



"Excellent Care – Earned by Veterans – Delivered Here"

Voices of VISN 6

Official news from around *your* VISN

Vol. 6, No. 8

May 31, 2016

Fayetteville Accepting Patients At New Sanford CBOC

Fayetteville VA began seeing patients at its new Sanford Community Based Outpatient Clinic May 9 with a ribbon cutting being planned for June 29 at 10 a.m.

VA officials say the 10,000-sq.-ft. facility located at 3112 Tramway Boulevard will provide health care to Veterans in Lee, Harnett, Moore and surrounding counties.

"We're excited and looking forward to serving you" is the message the clinic's nurse manager Rebekah Parsons said she wants to communicate to

area Veterans.

Fayetteville VAMC Director Elizabeth Goolsby added, "We want Lee and the surrounding counties' Veterans to have better access to quality health care that is close to their homes. We look forward to continuing our dedication and commitment to serving our Veterans and ensuring they receive the medical and mental health care they have earned."

Built specifically for VA's Patient Aligned Care Team (PACT) model of

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Photos courtesy Constructman, Inc.

The 10,000-sq.-ft. Sanford Community Based Outpatient Clinic opened to initiate primary patient care May 9. An official ribbon cutting will be June 29, 10 a.m..

Services Expand To Northern Va. Veterans

By David Hodge
Richmond VAMC
Public Affairs

Representatives from the Dept. of Veterans Affairs, Veterans and community members gathered May 20, to cut the ribbon on the latest clinical addition in the Northern Virginia area, and open the doors to a new 10,000 square-foot space for Veterans.

The Fredericksburg Community Based Outpatient Clinic at Southpoint brings an additional four primary care teams and expands services to area Veterans. This addi-

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Jason Miller Community leaders and VA leadership joined VISN 6 Deputy Network Director Joseph Edger (4th from left) and Richmond VAMC Director John Brandecker (3rd from right) May 20 to cut the ribbon on the 10,000-sq.-ft. Fredericksburg Community Based Outpatient Clinic, the latest clinical addition for Veterans in the Fredericksburg, Va. region.

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From The Director

So often we consider research as removed from any personal connections we might recognize. Yet, research is important in medicine, because it ameliorates conditions of illness or debilitation, offering hope, newly restored functions and life extensions. Research is critical in VA for the same reasons. In fact, in 2016 VA Research received \$622 million to support development of cutting-edge medical treatments for Veterans and the nation.



In May, VA Research and Development celebrated 91 years of Veteran-enabling successes. Yet, whether the research has occurred in a VA laboratory or outside it, VA will take advantage to offer Veterans the most advanced, safe and effective treatment possible.

Most recently notable is the push in VISN 6 to eradicate Hepatitis-C with a cure that hit the markets within the last couple of years. Initially brought to market through the work of Dr. Raymond Schinazi, a VA-connected researcher whose company Pharmasset developed Sofosbuvir, the game-changing drug now manufactured by Gilead that has led to our ability to “cure” patients diagnosed with Hepatitis-C.

In FY 2015 providers in VISN 6 treated 2,200 Veterans with a cure rate of 90 percent. We estimate 11,000 Veterans in the VISN still require treatment. My hope is that we will achieve disease eradication in the VISN before 2019.

Veterans being treated at Richmond VAMC benefit directly from not only the results of spinal cord and traumatic brain injury research, like the Exoskeleton that puts paralyzed Veterans back on their feet in therapy sessions, but they receive their care from the researchers themselves. VA is also doing miraculous things on its own and sharing those developments with the world.

Some of the most advanced methods in brain diagnosis and treatment are being studied right here in VISN 6. Richmond VAMC was the first VAMC using navigated brain stimulation to evaluate brain functions. Known as NBS, the non-invasive technique uses magnetic energy pulses to activate cells in the part of the

brain that controls movement. By monitoring response to these pulses, doctors can map the brain before operating on it, negating need for a craniotomy.

NBS also enhances the study of conditions such as chronic pain and the problems that patients with neurologic disorders or brain diseases like Parkinson’s disease. Veterans have been helped through deep brain stimulation surgery to improve walking, tremor, and excess movements. Richmond is also celebrating more than 30 years now of exclusive, life-extending cardiac care using Left Ventricular Assistive Devices that supplement heart functions until a new heart replacement can be located, or serve as an alternative to heart transplant. The experts at Richmond are now mentoring surgical teams at other facilities on the equipment and application, so that Veterans in need won’t have to travel all the way to Richmond for the operation in the future.

VISN 6 research projects across seven facility locations in FY2015 represented \$34 million. Grants from a myriad of sources, ranging from other government agencies to the National Institutes of Health or academic institutions, amount to more than an additional \$10-15 million.

Immediate benefits to Veterans include studies like the STRIDE program, sponsored by the VA Office of Geriatrics and Extended Care and managed by Durham’s Geriatrics research Education and Clinical Center, which measures the effect that walking and mobile exercise have on hospitalized patients. VA staff get Veteran patients to walk the hallways or participate in activities that encourage movement. The study has shown an average hospital stay reduction of one day per patient, on average. That is an improvement in healing time as well as a cost savings for VA and the Veteran.

