

GUITARS FOR VETS GRADUATE

U.S. Air Force Veteran John Warsing is a resident at the Butler VA's Sergeant Joseph George Kusick Community Living Center (CLC), and the most recent graduate of the Guitars for Vets program.

John came to the Butler VA's CLC this past fall (2018) and soon after learned about the local Butler chapter of Guitars for Vets hosted at the Abie Abraham VA Clinic.

"I've always wanted to play the guitar, I just never had the opportunity, or never got around to it...until I came to the VA and learned about this program," John shared.

Guitars for Vets (G4V) is a guitar instruction program aimed at providing Veterans struggling with physical injuries, PTSD and other emotional distress a unique supportive program. G4V pursues its mission to share the healing power of music by providing free guitar instruction, a new acoustic guitar, and a guitar accessory kit in a structured program run by volunteers, primarily through the Department of Veterans Affairs facilities and community-based medical centers.

"I really enjoyed the program. I don't play like Jimmy Hendrix, but I learned a lot of the basics about playing a guitar. It got me started to where, as long as I practice, I should be able to continue playing...which is what I want to do."

The weekly guitar lessons (10 weeks total) provided by volunteers are individualized and designed to help students



learn at their own pace.

"I enjoyed the whole experience of the program. The instructor was super. He really worked with you and it made the experience that much better!" said John.

John absolutely recommends this program to other Veterans. He didn't have any experience prior to starting the program, but hopes to continue with lessons and playing.

To date, G4V has administered over 30,000 guitar lessons and distributed more than 3,000 guitars to Veterans. Interested in learning more? Visit www.guitarsforvets.org, talk to your health care provider at the Butler VA, or call the Butler VA's Patient-Centered Care Coordinator at (878) 271-6484.

“I've always wanted to play the guitar, I just never had the opportunity, or never got around to it... until I came to the VA and learned about this program.” -John Warsing, U.S. Air Force Veteran

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY...MAY

- 7 The American Medical Association (AMA) is founded (1847)
- 8 V-E day is celebrated in America and Britain (1945)
- 15 The first Peace Officers Memorial Day is recognized to pay tribute to the law enforcement officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our country and to voice appreciation for all those who currently serve on the front lines of the battle against crime (1963)
- 21 The American Red Cross is founded (1881)
- 23 The first Military Spouse Day is celebrated as President Ronald Reagan recognizes the profound importance of spouse commitment to the readiness and well-being of military members (1984)

MEMORIAL DAY

This Memorial Day, we remember the brave men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice to protect our country. There are many simple ways to show your support, whether you wear a red poppy or fly the American flag at half-staff—and don't forget to pause at 3 p.m. local time to take a minute to silently reflect during the National Moment of Remembrance.



Veterans:

If you have been bitten by a tick, get a same day, virtual appointment.

Call your local medical center and press #3.

Monday-Friday
8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.



VA

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration
VA Healthcare - VISN 4

Tick Season is Here!



SIGN UP FOR MONTHLY BUTLER VA UPDATES!

DO YOU KNOW? The Butler VA sends out monthly updates so that Veterans, their family members, and Veteran advocates can keep up to date with all the information and events going on?

How to sign up: Enter your email on our homepage (www.butler.va.gov) on the pop-up, or on the right-hand corner where it says "subscribe." It's that easy!

WARRIOR TO SOUL MATE - COMING SOON TO THE BUTLER VA!

Warrior to Soul Mate (W2SM) is a workshop for Veterans and their partners to learn communication skills for renewing and reconnecting with one another. The Butler VA will begin offering W2SM at its main facility this summer (Our first offering will be a two-day workshop on Thursday August 28 and Friday 29). Veterans and their partners who have been in a committed relationship for at least three months are welcome, regardless of marital status or sexual identity.

Contact our Chaplain Service (724-421-4665) or Intimate Partner Violence Assistance Program-Coordinator (878-271-6124) for more information on the Warrior to Soul Mate program.

NATIONAL COMPLIANCE AND ETHICS WEEK: APRIL 29-MAY 3, 2019

"Service with Integrity"

The Butler VA is joining VA nationwide this week to highlight the importance of organizational integrity, business compliance, and ethics quality in providing the best service and care to our nation's Veterans. This year's theme is "Service with Integrity." At the Butler VA, we strive every day to put integrity into action. Do you have an ethics concern but aren't sure who to contact? Your compliance or health care ethics team can help:

- Compliance and Business Integrity Officer: Heather Weiland, 878-271-6523
- IntegratedEthics® Point of Contact: Tina Hess, 878-271-6485

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

EVENTS

Coffee with the Quad

15 Wednesday, May 15 • 9am
Abie Abraham VA Clinic (HCC), Main Lobby

VA2K Walk & Roll

15 Wednesday, May 15 • 11am-3pm
Abie Abraham VA Clinic (HCC), Outside

Mental Health Summit

17 Friday, May 17 • 8:30am-4pm
Abie Abraham VA Clinic (HCC), Auditorium

Music is Medicine

22 Wednesday, May 22 • 11:30am-12:30pm
Abie Abraham VA Clinic (HCC),
2nd Floor Lobby



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



353 north duffy road . butler pa 16001

800.362.8262
724.287.4781

www.butler.va.gov



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