

# CHEYENNE VA MEDICAL CENTER

## RAPPORT

ONLINE MAGAZINE

November 9, 2015



On Veterans Day we salute and honor those men and women who have served in the United States armed forces. It's a day we demonstrate that our gratitude toward Veterans is more than mere words. On Veterans Day, countless ceremonies are held across the country as we pause to honor those patriots who have safeguarded our liberty. From Normandy to Kabul, we are the beneficiaries of their vigilance and determination to uphold the democratic beliefs on which our nation was founded. What better way to thank our Veterans than to make sure they receive the care and support they were promised, when they need it?

As the acting director of the Cheyenne VA Medical Center and Clinics, I am in a very unique position to foster more change and improvements with respect to Veteran access, Veteran and staff satisfaction, expanding provider networks in the community, and regaining the trust, faith and confidence of our Veterans. Our Veterans reside in three states, in three very diverse cultures, and the number of Veterans in Northern Colorado and Southeast Wyoming is expected to rise.

To address the increase in Veterans, we've added additional patient care teams to the Ft. Collins Clinic and Cheyenne Medical Center. We have added additional space in our new Residential Rehabilitation Treatment facility that will help keep our Veterans closer to their families while they seek treatment, and to assist Veterans who wish to use Veterans Choice or are referred to Non-VA Care, we have quadrupled our staff to assist these Veterans over the past year.

The Cheyenne VA Medical Center and Clinics have seen some challenges over the past few years; however, we have remained committed to our mission to make a positive difference in the lives of the Veterans we serve by providing compassionate, comprehensive, and quality healthcare.

For most of my life, I have had the great opportunity to work closely with Servicemembers and Veterans. As the associate director, working under Dr. Cynthia McCormack for the past few years, I assure you that she not only lived up to the Air Force values as a Veteran herself, she instilled a sense of integrity, commitment, advocacy, respect and excellence in everything she did, and I thank her for her service to our country, and to our Veterans.

As we enter this new chapter it is important to note that we cannot do this alone. Our volunteer staff of more than 300 individuals is second to none. This past year, local businesses for your communities have come together to help beautify our facilities. Volunteers travel from as far away as Estes Park to sit with Veterans, as part of our No Veteran Dies Alone program that was initiated several years ago, and has grown in support every year. Our Veteran service organizations have provided thousands of hours and millions of dollars to support our homeless programs, suicide prevention programs, and a multitude of other needs for our Veterans. It is partnerships like these that we continually seek, and without them, we would fail.

I encourage individuals to get involved. By joining a local service organization, volunteering at one of our facilities, or attending one of our open houses, individuals can learn for themselves about the care available to our Veterans.

It is our privilege to provide Veterans in Colorado, Nebraska and Wyoming with the care they have earned through their service and sacrifice. This is a duty we take very seriously. Our Veterans served, and it is now our turn to serve them.

*Paul*

*This is a letter to the editor that was sent to all media in our catchment area.  
Thank-you all for your service and have a wonderful Veterans Day!*

## Upcoming Events

8-14—Radiology Week  
8-14—National Nurse Practitioner Week  
10—Mental Health Facility Open House  
9—Veterans Day Recognition  
9—WVC Outreach--Saratoga  
10—Marine Corps Birthday  
10—WVC Outreach—Rawlins  
11—Veterans Day  
16—National Caregiver Festivities  
16—WVC Outreach—Laramie  
17—WVC Outreach—Cheyenne  
18—Cheyenne VSO Meeting  
18—WVC Outreach—Laramie  
19—National Rural Health Day  
19—Great American Smoke-out

## November

*American Diabetes Month*  
*Epilepsy Awareness Month*  
*National Alzheimer's disease Month*  
*National American Indian and Alaskan Native Heritage Month*  
*National Family Caregivers Month*  
*National AIDS Awareness Month*  
*Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month*  
*National Long-Term Care Awareness Month*  
*Lung Cancer Awareness Month*  
*COPD Awareness Month*  
*National Marrow Awareness Month*  
*Pulmonary Hypertension Awareness Month*

## Do You Want to Quit?



Join our community of smokefree



Veterans on Facebook.  
[Facebook.com/Smokefreevet](https://www.facebook.com/Smokefreevet)



Text VET to 47848  
(VETesp to 47848 for Spanish)



Smoking Quitline  
1-855-QUIT-VET

For More Support, Talk to Your Provider

# Veterans Identification Card Act of 2015

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Currently, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) issues Veteran identification cards to those individuals who are eligible for VA medical benefits and only for the purpose of identification and check-in for VA medical appointments.

