



McGuire

Serving Our Nation's Heroes

Monthly



THIS ISSUE

Deep Brain
Stimulation

LAMP Award

Commemorative
Partner Program

UPCOMING

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Recreation Week

National Hospitality
House Week

EDITORIAL STAFF

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Hodge · Mary Beatty-Brooks · Jason Miller

All content within *McGuire Monthly* was
written and compiled by the editorial staff
unless otherwise noted.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



— Renée Cheatham —

Where do you work?

I work from home. My husband and I run a sponsored residential home, caring for intellectually and physically disabled adults.

How many years have you volunteered at VA?

I have volunteered at the VA for Soldiers' Angels for 3 years.

What was your most memorable experience while volunteering at VA?

My most memorable experience is volunteering at Women Veteran events and thanking women Veterans for their service. I was humbled at how many of them did not openly discuss their service. Being able to provide them with little tokens of love and words of gratitude truly moved me to try to do more.

Tell us something about yourself that most people would not know.

I am incredibly shy and introverted, and prefer being behind the scenes making things happen. But, when I am working on behalf of others, I am able to push it (shyness) down in order to help others.

What does being a VA Volunteer mean to you?

Being a VA Volunteer means that I am able to give back, in a small way, to the veterans who willingly fought for my freedoms. It is my own small way of showing gratitude to veterans who have earned and deserve not only my respect, but the respect of others who enjoy freedoms that come at a high cost.

DEEP BRAIN STIMULATION TURNING AROUND VETERANS' LIVES 180 DEGREES AT A TIME

While on a routine visit to the seizure clinic within the McGuire VA Medical Center (VAMC), “Doc” said some staff from the hospital’s Parkinson’s disease clinic noticed a slight tremble in his hands.

For years, Doc carried on work as a locomotive engineer while his hands became progressively worse to the point that activities such as eating and writing were hard to complete.

“It was very difficult to do the simple things,” said Theodore “Doc” Holliday, a Vietnam-Era Air Force Veteran.

A meeting with members from McGuire’s Parkinson’s Disease Research, Education, and Clinical Center (PADRECC) confirmed it to be Parkinson’s disease.

In April 2015, Doc had Deep Brain Stimulation (DBS) surgery at McGuire VA Medical Center—performed by Dr. Kathryn Holloway, Chief of Neurosurgery at McGuire VAMC and Director of Neurosurgical Services at PADRECC Southeast.

DBS surgery involves placing an electrode in a very specific region of the brain to alter normal impulses in a controlled manner. The electrical impulses block the natural signals in the brain that causes

negative effects in patients with Parkinson’s disease, essential tremor, and dystonia.

During the procedure, a battery-powered pulse generator is implanted under the skin in the chest. An extension wire leads from the pulse generator, under the skin, to an area atop the head. From there, the electrode is placed in the correct region of the brain.

At the time, Doc was unable to drive himself. He became more and more dependent on others for help.

After his surgery, Doc said, the implant required calibration. During this time he was holding a bottle of water and it was shaking all around.

All of a sudden, he explained, like a lightning bolt, the bottle and water were steady in his hand.

“It’s changed my quality of life 180 degrees because I can do anything I want at my age,” Doc stated.

“I’ll carry to my grave the love and respect from the people who’ve treated me in the seizure clinic, PADRECC and Parkinson’s Clinic,” Doc said.

Dr. Holloway recently reached a major milestone among neurosurgeons—500 DBS implant procedures. She’s been doing DBS procedures between McGuire VAMC and Virginia Commonwealth University since the Food and Drug Administration first approved DBS for treatment of tremor in 1997.

“It’s extremely gratifying,” Holloway said about her work.

Holloway works in a very small section of the brain in which the electrical pulse stimulates a circular area about four millimeters in diameter.

When talking about precision in neurological surgeries, this is the ultimate in that endeavor, Holloway said.

