

VET Quarterly

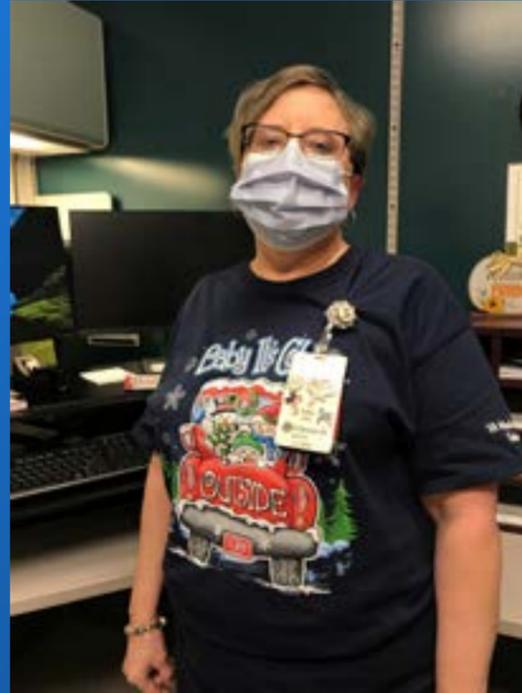
Salem VA HCS
With Clinics in... Danville | Lynchburg | Staunton | Tazewell | Wytheville

VOL 1 ISSUE 3 | WINTER 2020



Vietnam Veteran shares his story, offers advice for Vets

Follow us on
Facebook and
Twitter



12 Breast cancer about more than simply wearing pink.

ON THE COVER

Vietnam Veteran John Barbazon Sr. describes how he was put in a body bag after being shot multiple times in Vietnam, and the importance of Veterans finding someone to talk to, and a hobby that gives them something to do.



13 The Moderna COVID-19 vaccine has arrived.



14 Briefs & Awards - Catch up on what's happened at Salem and the CBOCs over the last three months.



23 VA in the News - links to stories of interest from throughout the VA

2020

A testament to dedication, resilience, compassion



REBECCASTACKHOUSE
 Director, Salem VA HCS
 CTRS, FACHE

To all the men and women of the Salem Health Care System, our Community Based Out-patient Clinics, and to the Veterans we serve, let me wish you all Happy New Year.

The New Year marks the end of a tumultuous 2020 of unprecedented change. From physical distancing to mask wearing, from COVID-19 screenings to plexiglass separators between seats in the hospital waiting rooms. Through all of the changes to our standard operating procedure, you've performed with tremendous dedication and compassion.

With the advent of vaccines upon us, it's easy to think we will soon slip back into our old ways of operating, but that would be premature. Estimates by some of the nation's leading experts say that masking and social distancing will continue well into 2021 - perhaps into the final quarter of the year. But those estimates depend upon vaccinations and maintaining the protective measures we've been working with for the last eight months.

Until then, we are working to bring things back toward normal as best we can. The plexiglass dividers have allowed us to introduce more seats in waiting rooms while protecting Veterans. We've begun to ramp up appointments and increased the number of face-to-face visits by our providers.

But the pandemic has taught us a lot about ourselves as well. It has shown us that we are resilient, and capable of adapting to challenges. Our Veterans, of course, have been adapting to challenges since they raised their hands to defend the Constitution of the United States, and their continued service toward their fellow Veterans and Americans has been inspirational for those of us who work here.

During 2020 we've adapted to new procedures that will become a part of our culture going forward. Video and phone consultations have, at one point in 2020 topped a growth rate of more than 2,000 percent over the previous year. The use of these processes will not go back to pre-COVID-19 use rates as medical staff and Veterans come to appreciate how useful and convenient these services are. Especially for Veterans who are geographically separated from the hospital or CBOC, the growth of telehealth has been a revelation.

Over the next few weeks and months, we are hopeful that we will receive additional COVID-19 Vaccination doses which will allow us to vaccinate more Veterans. As we receive future vaccine doses, more information will become available regarding the vaccine and how to schedule an appointment to be vaccinated. I urge you all to look out for these messages and when available, be vaccinated to help us take one more step toward normalcy.

ROLL CALL

- 1** Dr. Erik Storm, a board certified Radiologist engages students as part of training with Point of Care Ultrasound (POCUS). In Fiscal 2020 more than 200 people attended POCUS training including Graduate Medical Education and Associated Health trainees, as well as Salem VAMC staff.
- 2** In November the Outpatient Specialty Clinic Unit Based Council provided 'Blessing Bags' to front-line staff in the ER, West Gate, Employee Health, 2-2 COVID Unit, and COVID-HCI Unit on the first floor. Bags were distributed to nursing, housekeeping, providers, and HAS staff in front-line areas.
- 3** Bob Cox, DAV State Adjutant (left) and David Cuff, DAV Volunteer (right) present Salem VA HCS Executive Director Rebecca Stackhouse with 500 face-masks Oct. 7. The masks were donated by the Ford Motor Company, who distributed them to DAVs across the country.
- 4** The Roanoke Elks Lodge #197 donated \$2,000 for Homeless Veterans who are newly housed, as part of the Nov. 9 16th Annual Stand Down event at the Salem Civic Center. The event provided items and assistance to homeless and at-risk Veterans.
- 5** Nike initiated a campaign with the VA to recognize employees who served with Disaster Emergency Medical Personnel System (DEMPS), by providing a pair of Nike Zoom Pulse nursing shoes. Rosemary Saul (left) and Robin Davis pick up their shoes in the canteen retail store in early November.
- 6** The Salem VAMC joined forces with Carilion Clinic, LewisGale Regional Health System, and the Roanoke and Alleghany Health Districts Oct. 24 for a free community flu vaccine clinic. Working the event for Salem VAMC was Tiffany Epperly, LPN (left), and Heather Bison, LPN, right.



