Vietnam Veteran shares his story, offers advice for Vets
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.

12 Breast cancer about more than simply wearing pink.

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

To all the men and women of the Salem Health Care System, our Community Based Outpatient 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

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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
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.
“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. A cut-out horse within a horse. Animals that range from pup-pies 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."
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.’

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 done 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 think it’s anything but let us just get a mammogram to be safe!

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 must return to the same facility where they received the first, to get the second.

The Moderna vaccine has a 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.

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.

Beware scammers
**OPS BRIEFS**

**Project expands to 85 VAMCs**

Congratulatations 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 Kistinr, Deepa Lala, Michael Evans, Latisha Salters, Stephan Jones, Madalina Macrea, Ocie Fidler, Mark Mizu-ba, Priscilla Belton, Leonard Hatcher, Michael Huemmer, and Eunice Mayo

- **20 Years**
  - Mary Anderson, Tracy Hicks, Chad Rice, Debra Johnson, Kenneth Will, Tequita Akers, Donna Brubaker, Carolyn Paige, Dana Holohan, and Frank Wilkins Jr.

- **25 Years**
  - Phyllis Cooper, Stephanie Nagy-Agren, and David Thaler

- **30 Years**
  - Darlene Curtis, Eugenia Preston, and Sharoln 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-Ashley, 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 Program (VANEPP). 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.
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.

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 vehicles 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.

Costumes & Ugly Sweaters

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, Marlabeth 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 Lewin, RN
- November - James Witcher, LPN
- December - Theresa Whorley, RN

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.”

"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 received my primary 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 veterans feel at home..."

"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 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 healthcare! Thanks again do all you do.”

"The Intern (Brienna 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."

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FEEDBACK

Pat Wagner - 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) (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."

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"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 Bengham. 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 Urolgoists’ 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 Wagner - 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!”

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KUDOS

OCTOBER

Annette Quinn
Megan Bonds
Robert Smith
Dr. Bethany Morris
Dr. Phil Lehman
Tarig Rashad
Ashley Greenleaf
Cameron Denny
Emily Clark
Paul Everett
Blaire Coon
Mary Hensley
John Trent
Dequan Mayo
Stephen Muniz
Linda Meadows
Pat Lockett
Dr. Bridgette West
Belinda Brown
Mike Evans
Alyson Blaekke
Jessica Dunham
Willie Caldwell
Sheila Smith
Nayom Mack (x2)
Dr. Michael Cerazynski
Andrew Fieischl
Dr. Bad Rutharan
Johnson
Sandra Cotbran
Zachary Tilley
Alexandria Moore
Angela Jameson
Donna Hatchett
Danielle Young
Cynthia Talton
Crisy Cheuning
Gloria Markovi
Peppler Baines
Robin Gibson (x2)
Maggie Fighel (x2)
Munger Hamilton (x2)
Marlaine Fields
CPA Clinic Team
Priscilla Fechter
Robin Haas
Dr. Debbie Byrd
Staunton VA Clinic Team
Christopher Harless-Ramos

Joseph Kelly
Loxann Reynolds
Tyehila McDougall
Louis Saheer
Theresa Grossheim
Mary Tinley
Hannah Bowles
Rob McMillan
DiAnne Redd
India Basham
Jorge Marklin
Brenda Milner
Tyler Haddick
Letticia Williams
HCS Unit Team (x2)
Richard Walters
Paul Paige
Benjamin Yatsu
Linn Hettler
Belinda Roeberson
Leanna Rogers
Katie Lynch
Gary Cook
Christy Anderson
Renee Bigham
Cathy Gakan
Linda Smith
Kayla Mck
Dario Menyne
Dr. Peter Taylor
Stacy Tinnell
Kiford Snyder
Nina Herron
Kayla Landes
Staunton CBOC Team (x2)
Paula Wakes
Rhonda Huckabee
Ricky Flener
Ludy Vanderhoewen (x2)
Calvin Glenn
Paul Martin
Dr. Alia Lee
HTM (Bio Med) Team
Dr. Jane Brunner
Dr. John Gaylord
Teressa Sowers
Falon Brown
Belinda Williams
Dellah Broome
Oscar Langhorn
Dr. Khishore Nargaja

MHC Team
Ben Yates
Rebecca Austin
Tim Goins
Hugo Elsha
Megan Mrauk
Dr. Allen Lee
Dr. Shikha Vasudeva
Dr. James Martin
PC Team
Dr. Scott Slagle
Dr. Bharat Patel
Dr. Catherine Daniel
Glen Crawford
Sheryll Wilson
Rebecca Audtn
Ginger Hodges
Heartel Motee
Ashley Shiver
Kevin Neil
Joan Vig
Kathleen (Elizabeth)
Fitzpatrick
Amanda Huff
Brad Coon
Deanna Smith
Amanda Saldit
Dr. Clayton McAnally
Rhonda Hobson
Amanda Thomas
Judy Zellar
Jennifer Blankenship
Melissa Hertell
Kiley McColl
Primary Care Team
GI Team
Martta Hevenor
Eric Carpenter
Shane Cox
Ron Abbott
Billy Lipus
Karen Flanary
Allan Mory
Chisster Cooper
Frank Orozo
Phil Kirkman
Supply Chain Management Team
Molly Gutierrez
Katherine Millott
Leia Hodgepeth
John Lee
Tammy Snyder
Sarah Joanson
Jeremy Smith
Aileen Moore
Dana Hawkins
HCS Unit Team
EU Team
Jef Pressure
Mary Kenny
Stephanie May
Lisa Harrison
Mara Fuller
SAPS Team
Pharmacy Team
Catherine Mowrey
Annie Saunders
Raven Jenks
Jose Veliz-Figueroa
Darvick Curti
Dr. Edward Anurka
Robin Gibson
Amanda Hiltz
Durante Curti
Physical Therapy Team
Prosthetics Team
CLC Team
Myrna Crowder
Angela Vasquez
Robert Jones
Jim Smith
Jeremy Hodges
Jim Markey
CFT Team
Mishla Browner
Jo Ortega
Heather Hardy
Jenny Steele
Kathryn Peters
Helen Malin-Christian
Vicky Keith
Carey Altice
Sherri Cameron
Bryan Johnson
Loretta Mills
Flicker Hill
Daciana Ravol
Lindsay Gill
Mike Racy
Tanya McDonald
Patricia Thullah
Debbie Jordan
Bill Gibson (x2)