The Veterans Identification Card Act of 2015 was enacted on July 20, 2015. The Act requires VA to issue Veterans an identification card upon their request. In many instances, these cards will be able to serve as proof of service in place of the standard DD-214, *Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty*, forms. These ID cards would not take the place of a healthcare enrollment card, a Choice Card, or any additional identification card that confers VA benefits upon the cardholder – the card would simply confirm Veteran status.

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is in the process of reviewing the law and has formed a working group to begin the process of implementation. This process will include outreach to Veterans to ensure that the law is implemented to serve them in the best way possible and will also include a period of public comment before becoming final.

As implementation of the law is finalized, VA will be reaching out to Veterans to explain the process for requesting an ID card, to include required documentation, and when the new cards will be available.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### Q1. WHEN WILL THE NEW ID CARDS BE AVAILABLE?

A1: The Veterans Identification Card Act of 2015 (Public Law 114-31) was enacted on July 20, 2015. The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is drafting regulations that will allow VA to implement and enforce the legislation. However, this is a lengthy process that requires time for a public comment period as well as approval from the Office of Management and Budget. The rule making process is expected to take 12 months or more. VA is also in the process of developing procedures and policies to implement the VA ID card program. VA currently estimates the program will be implemented in 2017.

### Q2. IS THE NEW VETERANS ID CARD THE SAME AS THE ONE I HAVE FROM THE VA MEDICAL CENTER?

A2: No. The new ID card does not confer access or authorization to any VA benefits. It simply verifies the Veteran status of the individual.

### Q3. HOW CAN THE NEW VETERANS ID CARD BE USED?

A3: VA anticipates that the new Veterans ID cards can be used to verify Veteran status and obtain benefits and services, such as tax credits, discounts, etc., available to Veterans from state governments, local communities, businesses, etc.

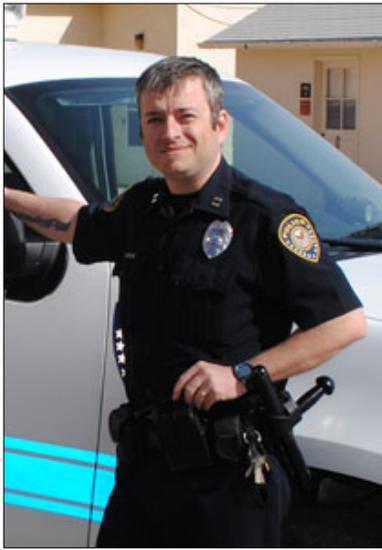
## WALK-IN FLU CLINIC

**WHO:** *Veterans AND Employees*

**WHEN:** Available through November or until further notice  
(current hours of operation will be 0800-1530 M-F).

**WHERE:** B1-50 (the previous patient Advocate office—across from the police office in the ER). There will be signs throughout the hospital directing all toward the location.

\*\*\*Thanks to all who helped coordinate this effort and all supporting nurses and staff!\*\*\*



# Cheyenne VA Police

## “No Shave November”

### Food Drive

Join our Police in  
“Protecting the ones who  
Served” by donating a can  
of food over the holidays!