To submit a photo, story, or story idea, please contact Rosaire Bushey, Public Affairs Officer at:
 ROSAIRE.BUSHEY@VA.GOV 540-982-2463 EXT. 1400

ON THE COVER

Vietnam Vet finds calm in wood, urges others to talk, find a hobby

The U.S. Government sent John Barbazon's next of kin two separate telegraphs in 1966. The first regretted to inform them that their son had been killed in action. The second said he was improving.

A member of the 101st Airborne Recon unit, Barbazon, who now sports a 'Sr.' after his name, was part of a squad that spent most of their time on the move, up and down mountains, and rarely in the company of other units.

"We just got orders and kept going from one place to another," he said sitting behind a workbench in a shop at the back of his four-acre property. In front of him there is a raised rotating table that holds an intricate, under-construction dome clock that stands more than three feet high. Even sitting here Barbazon isn't entirely still – he continues to move from one place to the next as he recalls his experience in Vietnam.

A chess set created by John Barbazon Sr., sits in his home. Barbazon uses a variety of techniques to create his art, including the scroll saw.

Story/photos by Rosaire Bushey
Salem VAHCS Public Affairs



VIDEO:
Click image
to open
video in new
window



"We were ordered to go back, which we didn't like to do, when we were attacked."
Getting hit seven times, Barbazon believes he was the only one of his company to survive.

"I got shot and I was lying on the ground, my right arm mostly gone, and my right leg and I stick this finger in a sucking chest wound right here to stop the bleeding." Barbazon holds up a thick index finger and jams it into a space just below his right shoulder. Each time he repeats the motion, the finger hits the same spot as if there is a muscle memory leading it back.

"I was on the ground and my cousin called out to me, told me to crawl to him. I crawled thirty to forty feet to a medic. I found out later my cousin had died in a car wreck – he wasn't even there, but if I hadn't seen him call to me, I would have died right there – bled to death."

Soon after reaching the medic he was placed in a body bag being mistaken as having been killed in action, but the medics carrying him dropped him. Later, one of the medics would visit Barbazon in the field hospital.

"He said that if I would have died, I'd have to go to Hell because I called him things he'd never heard of, in Cajun. I was cussing him out for dropping me."

Barbazon laughs at the memory now, but he spent a month in the field hospital before being shipped to California where surgeries saved his arm and leg. Now he walks with a slight limp, but he doesn't let it do more than slow his walking speed.

Unasked, Barbazon launches into what has brought him here – to a place where he is happy and busy.

"I haven't talked about it (Vietnam) until oh, eight or ten years ago. I



Opposite page clockwise from top left: A pattern for Barbazon's dome clock must have holes drilled in each section before inserting a thin scroll saw blade into each individually and cutting out each piece. Locking the saw blade into place. A Dragon made with several different types of wood - one of several in a dragon series in Barbazon's home.

This page clockwise from top. A detail of the more than 3-foot-tall dome clock Barbazon is currently working on, shows how much detail goes into every inch of the structure. A cut-out horse within a horse. Animals that range from puppies to elephants can be found in Barbazon's house. Soldier carrying a soldier. While some patriotic themes can be found in his home, most of Barbazon's work involves animals.



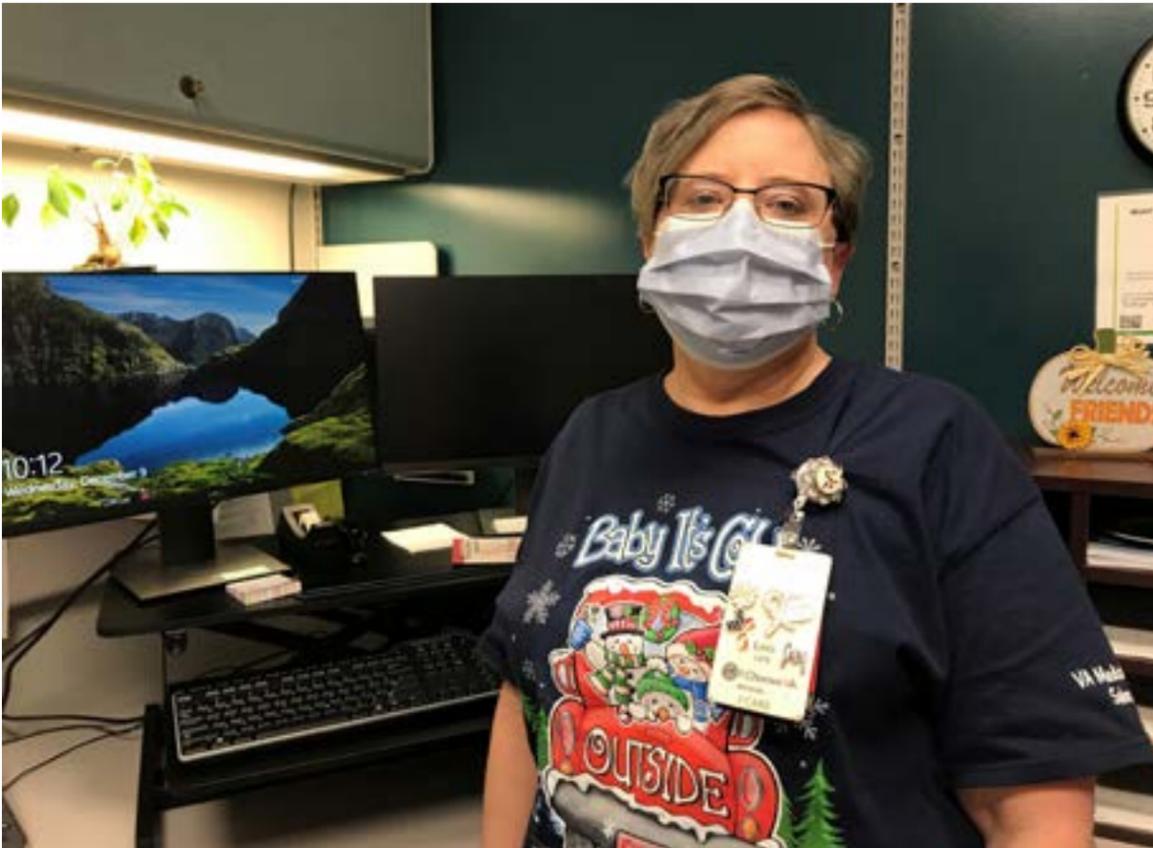
The dome clock currently sits at the center of Barbazon's workshop - where it has for several months. Putting in six hours a day, he thinks it will take about six months total to finish.

