

Veterans Voice



PAPERLESS NEWSLETTERS

If you would like our newsletter sent to your email address please call our office & we will add you to our new email list.

2018 Donation Drive



Sanilac County Department of Veterans Affairs has once again teamed up with Croswell American Legion, Sandusky VFW, Sandusky American Legion, Sandusky District Library and Peck American Legion for an annual donation drive for veterans who are hospitalized in VA Medical Centers and homeless veterans. The drive will be the whole month of February. Suggestions: personal care items, crossword puzzle books, stamps, hairbrushes, lap robes, music CDs, finger/toe nail clippers, tennis shoes, sweatshirts & sweatpants, laundry detergent, phone cards and monetary

donations. Items must be new and can be dropped off during regular business hours at Sanilac County Veterans Affairs, 171 Dawson Street, Suite 227, Sandusky; Croswell American Legion, 97 W. Harrington, Croswell (Wednesday-Saturdays from 3:00pm-10:00pm); Sandusky VFW/Sandusky American Legion, 850 S. Sandusky Rd, Sandusky (Wednesdays from 8:00am-10:00am); Sandusky District Library, 55 E. Sanilac Avenue; or Peck American Legion Pines, 5894 Cass Road, Peck.

Any questions, call Shannon Kreger at (810) 648-0212 or Marleen Reynolds at (810) 679-8122.

January, 2018

Volume 18 Issue 1
Page 1 of 4

THE OFFICE

Hours:

Monday thru Friday
8:00am to 4:30pm
Closed Noon to 1pm for lunch

Director

Shannon Kreger

Secretary

Katie L. Creguer

Contact us!

(810) 648-0212

171 Dawson St.

Suite 227

Sandusky, MI 48471

director@SanilacCountyVA.org

www.SanilacCountyVA.org

Improving Mental Health Resources for Veterans Transitioning from Active Duty to Civilian Life

President Donald J. Trump signed an Executive Order titled, "Supporting Our Veterans During Their Transition From Uniformed Service to Civilian Life." This Executive Order directs the Departments of Defense, Veterans Affairs and Homeland Security to develop a plan to ensure that all new Veterans receive mental health care for at least one year following their separation from service.

The three departments will work together and develop a Joint Action Plan to ensure that the 60 percent of new Veterans who currently do not qualify for enrollment in healthcare — primarily due to lack of verified service connection related to the medical issue at hand — will receive treatment and access to services for mental health care for one

year following their separation from service.

"As service members transition to Veteran status, they face higher risk of suicide and mental health difficulties," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs David Shulkin. "During this critical phase, many transitioning service members may not qualify for enrollment in health care. The focus of this Executive Order is to coordinate Federal assets to close that gap."

The Department of Defense, Veterans Affairs and Homeland Security will work to expand mental health programs and other resources to new Veterans for the year following departure from uniformed service, including eliminating prior time limits.

Department of Veterans Affairs Committee

John Nezworski, Chairman

Douglas Banker

Jeffery Lyall

Donald Spinks

Donald Rudy

Voyle Bissett

Donald Maury

VA Exploring Alternative Treatments for TBI and PTSD

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced that it will use two innovative treatments to ease the everyday challenges associated with living with traumatic brain injury (TBI) and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

“We know that for a small group of Veterans, a traditional approach to health care may not be the most effective,” said VA Secretary Dr. David J. Shulkin. “This is particularly true with certain chronic medical and mental health conditions. For Veterans who don’t improve, we have to look for innovative, evidence-based approaches that may help them restore and maintain their health and well-being.”

Veterans with a history of mild to moderate TBI now have access to light emitting diode (LED) therapy contained in a lightweight frame that is placed on the

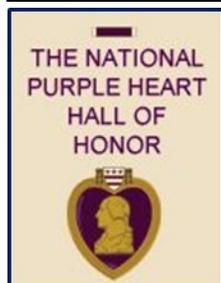
head and a clip placed inside the nose. Results of some studies show that LED improves brain function including attention and memory, emotions and sleep. LED therapy has begun at the VA Boston Healthcare System, Jamaica Plain campus, this month. LED also is available for Veterans to use in their homes.

Providers at the Long Beach VA Medical Center have begun using stellate ganglion block (SGB) to treat Veterans with PTSD symptoms. SGB is safe and may ease PTSD symptoms, such as the feelings of anxiety and constantly being on alert. It involves an injection, or shot, of medication into the neck to decrease the symptoms of PTSD.

