

McGuire

Serving Our Nation's Heroes

Monthly



NEWS FROM:

Heart Transplant

Fiscal (Budget)

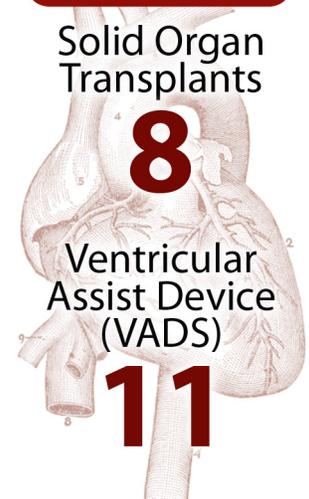
Engineering (Parking)

Education & more



The McGuire heart transplant team gathered for a small reunion with Veteran Glenn Ford at the Hunter Holmes McGuire VA Medical Center from left; Lisa Martin, ventricular assist device coordinator, Veteran and heart recipient Glenn Ford, cardiothoracic surgeon Gundars Katlaps and heart transplant coordinator Katherine Osborne. Ford not only had a heart transplant at McGuire, he had a left ventricle assist device placed in 2012 by Katlaps and the cardiothoracic unit.

Fiscal Year 2014:



A Veterans Day to Remember

While many Veterans were out on Veterans Day, getting meals and discounts from local businesses that wanted to recognize their service and sacrifice, Glenn Ford, an Army Veteran, got something much more valuable.

In the early hours of 11 November, he and his wife received the call they had been waiting for. He was selected to receive a new heart. Ford, a local Virginia resident, had a Left Ventricular Assist Device implanted in 2012, and was waiting for transplant since then.

The transplant was done 11 November by Dr. Gundars Katlaps, McGuire cardio thoracic surgeon. After the call, Ford and his wife arrived an hour

The OR team, cardiothoracic surgeons, physician assistants, anesthesiologists, perfusionists, the transplant coordinator and I are all very aware that minutes are precious...

later, but the transplantation process begins much earlier.

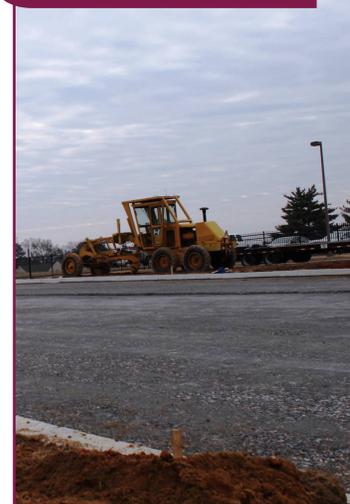
The transplant program has many moving parts; patient, transplant team, harvesting team, organ procurement organization and the most important part, the donor, must all be in synchronicity to have a successful transplant. There are

many problems to solve like legal and ethical concerns, and medical issues.

McGuire has had great outcomes because the transplant group uses communication and teamwork. "The OR team, cardiothoracic surgeons, physician assistants, anesthesiologists, perfusionists, the transplant coordinator and I are all very aware that minutes are precious and can possibly affect the outcome of the transplant," added Lisa Martin, left ventricular device coordinator. "We communicate almost constantly the night of the transplant. Each person must be aware of where in the sequence we are and what is being done next."

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The parking lot expansion is almost complete. The first extension between Third and Fourth Street is finished and open for use. The lot between second and third will follow directly afterward. This project adds approximately 177 new parking spaces.





Brenda French,

Nurse Educator Goes National with My VeHU

On December 10, 2014 I had the opportunity to be a presenter on the MyVeHU Campus. I was asked by the Polytrauma Field Advisor for the Office of Nursing Service to participate in this major project. This involved months of preparation and collaboration. This was definitely a national adventure. My co-presenters were located in Palo Alto and Tampa. I traveled to Orlando for the live presentation at the studio where the event was recorded. It is now available for ON DEMAND viewing at the www.myvehucampus.com website.

The two educational sessions focused on how the Dual Diagnosis of Spinal Cord Injury (SCI) and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and Dual Diagnosis of SCI and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) impedes recovery. It will enable

the staff to identify a SCI patient with undiagnosed dual diagnosis of TBI or PTSD. Signs and symptoms, assessment, treatment, rehabilitation and recovery were examined.

In 2013 MyVeHu Campus enrollment exceeded 31,000. If you haven't set up an account and enrolled please do so. It is easy and a great learning resource. It is accessible from home also. VeHU promotes collaboration of clinical staff, developers, and informatics staff to ensure VA resources are utilized in every capacity possible. Our goal is always to offer VA professionals with resources to provide our deserving veterans with the very best health care.

|| **Congratulations
Brenda French!** ||



The walls on 2F display photos of Veterans that received transplants at McGuire.