was in Ocala (Florida) at the VA hospital, and I was talking to a doctor I'd been seeing when she said, 'John, I need you to talk to a friend of mine.' Barbazon laughs again and continues, "she takes me to a psychiatrist. And I'm glad. A lot of Veterans need to do this. I found out things I was doing that I was doing in Vietnam – carrying a knife in my pocket for protection; going to the top row in a movie theater with my back against the wall. I was on guard too much and need to relax. I think (talking to the psychiatrist) was the best thing I've done, and I talked to him for about four years. Now I know I was really dysfunctional and didn't realize it. Veterans today, they need to get out and find out – they need to talk to somebody, and they have to listen.

"He told me, you're not cured, I'm not going to cure you, I'm just going to make you aware of what you're doing so you can be more relaxed. That's why I enjoy doing this (woodworking) now and that's why I say Veterans need to talk to somebody and they need to get a hobby. If they are sitting home disabled, there's something they can do – I don't care if it's going fishing – you've got to do something."

Today, Barbazon's sister has the telegrams and he has a house full of delicately cut artwork that will soon include a dome clock that he's spent the last six months working on for six hours a day.

"I'm very lucky. I've been a lucky person."



'When was your last mammogram?' the doctor asks.

Last year.

Wait, did I have one last year? Maybe I missed last year. I cannot remember to be honest.

At the mammogram they take lots of pictures and say they are going to do an ultrasound just to **be safe**.

After the ultrasound, the response is well, we really do not know what it is, so we are going to biopsy it just to **be safe**.

Well, that's no problem I think because I have no family history of breast cancer, so I know it is all good.

At work you are sitting at your desk and the phone rings. The doctors say both biopsies came back positive. Positive for what? I am totally confused at what this person is trying to say until I hear the word **cancer!**

And so, I began my breast cancer journey

three years ago. Yes, I am a **survivor!** I have hit my first milestone of three years and heading toward my next one of five years! I am so blessed to be a survivor and could not have made it without God's grace and the love and support of my family and friends.

My primary care family played a big part in my breast care journey. All the calls, text, gifts, money, but most of all the love, support, and prayers.

For those of you that wear pink in October I say, "thank you." However, October is not just for wearing pink, but it is for knowing your risk factors, remembering to get your mammogram, do your self breast checks and above all report any changes. It is about always...**being safe!**

Breast Cancer Awareness Month - exactly what does that mean?

The following article is reprinted from the Patient Aligned Care Team Newsletter Issue 9. Breast Cancer Awareness Month is held annually in October.

To wear a lot of pink in October? Well, let me tell you the real meaning of Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

One day sitting on your couch, you feel a pain in your breast. You do a quick breast check and think you feel something...but wait is there really something there? So, you think, let me just have it checked to **be safe**. I mean, I have no risk factors for breast cancer.

At the doctor's office she says, 'I really don't think it's anything but let us just get a mammogram to **be safe**.'



Left: Community Living Center resident Coy Shaffner, 98, is the first person at Salem VAMC to receive the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine December 23. Giving the vaccine is Yvette Mays, RN with an assist by Amanda Miller, RN. Shaffner is a WWII Veteran who spent 203 days as a Prisoner of War in Germany. Below, Dr. Shikha Vasudeva, an infectious disease specialist, is the first member of the medical team to receive the vaccine December 23. Photos by Vivien Osuorah (left) and Rosaire Bushey (bottom).

COVID-19 vaccination arrives before holidays

On December 22, thirteen boxes of Moderna's COVID-19 vaccine arrived at the Salem VA Medical Center's Pharmacy. Inside the 130 vials of vaccine were 1,300 doses of the second vaccine granted Emergency Use Authorization by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

The next day, injections began in the Community Living Center when 98-year-old Coy Shaffner, a World War II Veteran, rolled up his sleeve to become the first member of the Salem VA Health Care System to receive the vaccine. He was followed later that morning by infectious disease specialist Dr. Shikha Vasudeva.

The first Veterans to receive the vaccine will be those over 75 years old and those who have medical conditions that put them in a high risk

group. Letters are going out to groups of Veterans to schedule appointments for receiving the vaccine.

The vaccine comes in two doses and Veterans will receive an appointment for the second dose after receiving the first. Everyone who receives the vaccine must return to the same facility where they received the first, to get the second.

The Moderna vaccine has an effectiveness rate above 94% after two doses.

According to the FDA, the most common side effects include pain at the injection site, tiredness, headache, muscle pain, chills, joint pain, nausea and vomiting, and fever. The FDA notes that more people experienced side effects after the second dose.



Beware scammers

With roll-out of the vaccine, scammers are calling, texting, and emailing Veterans with promises of vaccine availability and early access. These are attempts by identity thieves attempting to gather personal information such as social security numbers and Veterans' money.

