



CLEAN, SOBER & POSITIVE

U.S. Air Force Veteran Duane Smith first came to VA Butler Healthcare to learn more about his addiction. He currently resides at VA Butler’s Domiciliary. One of the many helpful aspects on his recovery journey has been recreational therapy.

At VA, recreational therapy serves the Veteran population in cardiac rehabilitation, chronic illness, geriatrics, psychiatrics, spinal cord injuries, general

medical and surgical treatments, as well as drug and alcohol abuse. Thousands of Veterans receive recreational therapy from VA, and recreational facilities and leisure activities have been important elements of Veterans’ health care for more than 150 years—ever since the first federal Veterans facilities were established after the Civil War.

Recreation therapy is an integral part of care at VA Butler’s Domiciliary, and activities by the Recreation Therapy Department have been

some the most helpful for Duane’s overall recovery.

“Recreational therapy provides an emotional and physical outlet for Veterans,” said Duane. “The programs are structured to promote peer interactions as well as reintegration into society in clean, sober, and positive ways. They [recreation therapists] provide Veterans with interesting events both on and off campus, in addition to life-skill training.”

Duane’s thoughts for other Veterans on recreation therapy

at the Domiciliary: “Bring your sunglasses and smiles. Chris and Allie are sure to provide you with endless hours of fun and enlightenment, peppered with laughter and interesting perspectives. Just remember, you’ve still got class when you’re done!”

VA Butler’s Domiciliary is a residential facility on VA Butler’s main campus for eligible Veterans who may be dealing with issues such as homelessness, mental health, substance abuse and unemployment. In

addition to recreation therapy, residents may participate in other services. These include physical and occupational therapy; behavioral, spiritual, psychosocial, addiction and dietary counseling; vocational programs; and various other interventions.

“The facilitators have done a phenomenal job making sure Veterans get all the information and one-on-one counseling they can to assist in recovery efforts. From the Director down, the majority of staff are single-minded in their vision—to see a Veteran succeed.”

“From the Director down, the majority of staff are single-minded in their vision—to see a Veteran succeed.” — Duane Smith, U.S. Air Force Veteran

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY...JULY

- 2 Army Air Corps is established (1926)
- 4 The first 4th of July celebration is held west of the Mississippi River when Lewis and Clark fire the expedition cannon and order an extra ration of whiskey for the men (1804)
- 6 The Air Force Cross is created (1960)
- 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)
- 27 The Korean War ends with the signing of an armistice by U.S. and North Korean delegates at Panmunjom, Korea (1953)



JULY 9-15 IS NATIONAL THERAPEUTIC RECREATION WEEK

This week is dedicated to enhancing awareness of therapeutic recreation programs and to expanding recreation and leisure opportunities for individuals with disabilities. Learn more about Recreation Therapy at VA: www.prosthetics.va.gov/rectherapy/





HEALTH CARE CENTER MOVE - SEPTEMBER 5, 2017

VA Butler's new Health Care Center (HCC) will be open for Veterans on September 5, 2017. The new address for the HCC is: 353 North Duffy Road, Butler, PA 16001. We look forward to serving you in our brand new building in September. Keep up-to-date: www.butler.va.gov/news/building.asp.

BE THERE

Supporting the Veteran or Servicemember in your life who's going through a difficult time doesn't have to be complicated. We all can play a role in preventing suicide.

Helping someone feel included and supported can make a big difference during a challenging time. Small acts — calling an old friend, checking in on a neighbor, or inviting a colleague on a walk — all are thoughtful ways to show someone you care.

Visit VeteransCrisisLine.net to learn more about how you can "Be There" for the Veterans and Service members in your life.

MILLION VETERAN PROGRAM

The Million Veteran Program (MVP), VA's initiative to

advance genomic research is coming to VA Butler Healthcare

in July! (And, later this fall to the new HCC.) Veterans, you can learn about and volunteer to join the program.

MVP is a national, voluntary research program funded entirely by the Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Research & Development. The goal of MVP is to partner with Veterans receiving their care in the VA Healthcare System to study how genes affect health. MVP is the world's largest genomic database tied to a health care system.

Veterans can call 1.866.441.6075 or visit www.research.va.gov/mvp, to learn more about MVP.



*If you notice **warning signs** in yourself or a Veteran loved one, call the **Veterans Crisis Line** at 1.800.273.8255 and press 1, chat online at VeteransCrisisLine.net/chat, or text 838255 to get confidential support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.*

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

EVENTS

- 12 **Town Hall Meeting**
Wednesday, July 12 • 5pm
VA Butler Auditorium
- 25 **Million Veteran Program (MVP) Visit**
Tuesday, July 25 • 8:30am-2:30pm
VA Butler Healthcare
- 28 **Farmers Market and Multicultural Day Event**
Friday, July 28 • 10am-2pm
Outside Lawn, Primary Care Main Entrance



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