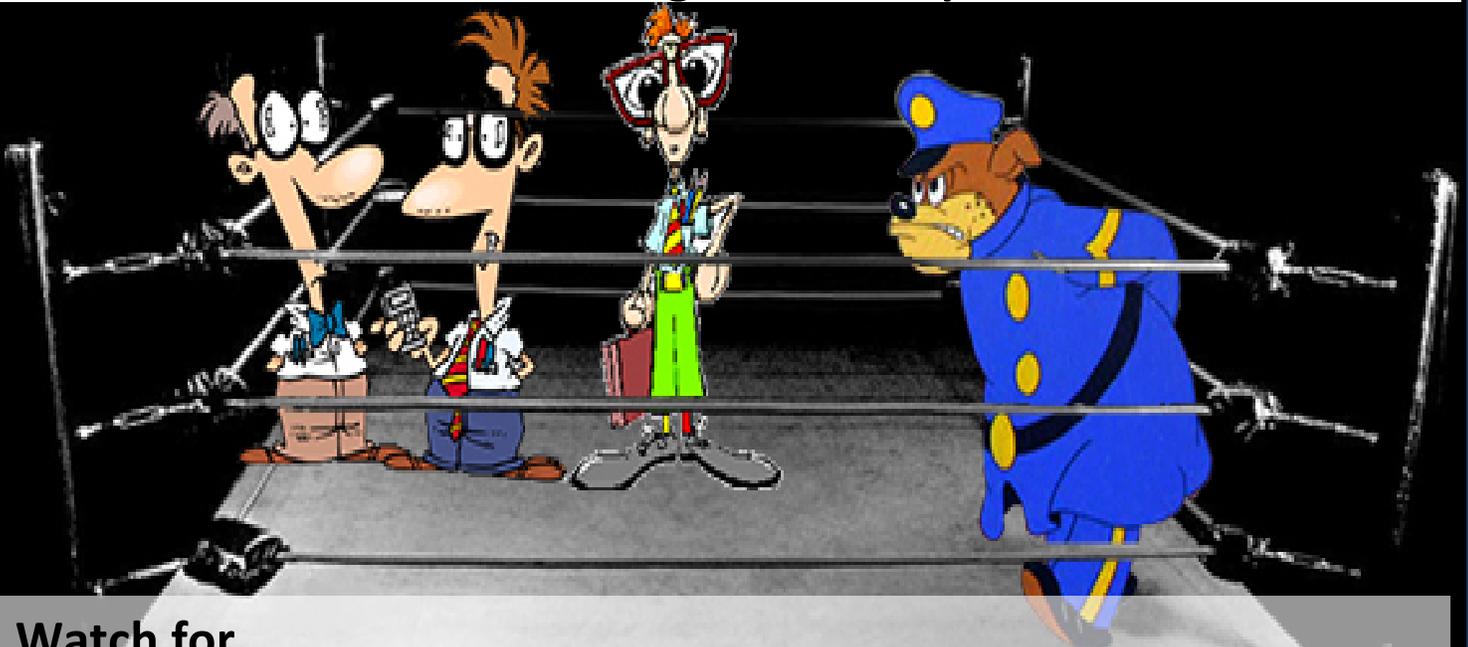
Drop your nonperishable food items in  
boxes outside both Police Offices.

**POC: Erik Blatnik ext:7315**

Proceeds Benefit  
**The Salvation Army**



**The Challenge Was Made**  
**The Challenge Was Accepted**



Watch for...

**Flat Feet vs Geek Squad** in upcoming editions...

#### **NOTE**

The Veteran Service Officer's meeting is Nov. 18 at 1 p.m.  
**In the Auditorium**



# Love'n our Volunteers!



If you are interested in “gleaning” the fields for our Share the Harvest Outreach, you are invited to help clean a Colorado farm’s fields of fresh produce for your family, our communities, & our Veterans. Please join us Saturday & Sunday, the 14th & 15th of November. All participants must meet at the “Harvest” banner in the parking lot of the farm. For further information & to register, call Voluntary Service at the Cheyenne VA, 307-778-7317.



## National Veterans Creative Arts Festival



We want to let Veterans know to start thinking about the Veterans Creative Arts Festival. The day & time will be announced soon. The Festival is a big event that could use the help of volunteers to check in art, transport art pieces, set up displays, take pictures, and help with cataloguing art work for the national competition. Please be thinking about how you might want to help with this event.



We really appreciate all of the donations we receive from our community for our veterans & their families. However, we receive a lot of things we cannot use. We do not take used underwear, used toiletries or perfumes, used cosmetics, or expired/out dated food. Please be sure what you bring to us is clean & ready to give; we receive so much we do not always have the time to clean things. Thank you for your understanding in that we want to give our veterans clean, good quality, new or gently used items.

Our Chaplain Service is always in need of “Final Salute” quilts for the Community Living Center. These quilts are given to veterans when they become hospice patients so they can have them & use them while they are in the nursing home. When they pass away, the quilts are laid on their gurneys. As a veteran is taken down the hall, the family & many employees line the halls saluting or putting their hand over their hearts signifying the “Final Salute”. When you donate, be sure to let us know in Voluntary Service that your quilts are for the “Final Salute”.





The giveaway table for veterans will be set up Thursday, November 19th from 9am till 2pm in the hallway of the new wing. If you have something you would like to give to veterans, the giveaway table is the best! All monetary donations collected go toward crafts for the craft cart.



