

April 2010



**DAV HOSPITAL SERVICE COORDINATOR/
TRANSPORTATION NETWORK PROGRAM**

The DAV Hospital Service Coordinator/Transportation Network Program (HSC/TN) celebrates 23 successful years. The HSC/TN was established in 1987 and has seen phenomenal growth in all areas of operation. It has become an indispensable program to thousands of veterans needing transportation for their much needed care at VA medical facilities.

Developed in cooperation with the VA, the DAV TN was intended to operate as a fully integrated service within each VA medical facility. In accomplishing this, full-time DAV Hospital Service Coordinators were placed at each of the VA's 172 hospitals. Assisting the Hospital Service Coordinators is a corps of thousands of DAV VAVS volunteers.

In January 1987, there were three such programs. By the end of that year, there were 109. The number of veterans transported and the number of miles driven have increased steadily since then. Many of these veterans rode in vans the DAV donated to VA medical facilities for use in the DAV TN. From 1987 to 2009, DAV Departments and Chapters, together with the National Organization, have donated 2,260 vans to VA medical facilities nationwide at a cost of \$46,610,654. The table below clearly shows the expansion of service within this program.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Veterans Transported</i>	<i>Volunteer Hours</i>	<i>Miles Driven</i>
1987	16,695	53,135	927,088
1988	101,991	279,930	5,272,635
1989	185,880	465,832	9,309,077
1990	269,487	644,757	12,798,012
1991	330,242	761,656	14,690,692
1992	375,361	823,742	16,686,285
1993	420,134	886,866	17,509,834
1994	421,302	904,486	16,634,661
1995	477,554	1,110,241	17,795,156

1996	518,889	1,011,442	19,368,975
1997	610,194	1,154,457	21,804,578
1998	654,256	1,245,378	22,660,146
1999	742,486	1,382,160	25,677,067
2000	781,253	1,397,558	26,870,281
2001	776,898	1,512,040	27,436,417
2002	767,292	1,607,234	27,700,443
2003	735,008	1,470,430	27,420,350
2004	738,696	1,523,460	26,952,756
2005	754,037	1,556,871	28,115,570
2006	772,755	1,564,666	27,774,391
2007	736,081	1,557,303	27,255,057
2008	795,688	1,557,611	27,540,549
2009	727,708	1,603,369	27,667,515
TOTALS	12,709,887	26,074,624	475,867,535

CELEBRITY ENTERTAINMENT PROGRAM

Major League Baseball Umpire Visits VA Medical Centers

Major League Baseball Umpire Jerry Layne visited the following VA medical centers in April: Washington, D.C.; Bronx, New York; Cleveland, Ohio; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (Aspinwall and Oakland Divisions), West Palm Beach, Tampa and Bay Pines, Florida.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AT STATE VETERANS HOMES

Precursor organizations to VA have provided care for older veterans since colonial times. The first domiciliary and medical facility for America's veterans was authorized in 1811. In 1865, President Lincoln signed legislation creating what later became known as the National Homes for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers. These homes provided domiciliary and hospital care for large numbers of indigent and disabled veterans, although initially only for those who served in the Union Army. Because of this restriction, a few states established state operated veterans homes. By 1888, California, Illinois, Iowa, Massachusetts, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Vermont, Minnesota, Nebraska, Ohio, and Wisconsin had established state veterans homes. The first Federal support of these state homes was authorized in 1888 – a payment of \$100 per year for each veteran domiciled in a state home.

For the first half of the 20th century, VA provided long term care for veterans primarily in its own domiciliaries and psychiatric facilities, as well as through partnerships with states having state veterans homes. Some VA patients were also referred to community residential facilities. In 1963, VA's nursing home program began. Throughout the next decade there was a steady expansion of VA and State nursing homes, as well as growing use of contracts with community nursing homes to provide long term care for veterans.

While this program dates back to the post-Civil War era, it has grown dramatically over the years, the state home program substantially augments VHA's capacity to provide a continuous residence for veterans in need of long term care, especially for veterans in rural areas.