Holloway splits her duties between McGuire VAMC and Virginia Commonwealth University, where she serves as Professor of Neurosurgery at VCU and neurosurgeon for the VCU Parkinson’s and Movement Disorders Center. She credits the entire team of professionals—nurses, therapists, neurologists and others—who have worked to grow the neurosurgical programs and have successful medical outcomes. •



Dr. Kathryn Holloway, Chief of Neurosurgery at McGuire VA Medical Center and Director of Neurosurgical Services at Parkinson’s Disease Research, Education, and Clinical Center Southeast, recently complete a major milestone among neurosurgeons—500 Deep Brain Stimulation surgical procedures. Holloway also serves as Professor of Neurosurgery at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) and neurosurgeon for the VCU Parkinson’s and Movement Disorders Center.

JUNE LEADERSHIP FORUM

ACCOMPLISHMENTS and AWARDS

EDWINETTE MOSES

VISN 6 C&P Bronze

TINA FLORY**WANDA STEPHENSON**

National Center for Health Promotion
and Disease Prevention's Gateway
to Healthy Living Pilot

**ELISABETH VEASEY
GABRIELA WECHSLER**

VCU Health Administration
Residency Completion/Graduation

WILLIE MCDONALD

Toastmasters Competent
Leader Recognition

BRENDA RICHARDSON

Toastmasters Competent
Leader Recognition

ALAN LOMBARDO

Preceptor of the Year

IT'S YOUR
NEWSLETTER!

WE WANT
TO HEAR
FROM YOU!

Please share your
department news with
us:

[vharicpublicaffairs@
va.gov](mailto:vharicpublicaffairs@va.gov)



EMPLOYEE WELLNESS

McGUIRE TOTAL BODY FITNESS

4:30 pm - Tuesdays in MPR and
Thursdays in the Fitness Center

YOGA

4:30 pm - Mondays in MPR

ZUMBA

4:30 pm - Tuesdays and Thursdays in MPR

BASKETBALL LEAGUE

6:15 pm - Tuesdays in MPR

For more information, contact [Ryan Ballou](#),
Wellness Coordinator at ext. 6210

WELCOME to our NEW EMPLOYEES

Bowser, Tia	Eggeman, James
Buggs-Parker, Tawanna	Groff, John
Miller, Indira	Perkins, Siobhan
Noel, Rachel	Mayes, Sonja
Nhor, Darvene	Diggs, Maketa
Baldwin, Teya	Lee, Randy
Coleman, Tonnie	Sacolick, Benjamin
Sparks, Andrea	Cabellos, Indra
Korotchenko, Maria	Durham, Benjamin
Ederly, Rivka	Santana, Miriam
Barber-Taylor, Diane	Phung, Jenny
Richardson, Kareem	Tolbard, Dallas
Jackson, Natasha	Memmer, Krystal
Woodson, Anthony	Yu, Victoria
Smith, Shaarlene	Stolz, Brigitte
Belk, Dionne	Ghuri, Khurram
Gallon, Tawanda	Ianniello, Kathryn
Sammons, Damian	Li, Xin

LOOKING ahead

REGIONAL VETERANS & COMMUNITY
HEALTH AND BENEFITS SUMMIT -
Southside Virginia Community College
Saturday, July 9, starting at 8:30 am



MCGUIRE'S VA2K DEPARTMENT WINNERS

Left, Occupational Therapy - Second Place, most spirited. At right, Dialysis won First Place for the most donations. Both teams were treated to a free lunch. The annual VA2K Walk & Roll is a walk of approximately 1.2 miles that encourages people to get active. It also allows participants to support homeless Veterans through voluntary donations of food and clothing items. The sixth annual VA2K Walk & Roll event was held on May 18, 2016. More than 24,700 VA employees, Veterans and community members from around the country participated, donating money and goods worth more than \$384,800 to help homeless Veterans.

Left, Occupational Therapy - Second Place, most spirited. At right, Dialysis won First Place for the most donations. Both teams were treated to a free lunch. The annual VA2K Walk & Roll is a walk of approximately 1.2 miles that encourages people to get active. It also allows participants to support homeless Veterans through voluntary donations of food and clothing items. The sixth annual VA2K Walk & Roll event was held on May 18, 2016. More than 24,700 VA employees, Veterans and community members from around the country participated, donating money and goods worth more than \$384,800 to help homeless Veterans.