Heart Transplant, continued

The next step in the transplant process is a series of biopsies to monitor rejection. Ford received clear biopsies. Because of his close proximity to the McGuire VA, and the fact that his wife Geneva is a nurse by trade and could assist with home nursing care like dressing wounds, Ford entered outpatient status after two weeks.

Ford was grateful to the McGuire VA transplant team not only for the successful outcome, but the healthcare he has received since enrolling 12 years ago. "The nurses are the best," Ford said. "The VA hospitals are by far the best." Mr. Ford is McGuire's 403rd transplant patient.



FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS AT MCGUIRE VA MEDICAL CENTER

The emergency call boxes you see throughout the campus are functional. To activate, just push the red button and it operates a radio inside the unit which alerts Police dispatch and allows two way communication. The boxes also broadcast your position to the police. They can be used for any emergency in the parking lots to include Medical emergency, reporting criminal behavior or requesting police assistance.

- Ford attributes the quality of his care to communication. "When they follow-up to things that you forgot you mentioned, that's when you know they are listening," Ford explained.
- "You feel good about that."
- He still goes through monitoring, but that hasn't impacted Ford and his family's favorite hobby which is remodeling the homes that they own.

January is Braille Literacy Month

January was chosen because it is the birth month of Braille's designer, Louis Braille, who lost his sight in an accident. Having few opportunities, he went to a school for the blind in Paris and began growing his passion to develop a coded system of reading for the blind.

McGuire VA Medical Center and the Visual Impairment Services in Outpatient Rehabilitation (VISOR) program offers braille to Veterans. Braille is taught by longtime instructor, Sandy Price who has been teaching braille for over 30 years.

"I love teaching braille," Price said. "It's so valuable to learn, but technology for people who are visually impaired is incredible," Price added. Price has taught braille to hundreds of Virginians, but said the technology has driven down the use of braille.

One of her current students, Michaun Harrison wanted to learn braille even though she is not completely blind and has access to adaptive technology because of the VA. "I started braille last October because I just wanted to learn it," said Harrison. "I love languages, and I like to improve myself"

said Harrison is doing very well, especially since it is tougher to learn braille as an adult. "Braille is a process where you are linking the brain with the fingers."

The closer the dot combinations are to each other, the more difficult it is to read she added.

Price went on to say the two biggest challenges to learning braille are having less sensitivity in the fingers and memory loss. Both are common in older Veterans and many patients served in VISOR often have macular degeneration or glaucoma.

In addition to braille, Price and the McGuire VA VISOR program offer other services like adaptive technology, mobility, low vision evaluations, life skills, cooking, and home visits.



Braille's system uses sets of six embossed dot combinations that are read from left to right. Price



Drs. Danielle Clare and Jon Carter, attend the information table at the inaugural McGuire VA Medical Center Pressure Ulcer Information Fair. Providers, patients and caretakers were able to obtain information about pressure ulcer prevention including the latest equipment and technology. Uturn is the symbol developed to help teach the practice of prevention.



FISCAL SERVICES

Out with the old and in with the new, new budget for fiscal year 2015 that is!

The Medical Center's 2015 budget shows an increase from 2014's levels. Who will benefit from these additional funds, you ask...EVERYONE WILL, but especially our Veterans! To highlight just a few of the many new business plans:

- Medical specialists will be able to spend more time in outpatient clinics
- Neurology will offer enhanced epilepsy and Sleep Lab services
- We'll purchase access to a national database of nursing quality indicators
- We will hire more pharmacy specialists, policemen and nurses

As you can imagine these enhanced business plans will make a multitude of positive ripples throughout the medical center and outward into our Veteran community!



MLK Day of Service

MLK Day of Service is a part of "United We Serve," the President's national call to service initiative. It calls for Americans from all walks of life to work together to provide solutions to our most pressing national challenges on the MLK holiday. In honor of Dr. King's commitment to service, Veterans, service organizations, McGuire employees and their families gathered on MLK Day of Service and helped the Central Virginia community by collecting and assembling personal care kits for the Salvation Army and Red Cross.



Nursing Education Council

Clinical Practice Council

Recently at McGuire

Please share your events with us for inclusion in upcoming newsletters. Send an email to: VHARICPublicAffairs@va.gov

Number of Personal Care Kits Assembled

687



LDI Graduates 2014



MAP Graduates 2014



Julia Muldrow 30 Years of Service

