently, he is working, seeing his VA

therapist, and going to Alcoholics Anonymous (AA).

"I really found a home in AA. VTC gave me the time to build my foundation in AA, to where I no longer stayed sober because of the courts, but for myself."

In addition to the local Veterans Treatment Court, VA Butler also has a program that provides direct case services to justice-involved Veterans, Veterans Justice Outreach (VJO). To learn more about VTC and VJO, visit [www.butler.va.gov/services/Veterans\\_Justice\\_Outreach\\_VJO.asp](http://www.butler.va.gov/services/Veterans_Justice_Outreach_VJO.asp).

“It's [Veterans Treatment Court] definitely not the easy way out. If you're going to do it, do it because you're ready.” —Ethan Landis, U.S. Army Veteran

## THIS MONTH IN HISTORY...SEPTEMBER

- 2 President Harry Truman declares V-J Day (Victory over Japan Day) commemorating the formal Japanese surrender to the Allies aboard the USS Missouri [70th Anniversary] (1945)
- 9 The Continental Congress officially names the "United States" of America (replacing the term "United Colonies") (1776)
- 18 George Washington lays the cornerstone to the United States Capitol Building (1793)
- 20 Scientists confirm that DNA holds hereditary data (1952)
- 24 The first flight using only instruments is completed by U.S. Army Pilot James Doolittle (1929)
- 25 Disabled American Veterans (DAV) is founded by disabled Veterans returning from WWI (1920)



## PATRIOT DAY AND NATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE AND REMEMBRANCE

VA Butler Healthcare remembers those that were lost in the attacks on September 11, and thanks all who have served since for stepping up and defending our country. We will never forget.

## NEW LOCATION FOR ARMSTRONG CBOC

We are excited to announce the relocation and enhanced services of the Armstrong County Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC), a partnership between VA Butler Healthcare and Valor Healthcare. Valor Healthcare is a Veteran-led organization that staffs and operates over 30 CBOCs across the country, and has been a partner with VA Butler for more than five years.

The new CBOC is scheduled to open on September 17. Its new address is:

**Armstrong County VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic**  
11 Hilltop Plaza  
Kittanning, PA 16201

The clinic will provide a variety of new or improved services to Veterans in Armstrong County and will offer:

- Added resources and staffing to implement Patient Aligned Care Teams (PACT)
- Added pharmacist, social worker, podiatry services, and expanded telehealth offerings
- Added square feet to clinic space, including waiting, group, and specialty care rooms
- Improved equipment and furnishings
- Added requirements for compliance with life safety and environment of care
- Additional parking spaces
- Numerous shopping and dining amenities within a safe walking distance

Veterans who had a scheduled appointment at the previous location, 313 Ford Street in Ford City, will automatically be rescheduled with a new provider at the new clinic location. If you have questions, please contact Timothy Florian, VA Butler's Community-Based Outpatient Clinic Manager, at 724.287.4781, ext. 4565.

## YOUR ACTIONS COULD SAVE A LIFE

Be a part of "The Power of 1" by showing your support during Suicide Prevention Month this September. Whether it's simply letting a Veteran know you are there to listen, or encouraging those in your social networks to rally behind the Veterans in your area, every little bit counts. One small act can make a difference in the life of a Veteran in crisis.

If you notice warning signs in a Veteran or Service member you know, connect him or her with the Veterans Crisis Line's 24/7/365 resources. Call 1-800-273-8255 and press 1. Chat online at [VeteransCrisisLine.net/chat](http://VeteransCrisisLine.net/chat), or text to 838255.

Visit [VeteransCrisisLine.net/ThePowerOf1](http://VeteransCrisisLine.net/ThePowerOf1) to learn how you can help.

## 5 FLU FAQs

### 1. Why do I need a flu shot every year?

Flu viruses are constantly changing, and different flu viruses circulate and cause illness each year. Flu vaccines are created to protect against the flu viruses that research indicates will be most common each year. This is why everyone needs a flu vaccine annually.

### 2. Can I get the flu from a flu shot?

This is a common misconception. You cannot get the flu from a flu shot because only inactive (dead) flu virus is used to make the flu shot vaccine.

### 3. When is the best time to get a flu shot?

Get a flu shot in the fall as soon as it is available, so you are protected the entire flu season.

### 4. How long does it take before I am protected?

After you get a flu shot, it takes about two weeks for your body to make enough antibodies to protect you against flu.

### 5. Where can I get a flu shot?

Right here at VA Butler Healthcare! You can get the flu shot from your VA doctor, or you can attend one of VA Butler's Fall Flu Clinics.

For more information about this fall's flu clinics, call 724.285.2223 or visit [www.butler.va.gov/calendar.asp](http://www.butler.va.gov/calendar.asp).

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

## EVENTS

### Veterans Behavioral Health Council Meeting

8 Tuesday, September 8 • 10am  
Room 218WS, VA Butler Healthcare

### Veterans Stand Down

10 Saturday, September 19 • 12-6pm  
New Bethlehem VFW  
526 Broad Street, New Bethlehem,  
PA 16242

### Farmers Market

25 Friday, September 25 • 10am-2pm  
Outside Lawn, Primary Care Main  
Entrance



800.362.8262  
724.287.4781

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



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



[facebook.com/vabutlerpa](https://facebook.com/vabutlerpa)



[twitter.com/vabutlerpa](https://twitter.com/vabutlerpa)



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



325 new castle road . butler pa 16001