Also at Durham, Dr. Jed Rose conducted studies on smoking cessation using the transdermal nicotine patch he developed with a team of VA researchers. The patch, which has had a significant impact around the world, reduces the craving smokers acquire for nicotine, making it easier for them to quit smoking and thus, reducing the incidence of lung cancer among Veterans and the population at large.

Other Research highlights across the VISN include the work of the VISN 6 Mental Illness Research Education and Clinical Center (MIRECC). This multi-site program studies, educates, and treats patients with post-deployment mental illnesses (including PTSD and TBI). Durham is the Center’s hub with Salisbury as its second largest partnering site. In addition, the Salisbury VAMC is a partner in the Congressionally-funded Chronic Effects of Neurotrauma Consortium (CENC). Within this program, the Salisbury researchers (in collaboration with Wake Forest School of Medi-

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Questions or comments about the newsletter, e-mail stephen.wilkins2@va.gov or call 919-956-5541.

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VHA Chief Appoints New Operations Deputy

VA's Under Secretary for Health Dr. David Shulkin recently announced the appointment of Steve Young to the role of Acting Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Operations and Management, effective June 6.

Young has served as the Director of the VA Salt Lake City Health Care System since June 21, 2009. He also served as Interim Medical Center Director at VA Medical Centers in Los Angeles, Phoenix, Chicago, Montana, and New York.

A native of Iowa, Young earned his Bachelor's Degree in Social Work at the University of Iowa, and a Master's Degree in Public Services Management from DePaul University. He is board certified in health care leadership and a Fellow in the American College of Healthcare Executives. He has almost 39 years of experience in VA, beginning as a Canteen food service worker in the Des Moines VA Medical Center.

Young replaces Janet P. Murphy who served in the role from January 2015, her third assignment as the Acting DUSHOM, having previously served in this role

from May 25, 2014 through July 31, 2014 and November 2013 through March 2014.

While serving as Acting DUSHOM, Murphy was instrumental in the department's effort to realign the organizational map into five districts and led the VISN realignment. She was influential in developing VA's two National Stand Down events in November 2015 and February 2016.

As part of the effort to enhance Veteran access to care, Murphy facilitated the national Electronic Wait List consult clean up and assisted with the Road to MyVA Access Initiative. Murphy will be returning to her role as the Network Director for the VA Midwest Health Care Network, Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN) 23 in Minneapolis.



Steve Young

VISN 6 Director Recognizes Nurses With Annual Awards

By VISN 6 Public Affairs

Network directors use the Secretary of Veterans Affairs Awards for Excellence to recognize individuals for superior performance of their duties over the past year. Earlier in May Network Director Dan Hoffmann recognized five individuals for superlative performance at their respective facilities.

Bryan Shipman, Arlene Imes, Cindy Morris, Bridget Vetere Kmetz and Kaye Green received the 2016 Secretary's Award for Excellence in Nursing in VISN 6, reflecting their work in five categories: Advancement of Nursing Programs by a Medical Center or Healthcare Systems Director, registered nurse in an expanded role, licensed practical nurse, registered nurse (staff RN), and nursing assistant.

For consideration, LPNs should have demonstrated effectiveness in improving and delivering care, worked with an RN and health care team in the provision of outstanding care, improved their job-related skills through a personal development plan and been recognized by their co-workers for their excellent provision of care.

Registered nurses were judged with standards emphasizing nursing expertise, maintenance of a personal development plan, effective collaboration with peers and others, use of evidence-based practices in health care, displayed adherence to a strong sense of integrity and the nursing code of ethics, developed and implemented strategies to improve organizational performance and utilization of resources, and promoted the



Luke Thompson

Nurse Arlene Imes poses with her Secretary's Award for Excellence in Nursing (LPN) presented by Salisbury VAMC Director Kaye Green (l) and Jennifer Pritchard, Interim Associate Director for Patient Care Services.

image of nursing in the community.

Bryan Shipman, a Nursing Assistant at the Charles George VAMC is this year's recipient of the Secretary's Award for Excellence as a Nursing Assistant for a compassionate, positive attitude and efforts to assure individualized care and Veteran autonomy in the CLC reflect our core values of Integrity, Commitment, Ad-

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2nd Annual VA2K Walk Run, Employee Health Fair

Despite rain and unseasonably cold temperatures, Medical Center Director Mike Dunfee (right, hand raised) joined over 200 VA Hampton staff members attended the 2nd Annual VA2K Walk Run and Employee Health & Wellness Fair May 18. VA2K is conducted throughout VA by VA staff, Veterans and Community members to benefit homeless Veteran. In 2015, nearly 24,000 VA employees, Veterans, and community members participated in the 1.2 mile walk held at 211 VA sites, raising more than \$325,600 in donations.