The VA will *never* ask for your full Social Security Number or personal health information through a vaccination request call. The VA will *never* include links in texts or emails that take you to unofficial or non-secured web pages that ask you to provide personal information. Non-secure pages start, 'http://'. Secure pages start, 'https://'

The VA will *never* require payment in exchange for providing the vaccine early and will not require payment to become eligible for the vaccine.

Story/by Lois Lail, LPN
Salem VAHCS PACT H

OPS BRIEFS



Project expands to 85 VAMCs

Congratulations to the HAPPEN team which began their work on

hospital acquired pneumonia prevention here at Salem. HAPPEN has expanded to 85 VA medical centers as of December 9, 2020, and was recognized in the 2020 Gears of Government President's Award for Innovation. HAPPEN along with a project on practices to de-prescribe unnecessary medicine to Veterans and a project to reduce opioid overdose deaths, were the basis of the award submission. To learn more, go to: <https://www.va.gov/INNOVATIONECOSYSTEM/views/solutions/happen.html>. Great job team!

4th Quarter Awards

The following individuals were recognized with years of service awards during the fourth quarter.

10 Years

Barry Eneh, Donna Williams, William Wright, Rebecca Kassell, Shikha Vasudeva, Katherine Luci, Emily Marston, Andrew Bullard, Andrea McClure, Dequon Mayo, Kelly Caldwell, Paul Powell, Tonja Weed, Andrea Young, and Kayla Mullins

15 Years

Tony Groce, Steven Elling, Betty Kirstein, Deepa Lala, Michael Evans, Latisha Salters, Stephan Jones, Madalina Macrea, Ocie Fidler, Mark Mizuba, Priscilla Belton, Leonard Hatcher, Michael Huemmer, and Eunice Mayo

20 Years

Mary Anderson, Tracy Hicks, Chad

Rice, Debra Johnson, Kenneth Wills, Tequita Akers, Donna Brubaker, Carolyn Paige, Dana Holohan, and Frank Willkins Jr.

25 Years

Phyllis Cooper, Stephanie Nagy-Agren, and David Thaler

30 Years

Darlene Curtis, Eugenia Preston, and Sharon Caldwell

35 Years

Shirley Lautenschlager, Robin Krupin, and Deborah Neece

Other Awards

Benitta Von Squires - Completed the Graduate Healthcare Administration Training Program Class of 2019

Aliza Lee - Certificate of Recognition, nominated for the David M. Worthen Award

Blood drive results

A Red Cross blood drive held at the Salem VAMC Dec. 31 collected 22 pints of blood from 23 donors - including six first-time donors. Congratulations and thank you to you all.

Women's Health

The mammography program was started by Carlissa R. Brooks-Ash-

ley, MSN, BSN, RN in 2013 through a grant. Since 2013 the number of Veterans utilizing Maternity Care benefits has grown exponentially.

We would like Veterans and staff to know that when the program began we created a lactation suite located in Bldg. 143, Room 1FG137. This space was designated as a safe space to use without interruption. Veterans or staff requiring access to the lactation room may contact the Women Veterans Program Manager, Ms. Eleanor Beth Wright to obtain the code to the lock. If entrance is needed after business hours please contact the Nurse On Duty for access to the room.

Scholarships available

The National VHA Scholarships & Clinical Education Division fund VHA employee scholarships. These scholarships include Education Incentive Scholarship Program (EISP), National Nursing Education Program (NNEI), and the VA National Education for Employees Program (VANEEP). For information on any of these programs, call Debra Shipman at Ext. 1508. The next application deadline is Jan. 31, 2021.

Lot reserved

As a reminder, Parking Lot-F is reserved for Veteran Covid Vaccination Clinic.

The lot, adjacent to Building 11, is being used for Veterans who have appointments to receive their COVID-19 vaccinations. Signage has been placed on both sides of the entrance to the lot. **Violators caught in this lot will be subject to a U.S. District Court Violation Notice, which carries a monetary fine to include a mandatory court cost.**



On November 10, 2020 four members of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Color Guard came to Salem to take part in the recording of a memorial video in honor of our Veterans who have passed this year. Pictured is Cadet Command Color Sgt. Christopher Johnson (US Navy ROTC). Johnson was joined by: Cadet Color Sgt. Adam Stack, US Army ROTC, Cadet Sgt. Oden Alaric, Air Force ROTC, and Cadet Corporal Sydney Stanley, Air Force ROTC.



(Left) Whythe Hospice of Southwest Virginia and Twin County Hospice teamed up Nov. 10 to honor Veterans at the Wytheville CBOC. The groups provided refreshments, and presented a lanyard of beads to Vietnam-era Veterans.



(Left) Supply Technician Bryan Butler, received a 25-year Service Award in November from Salem VA HCS Executive Director Rebecca Stackhouse, and his fiance, Glenna Young, LPN.

Good boy! A guide to proper mask wearing



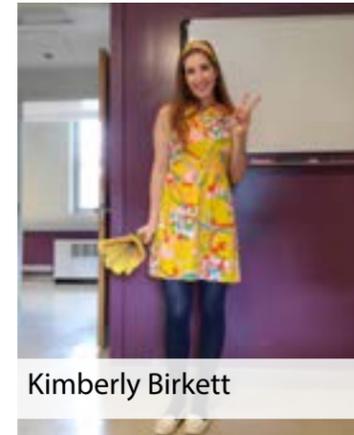


Precautions for social distancing during the pandemic necessitated the use of the Virtual Waiting Rooms at the CBOCs. This measure allowed Veterans to be screened upon entering the CBOC and checking in for their appointments. Veterans were given a "placard" and returned to their vehicles to wait for the start of their appointment. When required, a nurse physically met them at their vehicle and assisted the Veteran into the building for their appointment. Colder temperatures and inclement weather haven't made this mode of social distancing ideal for our Veteran population, and the Salem VAMC provided the lobby waiting room with plexiglass shielding in December, allowing the Wytheville CBOC to increase waiting room capacity, while allowing for safety in social distancing as Veterans can now safely wait in the lobby during the colder winter months.



