

GIVING BACK BY VOLUNTEERING

U.S. Marine Corps Veteran William Heilman joined the Marines in 1967. After completing boot camp in South Carolina, he went to Florida for training as an avionics electrician and a test equipment calibration repairman. He was stationed in California for three years before he was sent to Okinawa, Japan.

While in Okinawa, William was injured in a serious accident and hospitalized for nine months. After being medically discharged in 1973, he worked for U.S. Customs in Armstrong County and

then for the U.S. Postal Service, which he retired from in 2009 after 31 years. He states, "I have been lucky. I have always worked for the government – while in the military and then as a civilian."

Being in the hospital for an extended period, William remembers the volunteers that visited him and said he really appreciated them. "It's really hard when you are in the hospital for such a long time. It is nice to have someone to talk to."

William has been a volunteer for the Armstrong County Community-Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) since 2010. He and his wife volunteer their time to drive Veterans to medical appointments. "It feels really good to be able to give back to Veterans as a volunteer." He lives on a 178 acre farm so that keeps him busy, but "volunteering is definitely not a waste of my time." He is proud to say, "I have never turned down a Veteran that needs a ride. We get them

to their appointments even in the winter; we are extra careful during bad weather." William is the only volunteer driver currently at the Armstrong CBOC. He occasionally drives for Butler and Clarion counties also.

William encourages other Veterans to volunteer at VA Butler. "The satisfaction of helping my fellow Veterans is reason enough, but I truly appreciate the camaraderie and the conversations with the Veterans while I am driving them to their



appointments. It is so nice to share stories with those that understand."

If you are interested in volunteering, please call our Volunteer Coordinator at 724.287.4781 ext. 2575.

“It feels really good to be able to give back to Veterans as a volunteer.” – William Heilman, U.S. Marine Corps Veteran

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY...SEPTEMBER

- 1 World War II begins (1939)
- 3 The Treaty of Paris is signed, formally ending the American Revolutionary War (1783)
- 11 The first Patriot Day, observed as the National Day of Service and Remembrance in memory of those killed in the September 11, 2001 attacks, is held (2002)
- 14 Francis Scott Key writes the words to the "Star Spangled Banner" as he waits for the outcome of the British assault on Fort McHenry during the War of 1812 (1814)
- 15 Tanks are first used in combat, during the Allied offensive at the Battle of Somme in World War I (1916)
- 18 The U.S. Air Force is established (1947)



NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY IS SEPTEMBER 16, 2016

One of the highest priorities of VA Butler is meeting the needs of Former Prisoners of War (FPOWs). Former POWs receive special priority for health care in all VA hospitals and clinics. For more information, contact VA Butler's FPOW Advocate at 724.285.2492 or visit www.butler.va.gov/services/Former_Prisoner_of_War_FPOW_Program.asp.





SEPTEMBER FLU CLINICS

The single best way to protect against the flu is to get vaccinated each year. VA Butler Healthcare is offering flu vaccination clinics to Veterans at the main campus and other community locations this month. Veterans also may receive their flu shot from their primary care provider.

Monday, September 19, 2016 • 7:30am-12pm
VA Butler Healthcare, Bldg 1, Auditorium
325 New Castle Road, Butler, PA 16001

Friday, September 23, 2016 • 10:30am-1pm
Senator Brooks Senior Expo
100 Hadley Road Greenville, PA 16125

Saturday, September 24, 2016 • 11am-3pm
Clarion County VA Outpatient Clinic
56 Clarion Plaza, Suite 115,
Monroe Township, PA 16214
Open House event with Clarion Hospital to meet new clinic staff

Monday, September 26, 2016 • 10am-2pm
VFW 2145 (Annual Autumn Leaf Festival)
603 Liberty Street, Clarion, PA 16214

Wednesday, September 28, 2016 • 10am-2pm
Ford City VFW 4843
2125 Bailey Ave, Ford City, PA 16226

Friday, September 30, 2016 • 5pm-7pm
VA Butler Healthcare, Primary Care Clinic
325 New Castle Road, Butler, PA 16001
During Butler County Stand Down

BE THERE FOR VETERANS AND SERVICEMEMBERS

Not eligible for VA dental care? The Community Health Clinic of Butler County may be able to help! If you meet the eligibility requirements, and income guidelines, you may qualify for free dental care.

Eligibility requirements:

- Between the ages of 19-64
- A Butler County resident
- No private or government insurance
- Not eligible for dental care through VA
(Application Approval Required)

Learn more by calling 724.841.0980, ext. 117, or visiting www.butlerhealthclinic.org.

Eligibility for VA dental benefits is based on specific guidelines and differs significantly from eligibility requirements for medical care. To learn more about VA dental care, eligibility status and enrollment, call 724.477.5011.

BE THERE FOR VETERANS AND SERVICEMEMBERS

We all can play a role in preventing suicide and it doesn't require a grand gesture or complicated task. During Suicide Prevention Month this September, spread the word that preventing suicide starts with this simple act: Be There.

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

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 24/7/365. Visit VeteransCrisisLine.net/BeThere to learn more.

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

EVENTS

Farmers Market
23 Friday, September 23 • 10am-2pm
Outside Lawn, Primary Care Entrance
VA Butler Healthcare Auditorium

Butler County Stand Down
30 Friday, September 30 • 12pm-4pm
VA Butler Healthcare
Questions? Call 724-996-8576

Stand Down & Veteran's Appreciation Day
30 Friday, September 30 • 4pm-7pm
(If needed, event end time may go later than 7pm)
Clarion Mall Parking Lot
22631 PA-68, Clarion, PA
Questions? Call 724-285-2210



800.362.8262
724.287.4781

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