November

Dr. Kampfell Salem
Lindsay Gill
Yvettea Wilmer
Lori Bishop
Staunton HBPC Team
Mike Tabor
Lisa Beth Woodard
Diana Moore
Susan Hunley
Southwest Apartments
Bill Jennings
Alex Ebel
Christine Woodrum
Melissa Cooper
Melissa Ganus
Jennifer Barnett
Falon Brown
Ashley MacAsley
Carroll Copel
Shenna Johnson
Bonney Clark
Betty Crawford
Cheryl Peveey
Tammy Young
Debbie Jordan
Alice Anderson
Dr. Mark Eagon
Linda Smith
Donna Hatchett
Allie Beam
Kathy Atwood
Tanya Willard
Charlotte Wingo
Dr. Howis Aros
Kathleen Fitzpatrick
Tilly Belton
Tim Smith
Grayson Hurt
Jace Walters
Kita Phan
Jose Vargas
Renal Nursing Team
Ben Sackett
Shaneen Reed
QCC Team (x2)
Dandy Becker (x2)
Cris Arvey
Robin Murphy
Maribeth Capuno
Joni Lina
Eric Coffey
Bob Gibson
Tracey Kantorski
Kenneth Anderson
Julie Francis
Jermaine Prudy
Marla Brown
Angela Vasquez
Melissa Richards
Joe Snyder
Sharon Zimmerman
Deanna Erickson
Michelle Lalrad
Community Care Team
Willy Caldwell
Kim Jones
Marc Whitney
Amy Dobinette
Heidi Rutter
Whitneyville CBOC Team
Dr. Erin Caldwell
Dr. Delmar Short
Dr. Michael Cerazynski
Tanya Jones
Aaron Nit
Dr. Sarah Voss Horrell
Dr. Venkatashwarya Kolppara
Robin Haas
Noval Wright
Alphonsa Brooks
Heather Hardy
Kevin Boudreaux
Hannah Ayers
Stephanie Woodell
Tim Harris

Ed Williams
Gail Johnson
John Garst
Romar Angelo
Lynchburg HBPC Team
Megan Foutz
Rosaire Bushey
John Skidmore
Kevin Amos
Frances Shugart
Tameka Hardy
Brent Webster
Marsha Jordan-Akers
Jeanine Bomber
Christy Latham
Salem Primary Care Team
Dr. Alicia Green
Robin McMillan
Cheri Chambers
India Basham
LaToya Legans
Robert Smith
Carissa Brooks
Ashley Debra Price
Kimberly Collura
Shelly Davis
Dr. And Milesdak
Jason Fender
Dr. James Gooding
Annie Malove-Jones
Tims Goins
HVAE Team
Dr. Adam Kadolph
Deena Hatchett
Dr. Mantta Sapra
Dr. Alvin Bhandari
Mental Health ID Team
Steve Poola
HOF Team
Alex P filmer
Dr. Damen Luzano
Lynne (Cynthia) Foster
Don Wilburn
Jim Markey
Carissam Ford
Charles Lofland
David Roberts
Shannon Mitchell
Patricia Morgan
Alicia Hall
Lyla Gric
Rhonda Hobson
Charline Randolph
Dr. Christopher Hicks
Grounds Crew

Machelle Huff
December

Dr. Scott DePoe
Karaya Ille
Cynthia Foster
Colette Booker
RoseAnn Holmgren
Dr. Laura Cerazynski
Heather McKean
Dr. Brian Bolinger (x2)
Tae Barber
Inda Basham
Lataya Legans
Emily Clark
Dr. Al Veal
OR Nursing Team
Stephanie Weatherford
Christan Davis
Lynn Foster
Dr. Russell Henderstork
Debra Herron
Christina Mowrey
Trish Coakley
Teresa Gheeheart
Jean Harris
Gerald Willian
The EMS Team
The Safety Team
Breanna Easton
Dr. Christopher Hingman
Belinda Robinson
Gary Cook
Robby Bligham
Dr. Christopher Rippel
Robin Kennedy
Deshiing Keeling
Dr. David Dauphine
Staunton CBOC
Tameka Hardy
Thomas Gregg
Nursing Timekeeping Team
Sara Cometto
CLC Team
Tracey Ward
Lynne Foster (x2)
Lela Hodgepeth
Mishla Browner
Dr. Jennifer Talbot
Dr. Brian Bolinger (x2)
Heather Hardy
Heidi Rutter
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 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.

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