The Staunton CBOC once again took part in the annual Community of Lights display - a local holiday tradition in Gypsy Hill Park. Over the years, employees have worked together to create the display. **Nina Herron, LPN**, is instrumental in the coordination and completion of the display.

Costumes & Ugly Sweaters



Kimberly Birkett



Nicholas Moldovan



Members of the Staunton CBOC



John Johnson



Stephanie Sackett, Marquita Payne, and Emily Rowe



Ugly Christmas sweater contest 2020

Ugliest - 1st place - **Carey Altice** (left)

Most Creative - **Falon Brown**

Funniest - **Mercia Johnson** (far left)

Most Festive - **Barbara Phifer**

Prettiest - **Lily Grgic**

Runners up included: **Miranda Williams, Rebecca Epperly, Maribeth Capuno, Ashley MaCauley, Lorie Walker, Elsie Keys, Alicia Hall, and Michelle Hairfield**

Whorley receives DAISY Award



Theresa Whorley, RN, got her holiday season off to a great start. She received her BSN Dec. 18 from Centra College, and Dec. 23 she was surprised with the DAISY Award.

The DAISY Award for Extraordinary Nurses provides recognition of the clinical skill and compassion nurses provide to patients and families.

The Salem VA HCS is one of more than 4,500 healthcare facilities across 50 states and 28 nations, who honor nurses through the DAISY Award.

Whorley also signed the DAISY banner after the presentation.



2020 award recipients

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the DAISY Award was only given four times in 2020. The winners were:

January - **Elisabeth "Cooper" Wall**, RN

February - **Brenda Lewis**, RN

November - **James Witcher**, LPN

December - **Theresa Whorley**, RN

FEEDBACK

The following feedback was gathered from V-Signals. We have removed the names of those posting the feedback.

"I was most impressed with every aspect of my first appointment at the VA. I only wish that I had enrolled sooner."

"VA saved my life—best hospital in the world, thanks to all the staff especially **Angela Meade Eggleston** and **Dr. Brandy Edwards** for the best job!"

"I met with a social worker (**Robert Conlon**) to talk about my PTSD. He was friendly, interested, and asked good questions. I felt it was helpful, and I have another appointment to talk with him tomorrow."

"I recently had rotator cuff repair surgery, done by **Dr. (Justine) Crowley**, a very professional, personable and most competent physician that is a tremendous asset to all Veterans at this facility. I would further like to commend physical therapist **James Fedison** that exhibits great patience, meticulous care when performing my arm therapy. He too, is a positive asset to the Salem VA Physical Therapy Dept."

"I felt **Tanya Williard** (FNP) in Cardiology was very caring and explained my condition to me so I would understand what was going on with my heart. She is an excellent provider."

I began receiving VA health care earlier in 2020 from **Dr. K. Combs** at the Tazewell, Virginia VA Clinic and **Dr. M. Detweiler** at the Salem VAMC. I am extremely pleased with the care I have received and I would rate the care I have received thus far as some of the best medical and mental health care I've had in my lifetime."

(From a Google review) The wife of a Veteran recently gave us a 5 Star Google Review: "My husband is a Vietnam Vet and the services and care he gets

at the Salem VA Medical Center we can't even put into words. They are the most caring and compassionate group of professionals that anyone could ever find. The nurses and doctors are the best! They are very knowledgeable and will do anything possible to treat the Vet and make their life happy and productive. God Bless them all!!!!!"

(From a Google review) "I have had a few procedures and two surgeries at VAMC Salem and I want to say that everyone has been wonderful to me! I could not have asked for a group of more courteous, professional and caring people. Each visit has been extremely positive and I thank everyone in the Gastroenterology and Orthopedic Departments. I especially want to thank the following individuals: **Dr. Justine Crowley**, **Dr. Anil Menedal**, **Jason Fender**, PA and all of their wonderful staff. I wish I could name them all but would be afraid of leaving someone out. Each and every member of your staff was exceptional. The Salem VAMC will always be my first choice for health care! Thanks again do all you do."

"The Intern (**Breanna Easton**) who did the initial comprehensive exam was extremely polite. She ensured I understood exactly what each test was for and explained the result. ie 20/20 vision with glasses. Then **Dr. Daniel Eckermann** verified her results and explained what he found and recommended a prescription I could receive by mail from the VA. Both made my visit to the VA exception. Thank you!"

I receive my primary care from the Staunton CBOC. Wow, what a great team, from receptionist **Belinda Robinson**, to nurses LPN **Gary Cook**, to my primary care physician **Ronny Bingham**. I have every confidence in them. Each has been extremely courteous and first-rate, professionally. The best

I have ever received anywhere.

In my opinion I have survived a brain tumor, prostate cancer, and pre 15 cancer spots of the stomach, heart attack due to the outstanding doctors like **Bolinger** and **Rippel**. **Dr. Brian Bolinger** is one of the most outstanding internal medicine doctors I have ever known coupled with **Dr. Christopher Rippel** Chief Urologists' that I have known. The person and medical condition come first.

My therapist **Robin Kennedy**, mental health nurse **Deborah Kesling** and psychiatrist **Dr. David Dalrymple**, are a great team that I can trust with my mental health needs. Thank you.

