

HOME FOR THE HEROES

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Commissioner

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OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE
CONNECTICUT VETERANS' HOME
ROCKY HILL, CONNECTICUT

From the desk of

Commissioner Linda Schwartz

For the first time in five years, our Veterans' Home in Rocky Hill held a Stand Down for needy and homeless veterans. Some 50 state, federal and private service organizations were on hand to offer assistance to those attending. The results of that assistance and a photo gallery of the event can be found on pages 4 and 5 of this newsletter. We are already planning for Stand Down 2006, which will take place on Friday, September 22, 2006 between 7am and 4pm.

At one time, our facility was known as The Veterans Home and Hospital. A little over a year ago, the name was changed to The Veterans' Home. On page 6 of this month's newsletter, you will find out why and how the change was made. More importantly, you will also learn about the many medical services we provide our veterans in our Healthcare Facility. The article will also give you an idea of the type and size of the staff we have to provide medical treatment to our residents.

**Serving
Those
Who Served**



Veterans' Home Staff Serves 10,000 MEALS A WEEK!

The more than 500 residents of the Veterans' Home can count on one thing, three times a day. A delicious and nutritional meal.

About 350 of our veterans are served in the Home's Main Dining Room and the other 160 are delivered to our HealthCare Facility.

35 employees of the Food Services Department are assisted by nearly 50 veteran workers in preparing, cooking and serving breakfast, dinner, commonly called "lunch" and supper three times a day, seven days a week and 52 weeks a year.

A typical breakfast menu includes a banana, cold cereal or rolled oats and buttermilk pancakes with maple syrup. For dinner, the residents can enjoy ham steak, a baked sweet potato, cauliflower and rye bread with a piece of frosted cake for desert. Supper consists of London broil with gravy, long grain and wild rice, mixed vegetables, whole wheat bread and mandarin oranges.

Breakfast is served 6am-8:30am, dinner, or lunch 11am-12:30pm and supper 4pm-6pm.

Food Services Director Steve Garvey also serves special holiday meals for our veterans. A prime rib dinner is served on Veterans Day, the typical turkey dinner on Thanksgiving and a serving of prime rib and plenty of shrimp on Christmas day. In February, a special supper is prepared for the Black History Month observance with an extensive soul food menu available.

They say "an army moves on its stomach." Our residents, all former members of the military, are now enjoying scrumptious meals instead of "K-Rations" seven days a week.



Our Veterans' Home residents help

STRIKE UP THE BAND!

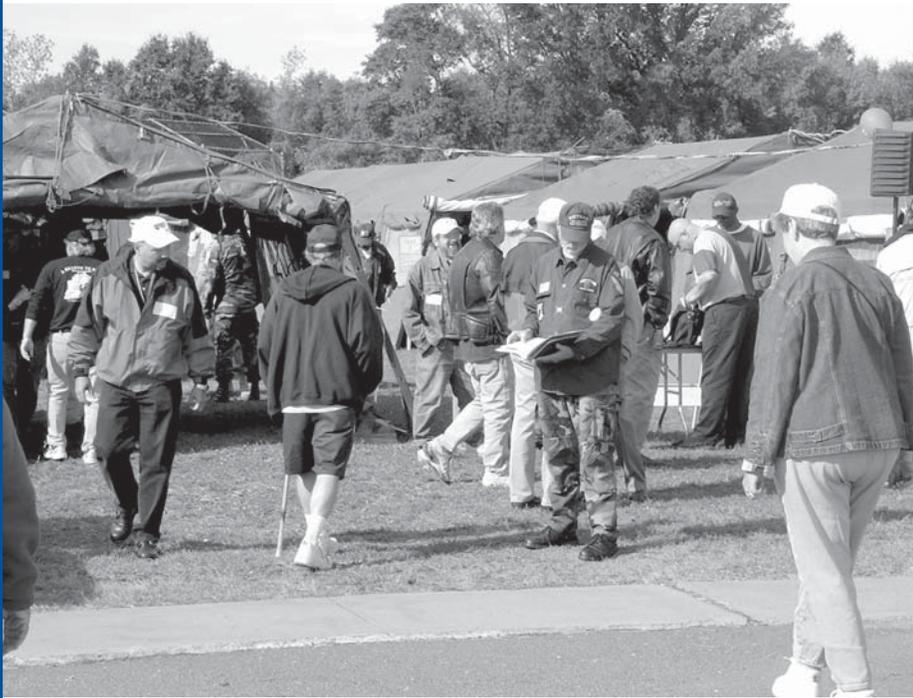
The 102nd Army Band of the Connecticut National Guard entertained our residents with patriotic tunes, marches and classical works in a tribute to all veterans who served our nation. As "Goodwill Ambassadors" for Connecticut, the 102nd band has performed in concerts and parades around the state, country and overseas.