McGUIRE BASKETBALL LEAGUE



MILITARY APPRECIATION NIGHT at the PETERSBURG SPORTS COMPLEX
Active Duty Military, Retirees, and Veterans free admission with valid ID
 Saturday, July 16 at 6 pm

4th ANNUAL VETERANS & FAMILY RESOURCE AND EMPLOYMENT FAIR
 McGuire VA Medical Center
 Saturday, August 13 - 10 am - 2 pm

COMMEMORATIVE PARTNER PROGRAM

Effective May 2016, the McGuire VA Medical Center became an official partner in the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War Commemoration. Through 2017, we have agreed, as a partner, to hold a number of events specifically designed to thank and honor Vietnam-era Veterans and their families.

On March 29, McGuire held its first event to thank and honor those in attendance in a memorable, dignified and special manner. During the event, more than 150 Veterans were pinned with the official commemorative lapel pins. Veterans who served from Nov. 1, 1955 to May 15, 1975, regardless of locations, are eligible to receive a pin.

The intent of the program is to pin those Vietnam Veterans in a dignified manner—not to simply hand the lapel pin to them.

One of the upcoming Vietnam Veterans Commemorative Events will take place in conjunction with the Phyllis E. Galanti Arboretum dedication, currently scheduled for fall of this year. Phyllis Galanti, the wife of Vietnam War POW Paul Galanti, was a tireless advocate for Vietnam Veterans for the Richmond area and across the nation.

We are excited to officially become Commemorative Partners! •



George Ahrend, Commander of American Legion Post 284, presents the McGuire Homeless Program a check for \$2,300. Dawn Nason, and her daughter Charity Nason, organized a yard sale at Post 284 that helped raise the funds for the Homeless Program.



Representatives from the McGuire VA Medical Center visited with members of the Band of Brothers and Sisters Vietnam Veterans Combat Support group, May 4, to thank them for their service and sacrifice and to pin them with their 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War Commemorative Lapel Pin.

LOCAL ARMY RESERVE ATTORNEY RECEIVES AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION'S LAMP AWARD FOR SERVICE

A local Army captain assigned to the 80th Training Command in Richmond, received an American Bar Association (ABA) award recently at McGuire VA Medical Center.

Capt. Tanya Mayes, an attorney with the Army Reserves, received the 2015 Legal Assistance for Military Personnel (LAMP) award from the ABA during a ceremony, June 10.

Each year, the LAMP award recognizes individuals who have demonstrated exceptional achievements or service in support of the military legal assistance effort. Retired Navy Captain, and LAMP committee member, Dwain Alexander presented the LAMP award to Mayes at the event.

“Every now and then someone goes above and beyond the call of duty,” Alexander said. “Capt. Mayes has accomplished these things and more.”

Mayes, who has served in the Army for approximately 22 years, worked to create a legal assistance program for Veterans and recovering active duty service members at the McGuire VA Medical Center in Richmond.

“I think everyone involved in the development and success of this mission agrees with me when I say working on this mission is a very rewarding experience,” Mayes explained. “It is my pleasure to service the retirees, qualifying veterans, and wounded warriors.”

Mayes remains adamant the process has been a group effort since the beginning. In July 2014, Mayes and her team members began the legal assistance program at McGuire on a monthly basis and have since pro-

vided services to more than 150 Veterans and recovering active duty personnel.

Some of the services include wills, powers of attorney, Living Wills and medical powers of attorney, said Mayes.

There were times, said Mayes, when individuals needed services military attorneys couldn't provide, such as Landlord Tenant dispute resolutions and Guardianships.

This need prompted a partnership with members from the Richmond Bar Association, in which, attorneys agreed to provide free or drastically reduced-cost legal services to Veterans, service members and their family members, said Mayes.

Additionally, quarterly classes were instituted to teach staff and Veterans about pertinent legal issues.

“I am very excited to see how this program continues to grow and expand,” Mayes said. •



Army Reservist Capt. Tanya Mayes, an attorney assigned to the 80th Training Command, receives the 2015 Legal Assistance for Military Personnel (LAMP) award from the American Bar Association and LAMP Committee member, and Retired Navy Captain, Dwain Alexander, June 10, at the McGuire VA Medical Center. Mayes received the award for her work to create a legal assistance clinic at McGuire VAMC for Veterans and recovering active duty service members.



Veterans Health
Administration