Sanford continued from Pg 1

health care service, the clinic will initially host three PACTs, providing Primary Care, Mental Health, and telehealth (using health informatics, disease management and telehealth technologies to target care and case management to improve access to care and improving the health of Veterans) services for enrolled Veterans. As demand increases, the clinic has the capacity to serve up to 7,000 patients.

A PACT consists of a health care provider (doctor, physician assistant or nurse practitioner), registered nurse, licensed practical nurse and a medical support assistant who work together to provide the best possible health care for Veterans. The PACT team works closely with the patients and their families to ensure trusted, personal relationships are forged to coordinate all aspects of the Veterans health care. When additional services are needed to meet their goals and needs, other care team members will be consulted.

Veterans currently enrolled at the Fayetteville VAMC who live closer to the new clinic will be given priority for care there. Prior to the new facility opening, the medical center reviewed its list of enrolled Veterans who may benefit from transferring to the new clinic and

offered them the opportunity to make the switch.

Construction Managers, Inc. of Fremont, N.C., built the new clinic under a contract award that covered the construction of the clinic and a five-year lease with five, one year, extensions. The total cost of the lease for the 10-year period is approximately \$2.5 million.

To reach the new Sanford clinic, call 919-775-6160. For information on Health Benefits eligibility, call 910-822-7016 or visit www.fayettevillenc.va.gov.



Durham VAMC To Participate In NC STRIVE 2016

Durham VAMC is proud to participate in the second North Carolina Student Transition Resource Initiative for Veteran's Education (NC STRIVE) on Wednesday, June 15. After a very successful inaugural conference in 2015, we are pleased to announce a second conference that is focusing on Veteran Transition to Higher Education. This state-wide collaborative event is free of charge and supported by the Governors Workgroup for Veterans Affairs.

This program will combine experts in the field, panel presentations, small breakout groups, Green Zone training, and exhibits. A panel of student Veterans will provide their unique perspective on helpful services and supports during their time in higher education.

We are targeting the conference to administrators/staff associated with student admissions, financial aid, and retention, counseling, student affairs, and student health; deans and department heads; and faculty in higher education including adult education. Attendees will learn about best practices related to transition, from military to student, from DoD to VA healthcare, and from student to career. They will also have the opportunity to network with colleagues from other two- and four-year colleges and universities.

For event details please visit, <http://ncstrive2016.eventzilla.net>. For additional questions about NC STRIVE please contact Susan Watkins at Susan.Watkins@va.gov, or call 919-286-0411 x 7040.



Linnie Skidmore
Durham VAMC founding partners, Transition Patient Advocate Michael Redic and OEF/OIF/OND Transition Care Program Manager Susan Watkins promote the Student Transition Resource Initiative for Veteran Education (STRIVE) at the recent North Carolina Women Veterans' Summit in Raleigh, NC.

VA Bull City Run, Walk & Roll 5K, Held Saturday, May 7

Durham VAMC, in partnership with the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 175, held the Second VA Bull City Run, Walk & Roll 5K and the Yankee Doodle Kids Dash on May 7. The Durham community celebrated with Veterans, their families and loved ones through a healthy, fun-filled, family-friendly event.

The proceeds from this year's VA Bull City Run, Walk & Roll 5K will help to fund recreational and wellness opportunities for local Veterans who participate in adaptive sports, art therapy and recreation therapy programs that help re-define their capabilities, establish rehabilitative goals, and discover their true potential in a therapeutic environment.



Megan Warren
Hundreds of participants took part in the Bull City Run, Walk and Roll 5K at the Durham VAMC May 7. The annual event has been open to participants of all skill levels, offering race support personnel along the route to assist with any equipment or grade challenges.

Girl Scout Honors Veteran Grandfather With Fundraiser

By Paul Waldrop
Asheville VAMC

Sydney Atchley has been a Girl Scout since she was six years old. Today she is a 13-year-old seventh grader and a 2nd year Girl Scout Cadette from Rutherfordton, North Carolina.

“As a 2nd year Cadette you begin to think about what you want to achieve next. For me, the next achievement was to earn the Silver Award, which is designed to teach respect, self-esteem, and responsibility,” Atchley said about trying to earn the second highest Girl Scout award.

With a little guidance from her family and Girl Scout troop, Atchley developed a plan to raise money for Veterans at the Charles George VA Medical Center in Asheville.

“I chose to help Veterans at the VA Hospital to honor my grandfather,” said Atchley, whose grandfather, Major Doyle “Reid” Hill, retired from the Army after nearly 40 years of service. After retiring from the Army, Atchley’s grandfather worked at the Asheville VA as a registered nurse. “I know my grandfather would be very proud of me and happy for my success.”

Atchley raised \$2,133 by hosting an auction in conjunction with a hot dog supper. She advertised the event by handing out flyers throughout the town of Rutherfordton and making an announcement on her local radio station.

“I asked local businesses to donate prizes for the auction,” she said. “We were able to auction off items such as oil changes, car washes, haircuts, and gift cards.”