On November 23, 2001, the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) established how VA Voluntary Service (VAVS) would recognize volunteers for their service to veterans receiving care in State Veterans Homes. We encourage all VAVS Chairman and Representatives to consider setting up a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that must first be established between your local State Veterans Home and the VA facility of jurisdiction to accomplish this recognition. These guidelines are outlined in the attached VHA Handbook 1620.3, VAVS Recognition for State Veterans Home Volunteers. To locate the closest State Veterans Home paste the National Association of State Veterans Homes' link in your browser: http://www.nasvh.org/dir_statehomes/statedir.cfm, or contact them at National Association of State Veterans Homes, 5211 Auth Road, Suitland, MD 20746; Phone: 301-899-7908, Fax: 301-899-8186, or Email: info@nasvh.org.

VAVS State Veterans Home Participation Listing

VISN 01

Connecticut HCS -Newington	Charles Randall	Charles.Randall@med.va.gov
Connecticut HCS – West Haven	Charles Randall	Charles.Randall@med.va.gov
Manchester VA Medical Center	Debra Krinsky	Debra.Krinsky2@med.va.gov
<i>VISN 02</i>		
VA Western New York HCS - Buffalo	Mark Francis	Mark.Francis@med.va.gov
<i>VISN 03</i>		
VA Hudson Valley HCS - Montrose FDR Campus	Jerome Vaughan	Jerome.Vaughan@med.va.gov
<i>VISN 04</i>		
Wilkes-Barre VA Medical Center	Kim Hoge	Kim Hoge2@med.va.gov
<i>VISN 06</i>		
Salisbury - W.G. (Bill) Hefner VAMC	Nancy Brown-Perry	nancy.brown-perry@med.va.gov
<i>VISN 07</i>		
Dublin - Carl Vinson VAMC	Al Williams	Alfred.Williams@med.va.gov
Augusta VA Medical Center	Anne Spensley-Arnold	Anne.Arnold@med.va.gov
<i>VISN 08</i>		
N. Florida/S Georgia Veterans HCS - Lake City	Ron Joyner	Ron.Joyner@mail.va.gov
<i>VISN 09</i>		
Lexington VA Medical Center	Greg Anderson	Greg.Anderson@Lexington.va.gov
<i>VISN 11</i>		
Indianapolis- Richard L.	Michael L. Wright	Michael.Wright2@med.va.gov

Roudebush VAMC		
<i>VISN 15</i>		
Columbia - Harry S. Truman Memorial VAMC	Pamela Isaacson	Pamela.Isaacson@med.va.gov
<i>VISN 16</i>		
New Orleans VA Medical Center	Deborah J. Gottardi	Deborah.Gottardi@med.va.gov
<i>VISN 17</i>		
Central Texas HCS - Temple - Olin E. Teague	Sherry M. Hughes	Sherry.Hughes@med.va.gov
North Texas HCS - Dallas	Steve Stous	StephenW.Stous@med.va.gov
Central Texas HCS - Waco	Sherry M. Hughes	Sherry.Hughes@med.va.gov
<i>VISN 18</i>		
Phoenix - Carl T. Hayden VAMC	Michael D. Achey	Michael.Achey@med.va.gov
<i>VISN 19</i>		
VA Salt Lake City HCS	Belinda Karabatsos	Belinda.Karabatsos@med.va.gov
<i>VISN 22</i>		
VA Southern Nevada HCS - Las Vegas	Marty Martinez	Moase.Martinez@med.va.gov
VA San Diego HCS	Lorelie Winn	Lorelei.Winn@med.va.gov
<i>VISN 23</i>		
Iowa City VA Medical Center	Gary Strank	Gary.Strank@med.va.gov
VACIHS - Des Moines	Candace K. Davis	Candace.Davis@med.va.gov

24th ANNUAL NATIONAL DISABLED VETERANS WINTER SPORTS CLINIC

We want to thank the sponsors of the 2010 National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic for their generous support. A special note of thanks to the DAV California Rehabilitation Foundation, Inc., North Carolina DAV & DAV Auxiliary, DAV Auxiliary, DAV Department of Colorado, DAV Department of Florida, DAV Department of Indiana, DAV Department of Maryland, DAV Department of New Jersey, DAV Department of Virginia, DAV State Commanders and Adjutants Association and DAV Chapter 1, Portland, Oregon.