I could not be more satisfied with the care I get from the VA. I get most of my medical care from the Staunton CBOC. It is staffed with the most highly skilled, caring professionals I have ever encountered. I have also received medical care at the Salem Medical Center and at Hunter-McGuire Hospital in Richmond. Wonderful people; people who really care about making me well.

Pat Wenger - Physical Therapist is a consummate professional. She goes out of her way to assist patients. She carefully researches strategies to help her patients. Pat is friendly, compassionate, and cares deeply about helping veterans. Keep up the great work!"

(From a Google review) Our experience found them to be organized, efficient and caring. We had urgent cancer surgeries and general anesthesia. Our surgeon was brilliant, with 35 years experience and took time to listen and explain details of all we faced. Staff was attentive and caring, and we never had a single lengthy wait in any office we had to visit. In the midst of COVID-19 they have gone above and beyond to add protection throughout the hospital."

KUDOS

OCTOBER

Annette Oquinn
 Megan Bonds
 Roberto Smith
 Dr. Bethany Morris
 Dr. Phil Lehman
 Tariq Rashad
 Ashley Greenleaf
 Cameron Denny
 Emily Clark
 Paul Everett
 Blaine Coon
 Mary Hensley
 John Trent
 Dequon Mayo
 Stephen Muniz
 Linda Meadows
 Pat Lockett
 Dr. Bridgette Vest
 Belinda Brown
 Mike Evans
 Alphonso Brooks
 Jessica Dunham
 Willie Caldwell
 Sheila Smith
 Naymon Mack (x2!)
 Dr. Michael Cieraszynski
 Andre Fiesel
 Dr. Badr Ratnakaran
 John Johnson
 Sandra Cothran
 Dr. Zachary Tilley
 Alexandria Moore
 Angela Jameson
 Donna Hatchett
 Danielle Young
 Cynthia Talton
 Cristy Chewning
 Gloria Markovci
 Pepper Baines
 Robin Gibson (x2!)
 Magdiel Fisher (x2!)
 Munger Hamilton (x2!)
 Marie Ferguson
 CPAP Clinic Team
 Priscilla Feather
 Robin Haas
 Dr. Daniel Kline
 Staunton VA Clinic Team
 Christopher Harless-Ramos

Josiah Kelly
 Louann Reynolds
 Tysheka McDougal
 Louisa Sohmer
 Theresa Grossheim
 Mary Tinsley
 Hannah Bowles
 Robin McMillan
 Dianne Redd
 India Basham
 Jorge Markin
 Brenda Millner
 Tyler Haddock
 Leticia Williams
 HCI Unit Team (x2!)
 Richard Walters
 Paul Paige
 Benjamin Yates
 Erin Hatter
 Belinda Robinson
 Leanna Rogers
 Katie Lynch
 Gary Cook
 Christy Anderson
 Ronny Bigham
 Cathy Galvan
 Linda Smith
 Kayla Mick
 Darin Hevener
 Dr. Peter Taylor
 Stacy Tinnell
 Kriston Snyder
 Nina Herron
 Kayla Landes
 Staunton CBOC Team (x2!)
 Paula Blake
 Rhonda Huckabee
 Ricky Flenner
 Ludy VanderHoeven (x2!)
 Calvin Glenn
 Paul Martin
 Dr. Aliza Lee
 HTM (Bio Med) Team
 Dr. Jane Brummer
 Dr. John Gaylord
 Teresa Sowers
 Falon Brown
 Belinda Williams
 Delilah Browley
 Oscar Langhorn
 Dr. Kishore Nagaraja

MHC Team
 Ben Yates
 Rebecca Austin
 Tim Goins
 Hugh Elsea
 Megan Mrnak
 Dr. Aliza Lee
 Dr. Shikha Vasudeva
 Dr. James Martin
 PC Team
 Dr. Scott Slagle
 Dr. Bharat Patel
 Dr. Catherine Daniel
 Glen Crawford
 Sheryl Wilson
 Rebecca Austin
 Ginger Hodges
 Heather McKee
 Lisa Harrison
 Ashley Shiver
 Kevin Neel
 Joan Via
 Kathleen (Elizabeth) Fitzpatrick
 Amanda Huff
 Brad Coon
 Deanna Smith
 Amanda Saoit
 Dr. William Pasley
 Pam McAnally
 Rhonda Hobson
 Amanda Thomas
 Judy Zellar
 Jennifer Blankenship
 Melissa Hartsell
 Kiley McCall
 Primary Care Team
 GI Team
 Martia Hevener
 Eric Carpenter
 Shane Cox
 Ron Abbott
 Billy Lipas
 Karen Flanary
 Allen Moye
 Chasity Cooper
 Frank Orozco
 Phil Kirkman
 Supply Chain Management Team
 Molly Gutierrez

Katherine Millott
 Lela Hedgepeth
 John Lee
 Tammy Snyder
 Sharon Johnson
 Jeremy Smith
 Aileen Moore
 Dana Hawkins
 HCI Unit Team
 ICU Team
 Jeff Pressley
 Mary Kenny
 Stephanie May
 Lisa Harrison
 Mara Fuller
 SPS Team
 Pharmacy Team
 Catherine Mowrey
 Annie Saunders
 Raven Jenks
 Jose Velez-Figueroa
 Darlene Curtis
 Dr. Edward Arsurra
 Robin Gibson
 Linda Smith
 Darlene Curtis
 Physical Therapy Team
 Prosthetics Team
 CLC Team
 Markyta Crowder
 Angela Vasquez
 Robert Jones
 Jim Smith
 Jeremy Hodges
 Jim Markey
 OIT Team
 Katelyn Peters
 Helen Malin-Christiansen
 Vicky Keith
 Carey Altice
 Sherry Cameron
 Sharon Stanley
 Loretta Mills
 Evelyn Hill
 Danielle Raoul
 Lindsay Gill
 Mike Racynski
 Rebecca McDonald
 Patricia Thullah
 Debbie Jordan
 Bob Gibson (x2!)