Next, she used a list provided by Chapter 25 of the Disabled American Veterans to purchase items for Veterans at the Asheville VA. Items purchased included an iPod, TVs, a Wii game station, DVD players,



Vicki Eatmon

Thirteen-year-old Sydney Atchley raised \$2,133 to purchase needed items for Veterans at the Asheville VA. Atchley chose the service project in honor of her deceased grandfather, who served nearly 40 years in the Army.

movies, MP3 players, microwaves, toaster ovens, coffee pots, pots and pans, brooms, mops, cleaning supplies, food supplies and art supplies.

“We bought everything on that list except a van,” she stated.

Acting Voluntary Service Chief Vicki Eatmon thanked the young girl for her commitment to helping Veterans.

“We are very grateful for the generous donations Sydney made to our Veterans,” she said. “I can’t praise her enough for her warm heart and deep respect for our nation’s heroes. We are honored to be the recipient of her time and talents.”

Atchley was recently notified that she earned the Girl Scout’s Silver Award, which she is slated to receive in a June 6 ceremony.

June is PTSD Awareness Month

Today VA operates more than 200 specialized programs for the treatment of PTSD. In Fiscal Year 2013, more than a half million Veterans diagnosed with PTSD received treatment at VA medical centers and clinics.

VA is committed to providing the most effective, evidence-based care for PTSD. It has created programs to ensure VA clinicians receive training in state-of-the-art treatments for PTSD. At the end of FY 2013, VA had trained more than 5,000 of its clinicians to use Cognitive Processing Therapy or Prolonged Exposure, which are cited by the Institute of Medicine Committee

on Treatment of PTSD as proven to be effective treatments for PTSD.

VA’s National Center for PTSD was created in 1989 by an act of Congress, and celebrated its 25th anniversary on Aug. 29, 2014. We continue to be at the forefront of progress in the scientific understanding and treatment of PTSD. In addition to improving upon existing treatments, we are researching effective new treatments. We are also developing new educational product, such as our What is PTSD? whiteboard video. For more information on the National Center for PTSD, please visit www.ptsd.va.gov/about/ptsd-awareness/RaisePTSD_Awareness.pdf.

Hampton Veteran Combats PTSD With Comedy

By Kenita D. Gordon
Hampton VAMC Public Affairs

As the comedian closed his set the packed crowd roared with laughter at the Funny Bone comedy club in Virginia Beach, recently.

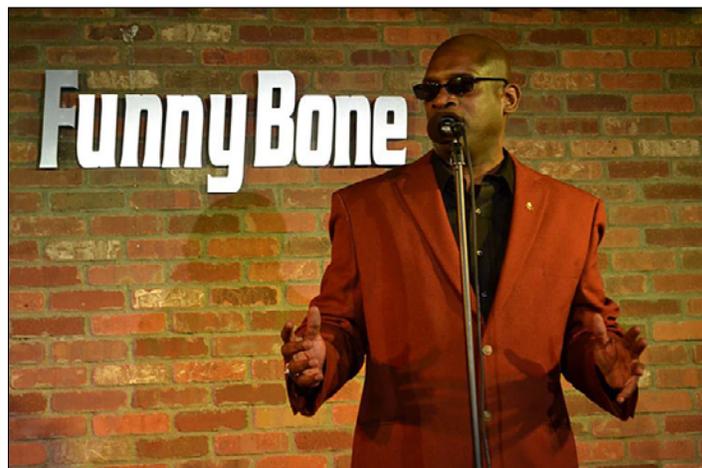
In that moment William Breckenridge couldn't help but smile and laugh a little because right then he knew he'd done it. He'd turned his Comedy Bootcamp training with the Armed Services Arts Partnership (ASAP) and his experience as a Veteran into stand-up comedy fodder for the amusement of strangers.

Breckenridge and 10 others attending sessions from noon to 3 p.m. every Saturday for 8 weeks at the College of William and Mary; Veterans, service members and military spouses, recently completed ASAP's Comedy Bootcamp. They performed at the Funny Bone as part of their graduation from the program.

Bootcamp instructors teach participants how to construct a joke, whether it relates to one's own personal experiences or not. "The boot camp was rough from the beginning and I was constantly pushed outside of my comfort zone to perfect my jokes," he said.

Breckenridge is a 21 year U.S. Army Veteran who retired three years ago. He lost six close comrades during deployments to Iraq, Afghanistan and Kuwait. During his service Breckenridge was diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), a condition which has had a significant impact on his life and the lives of those closest to him.

After the military Breckenridge, who has contemplated suicide said loneliness and isolation played a major role in his inability to cope with PTSD, adding, I had a hard time with [PTSD] during my [military] service and especially after I got out. Initially I was



Courtesy WHRO TV
Army Veteran William Breckenridge performs stand-up comedy to help him overcome PTSD and other stressors.

excited to retire from the Army, but after a few days I wanted to go back because I missed my soldiers and being able to have that comradery."