Our Golden Age Games team is actively recruiting team members. Membership is open to all veterans ages 55 & older who currently receive inpatient or outpatient care from the VA.



A church in our community has offered to give us Thanksgiving Day baskets for veterans in need. If you know of a veteran or a veteran their family who could use a basket, please call voluntary service to reserve them.



The Chaplain Service is expanding the Bereavement Care Team. Volunteers are needed as bereavement callers & to co-facilitate grief groups. Interested volunteers must submit a resume demonstrating relevant experience & skills. If selected, you must be willing to complete up to 10 hours of 'Grief Companionship' training & must be willing/able to invest at least 4 hours a month in providing emotional support to the bereaved families of our veterans.

Our Engineering Dept. is asking the community to donate pine trees in memory of a veteran. The hospital has lost many trees to pine beetles & is hoping the community will come to the rescue. An "in memory of" plaque will be placed next to each donated tree.



### Items needed throughout the hospital & for outpatient veterans & their families:

- ☺ Our outpatient Recreation Therapist, Kristi is hoping someone will help fund a Mental Health Intensive Case Management (MHICM) holiday party. Sam's or Walmart gift cards come in very handy for Kristi to go shopping.
- ☺ We are in need of a computer monitor.
- ☺ The Surgery staff is hoping someone will donate a 28" TV for their waiting room.
- ☺ The veterans who live at Red Tail Ponds apartments in Fort Collins are requesting fishing gear so they can go fishing.
- ☺ We have a veteran who needs furniture. He has transportation & can haul stuff.
- ☺ The Caregiver Support Program is hoping someone will provide funding for their lunch on November 16th for approximately 20 caregivers attending their workshop. Voluntary Service cannot purchase lunch out of donated funds because most of these folks are not veterans.
- ☺ We have a resident in CLC (nursing home) who wants 2 model airplane kits a B-24 & a B-29. We can't purchase them with donated funds because Hobby Town is not a government vendor. We are collecting funds to be able to purchase these models. If you can help out with a buck or two, he will be most grateful.
- ☺ We need "new" small, med., large & extra-large boxer briefs for our clothing room.
- ☺ Our Endoscopy clinic is in need of wheelchairs, they would like to have 3 of their own to keep in their clinic.

### Help is needed with these volunteer assignments:

- ✳ Our Chaplains' service is in need of volunteers to help set up tables & chairs for the Bi-monthly Memorial service.

- \* We need volunteers to take a coffee mug filled with goodies to newly admitted patients in the hospital. This is a daily assignment so more than one volunteer is best.
- \* We need groups of volunteers to put edging around our Community Garden & plant a couple dozen shrubs & roses. Young, strong backs are good for these volunteer opportunities; we'll supply the tools & water.
- \* Calling all volunteers: the Welcome Home Event will need lots of volunteer help. Please call Voluntary Service to sign up for an assignment.

**Volunteer training:**

- ◆ Annual DAV volunteer driver training: Wednesday, November 18th 9am till noon, in the Medical Library on 2nd floor.
- ◆ Infection Control Training scheduled for November 10th has been canceled.