Photographs by Charlotte Storey of the Veterans' Home staff.

STATE OF CONNECTICUT EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

STAND



More than 500 homeless and needy veterans recently attended Stand Down 2005. It was the first Stand Down held at the Veterans' Home in five years. One of the most popular services was provided by the Division of Criminal Justice as nearly 120 cases were heard by a Magistrate and a Judge. 101 veterans had underlying charges in their cases dismissed and seven others had arrest warrants vacated. The Department of Motor Vehicles restored 50 driver's licenses.



Photographs by Charlotte Storey of the Veterans' Home staff.



DOWN

SBC provided free cell phone calls to approximately 75 veterans and another 300 received free haircuts. 40 veterans applied for state assistance for food stamps and healthcare coverage. Stand Down 2006 is already in the planning stage and will be held on Friday, September 22, 2006 from 7am to 4pm.



Caring for our Veterans' HEALTH AND COMFORT

Nearly 160 staff members at our Veterans' Home are responsible for the medical treatment and care of our residents. That includes 2 physicians, 4 Advanced Practice Registered Nurses, 40 Licensed Nurses and 110 Certified Nursing Assistants. They serve the medical needs of the 155 residents of our Healthcare Facility as well as those of the 350 veterans in our residential program.

According to Margaret "Maggi" Concannon, Veterans Healthcare Services Administrator, the facility contains an Alzheimer's Unit, a Hospice Program, Respite Care Program and a respiratory care unit. The facility offers a comprehensive rehabilitation department which includes Occupational, Physical, Recreational and Speech, to meet the needs of all of our residents. In July, 2004, an act was passed by the Connecticut General Assembly, removing the word "hospital" from our facility's name to better reflect the services provided in our Healthcare Facility.

The residents, depending on the nature and seriousness of their medical needs, are treated in the Healthcare Facility by our staff or at area hospitals. The Healthcare Facility treats residents for such illnesses as stroke, Parkinson's disease, pulmonary disease and cancer. The Healthcare Facility, which is equipped with its own pharmacy, radiology and dental departments, also provides a variety of services such as podiatry, optometry and mental health support.

Approximately 65 percent of the veterans living in the Healthcare Facility use "assisted" devices such as walkers or wheelchairs for mobility. As a sign of a changing veteran population, just a few years ago, the vast majority of those facility residents were World War 11 veterans. Today, we see an increasing number of Vietnam era veterans being served in our Healthcare Facility.

Many family members whose loved ones are residents of our Veterans' Home, frequently send us letters, praising our medical staff for the treatment, service and kindness they displayed in caring for their loved one. They are living proof of our Home's motto, "Serving those who served."

Veterans' home residents salute OUR NATIONAL ANTHEM



Our veterans celebrated the 193rd anniversary of the writing of the Star Spangled Banner during the War of 1812 by Francis Scott Key. The ceremony began with the Presentation of Colors by the Veterans' Home Color Guard. Resident Robert Winters led the Pledge of Allegiance and the newly formed Veterans' Home Choir led those attending in the singing of our National Anthem. The choir members are Reynolds Malone, William Kyer, Kenneth Chapman, Victor DeVoe, Eugene Bourke, Gerald Hurlburt, Leonard O'Brien, Alan Smith, Raymond McKee, Jan Bochinski, William Halley, Kurt Larson and Clayton Nock.

Photographs by

Charlotte Storey of the Veterans'
Home staff

Directions:

From 91N:

Exit 23, right at end of ramp, take left at 3rd traffic light to enter our facility.

From 91S:

Exit 23, left at end of ramp, take left at 4th traffic light to enter our facility.

From 84:

Take 91 South and follow above directions.



VETERANS' TELEPHONE DIRECTORY

- State of Connecticut
- Department of Veterans' Affairs 1-800-447-0961
- Admitting Department (860) 529-2571
- Billing Department (860) 721-5839
- Residential & Rehabilitative Services (860) 721-5833
- Hospice Program/Respite Care (860) 721-5955
- Office of Advocacy and Assistance (860) 721-5893
- Public Affairs (860) 721-5939
- Connecticut Veterans' Cemetery (860) 721-5838
- Soldiers', Sailors' and Marines' Fund
(For temporary, emergency assistance) (860) 953-4345
- FEDERAL VA MEDICAL CENTERS**
- West Haven (203) 932-5711
- Newington (860) 666-6951
- FEDERAL VA INFO LINE** 1-800-827-1000

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