Tim Goins
 Dr. Kampell Salehi
 Lindsay Gill
 Yvettea Wilmer
 Lori Bishop
 Staunton HBPC Team
 Mike Tabor
 Lisbeth Woodward
 Nick Floyd
 Susan Hunley
 Shawanda Stephens
 Bill Jernigan
 Alex Ebel
 Christine Woodrum
 Melissa Cooper
 Megan Bonds
 Jennifer Barnett
 Falon Brown
 Ashley Macauley
 Carroll Copen
 Shenna Johnson
 Bonnie Clark
 Betsy Crawford
 Cheryl Peevey
 Tammy Young
 Debbie Jordan
 Alicia Anderson
 Mark Eagon
 EOH Team
 Kim Collurafici
 Tracey Dickerson
 Jay Minchak (x2!)
 Frank Wilkins
 Adela Krtic
 Lela Hedgepeth
 Mischa Browner
 Jo Ortega
 Heather Hardy
 Jenny Steele
 Debbie Herron
 Christina Bell
 Dr. Justine Crowley
 SCM Shuttle Drivers
 Linda Green
 LaShawn Talley
 Leslie Reynolds
 Ashley Flora
 Azra Surhio
 Sarah LaComa
 Jack Hooten
 Integrated Ethics Council
 Brian Campbell
 Wendy Poore

Tanya Willard
 Charlotte Wingo
 Dr. Howis Aros
 Kathleen Fitzpatrick
 Tilly Belton
 Nicki Horlsey
 Grayson Hurst
 Jace Walters
 Rita Rhame
 Jose Vargas
 Renal Nursing Team
 Ben Sackett
 Sherrie Reed
 QCC Team (x2!)
 Randy Beckett (x2!)
 Cris Avery
 Robin Murphy
 Maribeth Capuno
 Joni Link
 Eric Coffey
 Bob Gibson
 Tracey Kantorski
 Kenneth Anderson
 Julie Francis
 Jermaine Prunty
 Marla Brown
 Angela Vasquez
 Melissa Richards
 Joe Snyder
 Sharon Zimmerman
 Jennifer MacDonald
 Michelle LaPrad
 Community Care Team
 Willie Caldwell
 Kim Jones
 Marc Whitney
 Amy DiBenedetto
 Erin Hatter
 Whytheville CBOC Team
 Dr. Erin Caldwell
 Dr. Delmar Short
 Dr. Michael Cieraszynski
 Tanyia Jones
 Aaron Nitz
 Dr. Sarah Voss Horrell
 Dr. Venkateswara Kollipara
 Robin Haas
 Noval Wright
 Alphonso Brooks
 Heather Hardy
 Kevin Boudreaux
 Hannah Ayers
 Stephanie Woodzell
 Tim Harris

Ed Williams
 Gail Johnson
 John Garst
 Roman Angulo
 Lynchburg HBPC Team
 Megan Foutz
 Rosaire Bushey
 John Skidmore
 Kevin Amos
 Frances Shugart
 Tameka Hardy
 Brent Webster
 Marsha Jordan-Akers
 Jeanine Bomber
 Christy Lanham
 Salem Primary Care Team
 Dr. Alicia Green
 Robin McMillan
 Cherrí Chambers
 India Basham
 LaToya Legans
 Roberto Smith
 Carlissa Brooks-Ashley
 Debra Price
 Kimberly Collurafici
 Shelley Davis
 Dr. Anil Menedal
 Jason Fender
 Dr. James Gooding
 Amie Malone-Jones
 Tim Goins
 HVAC Team
 Dr. Adam Kadolph
 Donna Hatchett
 Dr. Mamta Sapra
 Dr. Arvin Bhandari
 Mental Health ED Team
 Steve Poole
 OIT Team
 Alex Phifer
 Dr. Damien Luviano
 Lynne (Cynthia) Foster
 Don Wilburn
 Jim Markey
 Charles Loftland
 David Roberts
 Shannon Mitchell
 Patricia Morgan
 Alicia Hall
 Lily Grgic
 Rhonda Hobson
 Charlene Randolph
 Dr. Christopher Hicks
 Grounds Crew

Machele Huff
DECEMBER
 Dr. Scott DePoe
 Karaya Ife
 Cynthia Foster
 Cozzette Booker
 RoseAnn Holmgren
 Dr. Laura Cieraszynski
 Heather McKee
 Dr. Brian Bolinger (x2!)
 Tae Barber
 India Basham
 Latoya Legans
 Emily Clark
 Dr. Al Weed
 OR Nursing Team
 Stephanie Weatherford
 Christian Davis
 Lynn Foster
 Dr. Russell Hendershot
 Debra Herron
 Catherine Mowrey
 Trish Cox
 Teresa Gearheart
 Jean Harris
 Gerald Killian
 The EMS Team
 The FMS Team
 The Safety Team
 Breanna Easton
 Dr. Daniel Eckermann
 Belinda Robinson
 Gary Cook
 Ronny Bingham
 Dr. Christopher Rippel
 Robin Kennedy
 Deborah Kesling
 Dr. David Dalrymple
 Staunton CBOC
 Tameka Hardy
 Thomas Gregg
 Nursing Timekeeping Team
 Sara Cometto
 CLC Team
 Tracey Ward
 Lynne Foster (x2!)
 Lela Hedgepeth
 Mischa Browner
 Adela Krtic
 Andrea Young
 Alicia Anderson
 Bonnie Clark
 Shenna Johnson
 Lori Rutherford