With the help of VA mental health experts and recently the comedy boot camp, Breckenridge has found ways to cope with an illness that is a lasting part of his everyday life.

As for his next adventure, Breckenridge is looking forward to attending other programs ASAP has to offer whether in music, visual arts or writing. "I'm definitely going to do a different program coming up. I have a background in music and singing, so this time I think I'll learn to play piano."

For more information on ASAP's programs visit www.asapasap.org and to learn more about VA's PTSD services visit www.ptsd.va.gov.

Directors Column continued from Pg 2

cine) studied the effects of bomb blasts on the brain. They are using the most state-of-the-art imaging and electrophysiology equipment available to researchers. Other areas of research within the MIRECC include prevention of violence, new medications for PTSD and TBI, and studies on the genetic contributions to post-deployment mental health.

VISN 6 is also participating in the VA-wide Million Veteran Program (MVP). This nation-wide VA program has as its goal, the collection of blood samples from one-million Veterans to create a large genetic databank that studies multiple illnesses and diseases affecting Veterans; from macular degeneration to cardiac disease. This critical and important endeavor can lead to many great discoveries changing the lives of Veterans

and non-Veterans alike.

VA facilities and providers maintain affiliations with academic institutions around the country which not only enables VA to offer Veterans top quality care, while training a majority of the nation's top providers, but those relationships help to titrate VA's need for research space, equipment and personnel. We enjoy mutually beneficial relationships that maximize the greatest opportunities to care for Veterans in the long and short terms. By exploiting opportunities to combine projects that bring together the best minds in VA with the best minds in the world, we can ensure Veterans will continue to enjoy the best care anywhere.

Sincerely, Dan Hoffmann

Salute To A Hero

By Marlous Black
Salisbury VAMC Public Affairs

His name is Henzly N. Harrison, but everyone knows him by the nickname that has aptly described his disposition since birth, "Happy." Happy's mother said that he never cried and has been happy his entire life. The first thing that you notice about Happy is how his smile lights up the entire room.

Happy is a Vietnam Veteran who was awarded a Purple Heart. He humbly declined to discuss how he received his Purple Heart, but was quick to say, "I was very proud to have served, because it was an investment in America and an investment in our future well-being. I was glad to have shed blood for my country and I thank my fellow Veterans, all those who served.

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Luke Thompson
Henzly Harrison proudly displays the Purple Heart he earned while serving in Vietnam. He has deservedly carried the nickname "Happy" throughout his life.

Hepatitis C May Surprise You

May was Hepatitis Awareness Month and May 19 was National Hepatitis Testing Day. Veterans have unusually high rates of hepatitis C, especially Veterans born between 1945 and 1965. Hepatitis C is a disease of the liver caused by a virus; it is generally spread through blood-to-blood contact. The disease begins with the swelling of the liver and can progress to liver damage such as cirrhosis and liver cancer if untreated.

Hepatitis C can persist for 10 to 30 years before there are any clear symptoms, which is why most people with chronic hepatitis C are unaware they are infected. There is no vaccine for hepatitis C, but effective treatments are now available. A blood test is the only way to diagnose a hepatitis C infection.

Veterans with any of the following risks should be tested for hepatitis C:

- Anyone born during 1945-1965;
- Anyone with liver disease or who has had abnormal liver tests;
- Anyone who has ever injected illegal drugs;
- Anyone who had a blood transfusion or organ transplant before 1992;
- Anyone who received a tattoo or body piercing in a non-regulated setting; and
- Anyone with HIV or a weakened immune system.

Veterans should make a special effort in May or if you are free May 19 to talk to your VA health care provider about testing and treatment. VA is the largest single provider of hepatitis care in the United States.

For more information about hepatitis, please visit www.hepatitis.va.gov.

3 FACTS
YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT
HEPATITIS C

LIVER CANCER
Hepatitis C is a leading cause of liver cancer.

Millions of Americans have hepatitis C, but most don't know it.

Treatments can eliminate the hepatitis C virus.

Talk to your doctor about getting tested. It could save your life.

KNOW MORE HEPATITIS

www.cdc.gov/knowmorehepatitis

USO-NC Awarded Multi-Year Grant For NCServes-R/D

North Carolina will take the second-of-four transformative steps in ensuring its military-connected members and their families have access to the most comprehensively arrayed networks of services, resources, and care found anywhere in the nation.

This state-wide initiative known as NCServes, part of the AmericaServes effort housed in Syracuse University's Institute for Veterans and Military Families (IVMF), aims to better address the needs of service members, veterans, and their families through streamlined access to high quality providers on a coordinated basis.

The goal of these public-private networks is clear: to smartly connect each unique military-connected member who is seeking services to providers that can then best meet their needs.

Taking on a true 'no wrong door' approach, individuals looking for services can either call the network's toll-free number 800-939-5911 and speak with a licensed professional to secure a referral for services, or submit their request directly through the local NC-Serves website <http://americaserves.org/americaserves-locations/raleigh-nc/>.