VA remains a world leader in the development and use of innovative therapies, such as telehealth, yoga and other approaches to improve health and well-being.



The National Purple Heart Hall of Honor



The National Purple Heart Hall of Honor is a New York State Historic site administered by the New York State Park Commission. Dedicated on November 10, 2006, the Hall’s mission is to collect, preserve, and share with the public the stories of Purple Heart recipients. It is the first and only facility in the nation dedicated to honoring this country’s Purple Heart recipients.

The Purple Heart is one of the most recognized and respected medals awarded to members of the U.S. armed forces who are killed or wounded by enemy action, and The Hall of Honor is dedicated to those recipients of this award who paid that price for our freedom.

The primary way in which Purple Heart recipients are

honored is through enrollment in The Roll of Honor electronic database which is accessible in The Hall’s main gallery and on its website, www.thepurpleheart.com, because there is no comprehensive list of recipients upon which to draw, however, Purple Heart recipients are encouraged to become members of the Roll of Honor by completing an enroll form and submitting it to the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor. Family members and friends may also enroll Purple Heart recipients, living or deceased, by completing an enrollment form and providing supporting evidence. Enrollment forms can be downloaded from the website listed above, by contacting the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor, or by visiting your local Veterans Services Officer. Enrollment is voluntary and free of cost.

Help us honor and preserve the stories of these deserving men and women by enrolling them today in the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor.

Grand Rapids Home for Veterans

The Grand Rapids Home for Veterans is a long-term care state veterans home located on 90 beautifully wooded and landscaped acres near the mighty Grand River. It was originally constructed on this property in 1885 and is one of 152 state veterans' homes throughout the nation. Initially founded in response to the needs of veterans in the aftermath of the Civil War, GRHV continues the tradition of serving the needs of Michigan's veterans today, changing and adapting to the needs of the current and future veteran populations.

GRHV has capacity for 450 nursing care beds and more than 100 domiciliary beds. The nursing care beds include 115 special needs beds, with two 35-bed nursing units for the care of Alzheimer's and dementia patients and one 45-bed nursing unit for dual diagnoses patients.

To care for its members, GRHV employs an extensive professional staff of physicians, nurses, social workers, dietitians and recreational therapy aides. All work together to ensure pleasant and fulfilled lives for the members, while providing them the medical care they need. GRHV also provides a broad and advanced psychiatric program to meet the varied and unique mental health needs of veterans.

Other services include an in-house pharmacy, rehabilitation therapy, pastoral care and specialty clinics, such as dental and vision care. In addition, residents have numerous opportunities to participate in spiritual, social, recreational and educational activities, both on-site and in the surrounding communities, on a daily basis. Weekly dietary menus and activity lists are available.

Application Policies and Fees

A veteran of the armed forces of the United States eligible for VA health care or financial assistance for long-term care may be admitted. The veteran must have served as least 90 days of active duty and been honorably discharged. Veterans who enlisted after Sept. 7, 1980, or who entered active duty after Oct. 16, 1981, must have served 24 continuous months or the full period for which they were called to active duty in order to be eligible.

Subject to space and certain other requirements, a spouse, surviving spouse or parent of an eligible veteran may also be eligible for admission

How to Apply

To apply for admission to either of Michigan's veterans homes, submit a completed application to the chosen home and the following documentation:

- Military discharge document or DD-214.
- Copies of Medicare and/or any health insurance coverage cards.
- A recent (within 90 days) history and physical for the applicant, including a copy of recent physical exam, hospitalization, current medication list, a psychosocial evaluation and progress notes.
- A copy of a chest x-ray report taken within the previous 90 days.
- If married (and filed taxes), a copy of up to the past three years of federal income tax forms.
- Verification of income and assets, including copies of current bank account statements (checking and savings), copies of Social Security benefit award letter, pension benefit award letters or checks, current annuity, stock and/or bond statements, life insurance, etc.
- Copies of Irrevocable Trust (if applicable).
- Copies of guardianship, power of attorney, conservatorship or patient advocate forms.

Note: While not mandatory, applicants are encouraged to submit a Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care form.

After the application is received, the admissions team will review it for completeness, eligibility and level of care needed, and notify the applicant (or other contact) by phone. At that time, the applicant will be either approved or denied admission to the home. If approved, an admission date will be provided or the applicant will be placed on a waiting list.

For more information please contact the office at 810-648-0212.