- Dr. Gerard Deguzman
- Rita Rhame
- Deb Martin
- Dr. Damien Luviano
- Patricia Cox
- Kate Millott
- Dr. Beth Morris
- Joseph Candelario
- Cherri Hall
- Azra Surhio
- Dr. Mazen Madhoun
- Kevin Boudreaux
- Victor Umberger
- Rachel Dortch
- Robin Krupin
- Rhonda Weinhold
- Melissa Hardwick
- Jeremy Smith
- Tony Caruso
- Brittany Creasy
- HCI Unit Team
- Kim Collurafici
- Dr. James Gooding
- Dr. Anil Menedal
- Susan Gluth
- Lori Hodges
- Brian Campbell
- Louis Debiases
- Medical Support Administration (MSA) Team
- Melinda Clingenpeel
- Drew Kiracofe
- Tracy Tran
- Darlington Mochaa-Uchefuna
- The B.170 Team
- Dr. Mark Adams
- Dr. William Tingler
- Dr. James Martin
- Daryl Nelson
- Operator Team
- Arthur Ledford
- B.143 4th Floor Nursing and MSA Team
- Salem VA HCS Team (x2!)
- Sonya Brown
- Cassie Crouch
- Chasity Cooper
- Antwon Curtis
- Derek Jones
- Wilbert Jordan
- Frank Shupp
- April Broughman
- Jill Hof
- Raquel Molina-Kirkwood
- Mallory Churning
- Dr. Paul Shearer
- Podiatry Team
- Angel Cunningham
- Phyllis Cooper
- Greg Daniels
- Jorge Markin
- Cedric Scott
- Leanne Renick
- Noel Barnette
- Andre Fieschel
- Misha Browner
- Tish Williams
- Lela Hedgepeth
- Miracle Carner
- Dr. Patrick (Scott) Hall
- Amy Betterton-Smith
- Dr. Tonja Weed
- Dr. Damien Luviano
- Radiation-Oncology Team (x2!)
- Dr. Bridgette Vest (x2!)
- Katie Tucker
- Dr. Christopher Ripple
- Nursing Team
- EMS Team
- Police Team
- Patient Advocates
- Canteen Team
- Fast Track Team
- Jen Divers
- Teresa Dotson
- Cindy Stanley
- Tenna Saunders
- Patricia Eubank
- Jovanna Dodson
- Safet Sabanija
- James Witcher
- Talisa Napper
- Eddie Snider
- Mike Gartland
- Dr. Lauren Hurd
- Dr. Matt Jameson
- Dr. Julie Usala
- Dr. Emily Marston
- Dr. Bush Kavuru
- Sharon Stanley
- Evelyn Hill
- Karen Hamed
- Maggie Lawson
- Sherrie Cameron
- Donna Hatchett
- Angela Jameson
- Dr. Russell GrayCouch
- Dr. Anjali Varma
- Dr. Cynthia Talton
- Aileen Moore

- Sarah Bryant
- Frank Orozco
- Jose Santiago Velez-Figueroa
- Cindy Nicholas
- Erica Robinson
- Meghan Plunkett
- Karen Wright
- Jade Fillingner
- Voluntary Service Team
- Pam Deisher
- Dr. Tim Krohe
- PC Team
- Mary Hensley
- Sherrie Simmons
- Jeremy Teubert
- Demp Maxton
- Mary Kay Brumfield
- Beth Woodward
- CLC Team
- Heather Hardy
- COVID-19 Vaccination Team
- Beth Wegener
- Paul Marshall

- Brenda Ferguson
- Donna Renick
- Kathy Southers
- Amber Hernandez
- Debbie Jordan
- Chad Rice
- Barrett Bass
- Dr. Douglas Kirtley
- Joe Ferrell
- Ashley Bradley
- Sharon Zimmerman
- Jessica Edwards
- Dr. John Bonk
- Rhonda Weinhold
- Melissa Webb

VA IN THE NEWS



The VA has vaccinated nearly a third of its workforce

The Department of Veterans Affairs announced Jan. 5 that it had successfully administered initial COVID-19 vaccine doses to more than 132,000 health care employees, nearly a third of the agency's total workforce.

[Read more here](#)



Mid-South Hero: Chief nurse strives to help Veterans amid health crisis

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (WMC) - Nursing mental and physical wounds of Veterans during a global pandemic requires a special person, one who is patient, caring and resilient. No capes here, only a white coat with 30 years of experience -- Veteran's Administration Medical Center Chief Nurse Marvia Balfour-Coleman.

[Read more here](#)

VHA celebrates 75 years of caring for Veterans

Richard A. Stone, MD Executive in Charge

Today I want to kick off our year-long celebration of VHA's 75th anniversary. In January 1946, Public Law 293 established the VA Department of Medicine and Surgery. This law also restructured civil service in America, allowing us to begin employing high-level medical personnel.

Our tradition of caring for Veterans dates back to the Civil War, with soldiers' homes established to care for Veterans after catastrophic injuries. Public Law 293 changed hiring in civil service and established the relationship between VA and American medical schools and other academic institutions, enabling care and research for those with war-related wounds. This law stemmed from our leadership's desire to ensure Veterans receive the best health care. That's why so many of our VAMCs are co-located with medical schools and academic institutions.

Our mission of caring for Veterans with unsurpassed clinical care continues 75 years later. This year is VHA's 75th anniversary. Please take a moment to watch this video of the launch event. We will be talking a lot



VIDEO:
Click image to open video in new window

about all the advances we have made, such as the cardiac pacemaker and hepatitis C treatment, and how proud we are of all of them – because of the law passed 75 years ago. And as we celebrate how far we've come, we set our sights on a future of best-in-class service for decades to come.

Thank you for continuing to advance our mission. Have a good day.