No longer will North Carolina's service members, veterans, and their families have to look for providers on their own, follow up on the progress of their requests, or be denied services due to capacity or eligibility restrictions. The network will ensure that a positive and quality referral is made.

Following a very competitive RFP process, the IVMF has awarded the United Service Organizations of North Carolina (USO-NC) a \$450,000, multi-year grant to serve as the NCServes – Raleigh/Durham's un-

derpinning coordinating entity.

As the Raleigh/Durham Coordination Center, the USO-NC will work in partnership with the state, area military bases, NC National Guard, VA, and over 50 public and nonprofit service providers throughout the region to continuously improve the quality, efficiency and accountability of veteran programs and services.

The USO-NC will be partnering with Cardinal Innovations Healthcare to provide call center services to improve the output and coordination within the network.

The USO-NC will act as the forward-facing organization and will manage the overall operations of the network, while Cardinal Innovations will use their knowledge and scope to intake veterans, service members and their families.

With lead funding from the Walmart Foundation, together with other local and regional philanthropic partners, the NCServes coordinated network was launched on Aug. 1, 2015 in the Charlotte/Mecklenburg region with plans to expand into three additional regions across the state of North Carolina. NCServes-Raleigh/Durham went live on June 1.

"The USO of North Carolina has been a proud supporter of the AmericaServes movement into North Carolina and it is an honor to be selected by our community to serve as the Coordination Center for the Raleigh-Durham market," said John Falkenbury, President, USO of North Carolina.

"We are pleased to be selected as a partner organization in this important and timely initiative," said Richard Topping, CEO of Cardinal Innovations Healthcare.

Nurses continued from Pg 3

vocacy, Respect and Excellence.

In recognition of Certified Clinical Video Technician Arlene Imes' improvement of the delivery of patient care to Veterans through patient advocacy and promotion of telehealth programs she has been selected the 2016 VISN 6 Licensed Practical Nurse recipient of the Secretary's Award for Excellence in Nursing.

Cindy Morris used evidence-based nursing practices, skill in managing complex patient needs, and coordination with other services to meet unit needs that have improved care and performance in the Emergency Department, qualifying her for selection as the 2016 VISN 6 Registered Nurse (Staff Nurse) recipient of the Secretary's Award for Excellence in Nursing.

Bridget Vetere Kmetz's dedication and contributions as a Nurse Practitioner providing care in McGuire

(Richmond) VAMC's Mobile Medical Unit Clinic has enhanced access and improved outcomes for Veterans in Rural Virginia have established her beyond peers and justified her selection as the 2016 VISN 6 Registered Nurse (Expanded Role) recipient of the Secretary's Award for Excellence in Nursing.

Salisbury VAMC Director Kaye Green was nominated for the 2016 Secretary's Award for the Advancement of Nursing Programs by a Medical Center or Healthcare Systems Director due to her unwavering support of nursing programs and staff.

She facilitated the development of a nursing model encompassing the iCARE values, nursing-driven shared governance and evidence-based practice by committing the necessary clinical, financial and human resources.

North Carolina Summit Supported Women Veterans

By Paul Waldrop
Asheville VAMC Public Affairs

Empower, Educate and Enrich—three powerful words that summarize the 2016 North Carolina Women Veterans Summit and Expo held Wednesday, May 25 at the North Carolina State University’s McKimmon Center in Raleigh. Women Veterans from across the state were encouraged to attend the biannual event designed



Linnie Skidmore
Several North Carolina Women Veterans Summit attendees participated in a self-defense training workshop.

to recognize and honor their service and contributions and help women Veterans ease the transition from war to the workplace.

“In North Carolina it is not enough to thank Veterans for their service,” said Governor Pat McCrory of the annual event. “We are on a mission to become the most military and Veteran friendly state in the nation. We welcome Veter-



Linnie Skidmore
VISN 6 Director Dan Hoffmann engaged presenters, vendors and visitors during his attendance at the North Carolina Women Veterans Summit in Raleigh, May 25. The now annual event supports female Veterans’ transition from military life.

ans into our community.”

The more than 250 women Veterans who attended this year’s Expo had access to counselors with experience in entrepreneurship, women’s business opportunities, career coaching, VA healthcare, eBenefits, Veterans Business Association Claims, networking, and wellness through the arts.

The 2016 Women Veterans Summit and Expo was a joint project between the North Carolina Department of Military and Veteran Affairs and the North Carolina Veteran’s Business Association.

Fredericksburg continued from Pg 1

tion, located on the third floor of the Lee’s Hill Medical Plaza, complements the original Veterans clinic located approximately five miles to the north. The two clinics, which belong to the McGuire VAMC in nearby Richmond, Va., bring the total to 20,000 square feet of clinical space for Veterans.

The Fredericksburg area is among the fastest growing regions for Veterans, stated Joseph P. Edger, Deputy Network Director, Mid-Atlantic Health Care Network. Between 2010 and 2015, the number of Veterans accessing care in Fredericksburg has more than doubled. The increase presented a challenge and in two years the idea went from paper to reality.