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DAV Freedom Award

In 1992 we instituted the DAV Freedom Award at the National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic. This award is given to the veteran whose outstanding courage and achievement is

an example to all disabled veteran athletes. The award recognizes the veteran who excels while taking a giant step forward in their rehabilitation process. This is the veteran who proves to the world that physical disability does not bar the doors to freedom.

The award's inscription reads: "Your accomplishments during the National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic have proved to the world that physical disability does not bar the doors to freedom. We salute your desire to excel so that others may follow." Every year, one participant is chosen for The Disabled American Veterans Freedom Award for Outstanding Courage and Achievement.

The 2010 DAV Freedom Award is presented to a soldier whose journey from a mortar attack in Iraq to the mountain of Snowmass encompasses the horrors of traumatic brain injury and the hope of recovery from devastating injury. Six weeks after 9/11, as our nation prepared its answer to the horrific terrorist attacks a young man from Tampa Bay, Florida skipped high school on his 18th birthday to join in the Army.

This young man, who was born the son of a Coast Guard veteran at McDill Air Force Base in Tampa, Florida, grew up with a commitment to his country at the highest level. He enlisted and became an infantryman in the famed 101st Airborne out of Ft. Campbell, Kentucky. The young soldier thrived as a "Screaming Eagle" and rose to the rank of sergeant. Like hundreds of thousands of brave men and women in uniform, the young Sergeant was sent to Iraq to help liberate that country and bring democracy to those who had only known tyranny. On March 14, 2006, the sergeant was helping unload a supply truck in southwest Baghdad when a mortar shell came crashing down and exploded only a few feet away. Of the 17 soldiers wounded in the attack, he bore the brunt of the blast. Shrapnel tore through his helmet and cut into his brain.

Teetering on the brink of death, the soldier was taken first to the Air Force Theater Hospital at Balad Air Base, Iraq, and survived a harrowing journey out of the combat zone to Landstuhl, Germany. Defying the odds stacked against him, he made it to Bethesda Naval Hospital.

With his loving and dedicated mother by his side and his young son as an inspiration, the soldier survived the critical phase of his injury only to be confronted by the seemingly impossible prospect of recovery.

With shrapnel still lodged in his brain, the affects of his traumatic brain injury included memory loss, seizures, partial paralysis and depression. Along with these injuries came the loss of identity as a soldier, loss of mobility and independence, and – as a final blow – the end of his marriage.

The black cloud of helplessness was only made worse by his self-medication with alcohol and unwillingness to dedicate himself to therapy and recovery. He'd fallen into an unfortunate cycle of self destruction and recovery-defying behavior that was nearly as destructive as the wounds he'd received in combat.

His mother watched helplessly as her son slid further and further into despondency. Her best efforts to steer him toward a path of recovery fell short. She then heard about an event called the National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic from her good friend and fellow mother of a TBI patient Cheryl Lynch. Cheryl knew quite a bit about the “miracles on the mountainside” as the mother of Clinic veteran and disabled soldier Chris Lynch.

It took three years for this pained mother to convince her son to come to the Clinic, only to be met with fierce and determined resistance. Finally, last fall, the Sergeant reluctantly agreed to participate. He had embraced sobriety and agreed to start setting goals and taking small steps toward recovery.

The 2010 DAV Freedom Award was presented to Retired Army Sgt. John Barnes, a soldier whose energy, enthusiasm and spirit have been inspirational to coaches, volunteers and – most importantly – fellow participants.

Clinic Statistics

Veteran Participants:

Total veterans: 353	New veterans: 122	New OIF veterans: 26
Male veterans: 320	Women veterans: 33	
Youngest participant: 21	Oldest participant: 87	

Branch of Service:

Army: 172	Air Force: 63	
Navy: 68	Marines: 50	Coast Guard: 6


Periods of War:

World War II: 6	Gulf War: 31
Korean War: 7	Operation Iraqi Freedom: 46
Vietnam War: 78	Operation Enduring Freedom: 26

Locations:

State Represented: 44	VA Medical Centers represented: 83
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Please do not hesitate to contact me if you should have any questions about the information in this bulletin.



MICHAEL J. WALSH
National Director of Voluntary Services

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Attachment