

VA MISSION ACT

Your Care is Our Mission

The MISSION Act strengthens VA’s ability to deliver trusted, easy to access, high quality care at VA facilities virtually through telehealth, and in your community. That means you get the care and services you need, where and when you need them.

Beginning June 6, 2019, under the MISSION Act, you’ll have more ways to access health care. This includes within VA’s network and through approved non-VA medical providers in your community, called “community care providers.”

Depending on your situation—for example, if a certain type of health service isn’t provided by VA—you may be able to go to a non-VA provider, using your VA coverage.

Learn more: <https://missionact.va.gov/>.

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY...JUNE

- 6** More than 160,000 Allied troops land along the French coastline to fight Nazi Germany on the beaches of Normandy, France (D-Day) [75th anniversary] (1944)
- 14** The U.S. Army is established (1775)
- 14** John Adams introduces a resolution before Congress mandating a United States flag [This anniversary is celebrated each year in the U.S. as Flag Day] (1777)
- 22** The GI Bill is signed into law (1944)
- 25** The Korean War begins (1950)
- 27** National HIV Testing Day is first observed to support and promote the importance of HIV testing (1995)

PTSD TREATMENT WORKS

Why wait?

www.ptsd.va.gov

National Center for PTSD VA U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

JUNE IS PTSD AWARENESS MONTH

PTSD treatment works. During PTSD Awareness Month, learn about and compare effective treatment options with VA’s PTSD Treatment Decision Aid: www.ptsd.va.gov/apps/Decisionaid/.

ANNIE APP NOW AVAILABLE AT THE BUTLER VA



Annie is a VA Short Message Service (SMS) text messaging capability that promotes self-care for Veterans enrolled in VA health care, and is now available to Veterans at the Butler VA. When your provider or a member of your VA health care team signs you up for Annie for a health issue, you will receive automated messages that prompt you to track your own health. You are asked to reply to messages so that Annie can let you know how you are doing.

For more information on how to use Annie, visit the VA App Store at <https://mobile.va.gov/app/annie-app-veterans>.

USE SOCIAL MEDIA TO HELP PREVENT VETERAN SUICIDE

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) recently published the “Social Media Safety Toolkit for Veterans, Their Families, and Friends.” This toolkit equips everyone with the knowledge needed to respond to social media posts that indicate a Veteran may be having thoughts of suicide. We encourage you to share the Social Media Safety Toolkit within your networks. It is available for download from www.mentalhealth.va.gov/suicide_prevention/docs/OMH-074-Suicide-Prevention-Social-Media-Toolkit-1-8_508.pdf.

VOLUNTEER AMBASSADOR

U.S. Army and Vietnam Veteran Curtis “Dave” Rearic has volunteered at the Butler VA Health Care System for over a year now, accumulating 182 hours of service. He chooses to volunteer because of the good service he received from VA.

“They [the VA] helped me out considerably, and I decided I wanted to give a little back to my fellow Veterans,” said Dave.

At the urging of his wife, Barb, he decided to check out the VA and has been coming here for care for three years, one of those years as a volunteer. “I have PTSD and talking with other Veterans really helps me. Coming here was the best thing I ever did. It has changed my life for the better.”

Dave and Barb are Volunteer Ambassadors at the Abie Abraham VA Health Care Clinic.

As a Volunteer Ambassador, what Dave likes most is the interaction with all of the people, especially speaking with the World War II Veterans. And, that he and his wife, Barb, get to volunteer together.

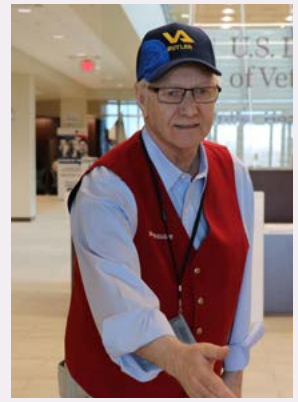
“We have a lot of the same interests and we like to do things together. So, this is great that we can volunteer together,” Dave shared.

In his role as a Volunteer Ambassador, Dave discovered he and another Vietnam Veteran were both on the same boat heading over to Vietnam. The other Veteran reminded him of some things that occurred that he had completely forgotten!

“This [volunteering] is very gratifying to me,” he concludes. “I really enjoy the people.”

The Voluntary Services program at the Butler VA Health Center has a roster of over 200 volunteers who provide over 35,000 hours of service annually. Volunteers greet Veterans and guests to the facility, transport Veterans to and from their VA appointments, support the recreational program, assist with special events, offer companionship to those who need a friend, and so much more.

For more information about volunteering at the Butler VA, please contact Paula McCarl, Voluntary Services Coordinator, at 878-271-6957 or Andy Pepe, Voluntary Services Specialist, at 878-271-6960. You also can visit www.butler.va.gov/giving/index.asp.



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

EVENTS

Veterans Claims Clinic

7 Wednesday, June 7 • 10am-2pm
Cranberry Twp. VA Clinic
(Info call 724-742-3500)

Town Hall Meeting

12 Wednesday, June 12 • 5pm
Michael A. Marzano (Mercer County)
VA Clinic

PTSD Awareness Day Information Table

27 Thursday, June 27 • 9am-4pm
HCC Main Lobby



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration
Butler VA Health Care System



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