“What you’re going to see here is our answer to that challenge,” Edger said at the ceremony.

In addition to primary care access, the new clinic doubled the Home Based Primary Care program and

expanded the Mental Health team to serve new and existing patients in their own community. The new clinic is equipped with an audio booth and, currently, part-time audiology is offered. Full-time audiology services are due later in the year.

One of the largest benefits to area Veterans is the reduction in travel to Richmond for services in audiology and podiatry, said Lisa Gregory, Chapter Commander of General Washington Chapter 7 for the Disabled American Veterans and Chairperson for the local Fredericksburg area Veterans Council.

Gregory said the increase in general and mental health access should benefit area Veterans by reducing wait times and travel.

“This area is famous for people retiring and staying, so I’d like to see this clinic fill up,” Gregory said. “And then get another.”

VA Selects New Women Veterans Center Director

The Department of Veterans Affairs announced the appointment of a new director of the Center for Women Veterans.

Kayla M. Williams assumed duties this week as Director, serving as primary advisor to the Secretary on Department policies, programs and legislation that affect women Veterans.

“Kayla embodies everything it means to be a true advocate for women Veterans and I am proud to welcome her to VA in this leadership role,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert A. McDonald. “This is an important time for VA as we prepare for the growing number of women we expect to take advantage of the VA services they have earned. I know Kayla will be tremendously helpful in improving services for female Veterans now and in future.”

Williams is a member of the Army Education Advisory Committee, a former member of the VA Advisory Committee on Women Veterans, a 2013 White House Woman Veteran Champion of Change, and a 2015 Lincoln Award recipient.

She worked eight years at the RAND Corporation conducting research on servicemember and Veteran

health needs and benefits, international security, and intelligence policy.

Williams graduated cum laude with a BA in English Literature from Bowling Green State University and earned an MA in International Affairs with a focus on the Middle East from American University.

She is author of two books. *Love My Rifle More Than You: Young and Female in the U.S. Army*, is a memoir about her deployment to Iraq. Her second book is, *Plenty of Time When We Get Home: Love and Recovery in the Aftermath of War*, about her family’s journey from trauma to healing.

Williams is coming from Pittsburgh, PA with her husband, a combat-wounded veteran, and their two children.

The Center for Women Veterans was established by Congress in November 1994 by Public Law 103-446 and monitors and coordinates VA’s administration of health care and benefits services and programs for women Veterans.

The Center serves as an advocate for a cultural transformation in recognizing the service and contributions of women Veterans and women in the military.

Happy continued from Pg 8

We are brothers and sisters.”

He joined the Army in 1965 and served with the 25th Division as a forward scout in the Pleiku Mountains in Vietnam from 1965 through 1967. Following graduation from MTA Trucking School, Happy began working for Ryder Trucking in Greensboro.

Happy is a four-year resident of the Community Living Center (CLC) at the Salisbury VA Medical Center. Of his stay at the CLC, Happy says, “Other than Shangri-La, there is no other place I’d rather be. The best part is being around Veterans every day. Many staff members are Veterans and everyone treats you with respect, starting with doctors, nurses and support staff.”

The Recreation Therapy Department keeps residents busy with bus trips, movies and even an annual senior prom. Every detail, from the tuxedo down to the shiny polished shoes, is provided for Veterans to make the prom extra special. Happy compares living at the CLC to life on a college campus where they all belong to the same fraternity and sorority, which is the military.

When asked what he liked best about the VA, Happy said, “Of course, being around Veterans and the care that I receive from the Salisbury Medical Center. I would like to thank the Director, staff and volunteers for all the help that they give us Veterans. And we thank the public for their lasting support.”

Happy likes to write poetry and recited this example from memory:

My heart knows all
Old gaze doubt upon that crest
Tattooed upon the robin’s breast
And do you see the willow tree
Swaying so buoyantly
And what about the ants alone
Working on their tiny homes
I stand for hours upon this hill
Listening to the whippoorwill
Rich man, poor man, hurried man, worried man
What would you give if you could quote
A single note
Of birds in raptor’s song
Or hark to nature all life long
Although you say this can’t be
For I have no eyes to see
Look into my bosom deep
For the secret that I keep
My heart knows all

VISN 6 Sites Of Care & VA Vet Centers

MEDICAL CENTERS

Asheville VAMC
1100 Tunnel Road
Asheville, NC 28805
828-298-7911, 800-932-6408
www.asheville.va.gov/

Durham VAMC
508 Fulton St.
Durham, NC 27705
919-286-0411, 888-878-6890
www.durham.va.gov/

Fayetteville VAMC
2300 Ramsey St.
Fayetteville, NC 28301
910-488-2120, 800-771-6106
www.fayettevillenc.va.gov/

Hampton VAMC
100 Emancipation Dr.
Hampton, VA 23667
757-722-9961, 866-544-9961
www.hampton.va.gov/

Richmond VAMC
1201 Broad Rock Blvd.
Richmond, VA 23249
804-675-5000, 800-784-8381
www.richmond.va.gov/

Salem VAMC
1970 Roanoke Blvd.
Salem, VA 24153
540-982-2463, 888-982-2463
www.salem.va.gov/

Salisbury VAMC
1601 Brenner Ave.
Salisbury, NC 28144
704-638-9000, 800-469-8262
www.salisbury.va.gov/

OUTPATIENT CLINICS

Albemarle CBOC
1845 W City Drive
Elizabeth City, NC 27909
252-331-2191

Brunswick Outreach Clinic
20 Medical Campus Drive
Supply, NC 28462
910-754-6141

Charlotte CBOC
8601 University East Drive
Charlotte, NC 28213
704-597-3500

Charlotte HCC
3506 W. Tyvola Rd.
Charlotte, NC 28208
704-329-1300

Charlottesville CBOC
590 Peter Jefferson Pkwy
Charlottesville, VA 22911
434-293-3890

Chesapeake CBOC
1987 S. Military Highway
Chesapeake, Va 23320
757-722-9961

Danville CBOC
705 Piney Forest Rd.
Danville, VA 24540
434-710-4210

Emporia CBOC
1746 East Atlantic Street
Emporia, VA 23847
434-348-1500

Fayetteville HCC
7300 So. Raeford Rd
Fayetteville NC 28304
910-488-2120
800-771-6106

Franklin CBOC
647 Wayah St.
Franklin, NC 28734-3390
828-369-1781

Fredericksburg CBOC
130 Executive Center Pkwy
Fredericksburg, VA 22401
540-370-4468

Goldsboro CBOC
2610 Hospital Road
Goldsboro, NC 27909
919-731-4809

Greenville HCC
401 Moye Blvd.
Greenville, NC 27834
252-830-2149

Hamlet CBOC
100 Jefferson Street
Hamlet, NC 28345
910-582-3536

Hickory CBOC
2440 Century Place, SE
Hickory, NC 28602
828-431-5600

Hillandale Rd. Annex
1824 Hillandale Road
Durham, North Carolina 27705
919-383-6107

Jacksonville CBOC
4006 Henderson Drive
Jacksonville, NC 28546
910-353-6406

Kernersville HCC
1695 Kernersville Medical Pkwy
Kernersville, NC 27284
336-515-5000

Lynchburg CBOC
1600 Lakeside Drive
Lynchburg, VA 24501
434-316-5000

Morehead City CBOC
5420 U.S. 70
Morehead City, NC 28557
252-240-2349

Raleigh CBOC
3305 Sungate Blvd.
Raleigh, NC 27610
919-212-0129

Raleigh II Annex
3040 Hammond Business Place
Raleigh, NC 27603
919-899-6259

Robeson County CBOC
139 Three Hunts Drive
Pembroke, NC 28372
910-521-8452

Rutherford County CBOC
374 Charlotte Road
Rutherfordton, NC 28139
828-288-2780

Sanford CBOC
3112 Tramway Road
Sanford, NC 27332
919-775-6160

Staunton CBOC
102 Lacy B. King Way
Staunton, VA 24401
540-886-5777

Tazewell CBOC
123 Ben Bolt Ave.
Tazewell, VA 24651
276-988-2526

Virginia Beach CBOC
244 Clearfield Avenue
Virginia Beach, VA
757-722-9961, ext. 1900

Wilmington HCC
1705 Gardner Rd.
Wilmington, NC 28405
910-343-5300

Wytheville CBOC
165 Peppers Ferry Rd.
Wytheville, VA 24382-2363
276-223-5400

DIALYSIS CENTERS

VA Dialysis and Blind Rehabilitation Clinics at Brier Creek
8081 Arco Corporate Drive
Raleigh, NC 27617
919-286-5220

VA Dialysis Clinic Fayetteville
2301 Robeson Street, Ste. 101
Fayetteville, NC 28305
910-483-9727

VET CENTERS

Charlotte Vet Center
2114 Ben Craig Dr.
Charlotte, NC 28262
704-549-8025

Fayetteville Vet Center
2301 Robeson Street
Fayetteville, NC 28305
910-488-6252

Greensboro Vet Center
3515 W Market Street, Suite 120
Greensboro, NC 27403
336-333-5366

Greenville Vet Center
1021 W.H. Smith Blvd.
Greenville, NC 27834
252-355-7920

Jacksonville, N.C. Vet Center
110-A Branchwood Drive
Jacksonville, NC 28546
910-577-1100

Norfolk Vet Center
1711 Church Street
Norfolk, VA 23504
757-623-7584

Raleigh Vet Center
8851 Ellstree Lane
Raleigh, NC 27617
919-856-4616

Roanoke Vet Center
350 Albemarle Ave., SW
Roanoke, VA 24016
540-342-9726

Virginia Beach Vet Center
324 Southport Circle, Suite 102
Virginia Beach, VA, 23452
757-248-3665