**CLC Calendar:**



# November 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> 0900 Church 1000 Fellowship 1200 Ice Cream Social 1500 Daniels Fund Scholars	<b>2</b> 1030 Baking Group 1430 Coffee Hour 1830 VFW Bingo	<b>3</b> 1000 Gardening 1430 Brain Fitness	<b>4</b> 0900 Coffee w/ Chaplin 1000 Walmart Outing 1430 Legion Ice Cream Social & Music w/ Mel	<b>5</b> 1000 Walmart Outing 1430 Recreational Exercise 1645 Happy Hour	<b>6</b> 1030 Baking Group 1430 Coffee Hour & Walter Reed Poetry 1900 Greeley Bingo	<b>7</b> 1200 Am Legion Motorcycle Riders & root beer floats 1330 Keno
<b>8</b> 0900 Church 1000 Fellowship 1400 CLC Movie	<b>9</b> 1030 Baking Group 1430 Coffee Hour 1830 VFW Bingo	<b>10</b> 1000 Haircut Outing 1430 Science for Seniors	<b>11 Veteran's Day</b> 0900-1530 Movies 1000 Camp Gnsy Bingo 1100 American Legion Ceremony	<b>12</b> 1000 Top 3 Bingo 1330 Red Hatters Visit 1645 Happy Hour	<b>13</b> 1030 Baking Group 1430 Coffee Hour	<b>14</b> 1330 Keno 1500 National Guard Youth Group Visit
<b>15</b> 0900 Church 1000 Fellowship 1400 CLC Movie	<b>16</b> 1030 Baking Group 1430 Coffee Hour 1830 VFW Bingo	<b>17</b> 1000 Gardening 1430 Brain Fitness 1800 Cub Scouts Visit	<b>18</b> 0900 Coffee w/ Chaplin 1100 Am Leg Lunch 1430 Legion Ice Cream Social	<b>19</b> 1000 Recreational Exercise 1500 High West Energy Bingo 1645 Happy Hour	<b>20</b> 1030 Baking Group 1430 Coffee Hour 1500 Memorial Service	<b>21</b> 1330 Keno
<b>22</b> 0900 Church 1000 Fellowship 1400 CLC Movie	<b>23</b> 1030 Baking Group 1430 Coffee Hour 1830 VFW Bingo	<b>24</b> 1000 Gardening 1430 This Day In History	<b>25</b> 0900 Coffee w/ Chaplin 1000 1430 Legion Ice Cream Social	<b>26</b> <b>Happy Thanksgiving</b>	<b>27</b> 1030 Baking Group 1430 Coffee Hour	<b>28</b> 1330 Keno
<b>29</b> 0900 Church 1000 Fellowship 1400 CLC Movie	<b>30</b> 1030 Baking Group 1430 Coffee Hour 1830 VFW Bingo					



*Cheyenne VA Medical Center*



*3rd Annual Holiday Celebration  
Welcome Home Troops and  
New Veterans*

*Tuesday, Dec. 1  
4:30 to 6:30 p.m.*

*Bring the whole family for food, local musical entertainment, prizes,  
Santa & Mrs. Claus, and much more!*

*2360 East Pershing Blvd., Cheyenne, Wyo.*

*R.S.V.P. to enter your name in the drawing to: [christopher.aguilar@va.gov](mailto:christopher.aguilar@va.gov)*

# OPEN HOUSE

The Cheyenne VA Medical Center will hold an open house on Nov. 10, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. to showcase their new Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Facility, located on the VA grounds, 2360 East Pershing Blvd., in Cheyenne.

The 10 bed facility is designed to support Veterans who suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder or substance abuse through a 30 to 45 day residential program.

Please try to come on over and see your new facility first hand!



Thank you to all of the talented and creative people that took the time to decorate a pumpkin and to help raise awareness of Breast Cancer.



## Cheyenne Vet Center

3219 E. Pershing Blvd  
Cheyenne WY, 82001  
Office: 307-778-7370

## Ft. Collins Vet Center

702 W. Drake Bldg C  
Ft. Collins CO, 80526  
Office: 970-221-5176

## Satellite Locations

Laramie, UW & WyoTech  
Kimball, NE

Sidney, NE  
Scottsbluff, NE

## Medals available for Korean War Vets

The Wyoming Veterans Commission is coordinating the application process and presentation of the Republic of Korea Ambassador for Peace Medals for Wyoming Korean War veterans.

The commemorative medal is presented as an expression of appreciation from the Republic of Korea government. Initially presented to those Korean War veterans who returned to South Korea through the Revisit Program, the honor has since expanded to Veterans who can no longer travel to Korea.

The Veterans commission will coordinate with the Republic of Korea Consular General's office in San Francisco, California, for shipment of the medals.

Veterans, or their family members, should complete the application form for the Republic of Korea Ambassador for Peace Medal which is available online at <http://wvc.wyo.gov>.

Qualifying dates of service are from June 27, 1950, through Jan. 31, 1955. The veteran did not have to serve in Korea to be eligible. The Korean War veteran will need to provide a copy of their separation documents, typically the DD-214 form, to validate their service was during the Korean War.

The following people can validate the veterans military service during the Korean War and sign the application: a veterans commissioner or commission employee, American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars post commanders, senior vice commanders, junior vice commanders, post adjutants and the department service officer. Disabled American Veteran's chapter service officers can also validate military service.

Korean War veterans can visit the closest Wyoming Veterans Commission, American Legion or VFW post and ask for assistance in validating their military service.

Presentation ceremonies will be scheduled at a later date and held throughout Wyoming based upon where the Korean War Veterans reside.

Application deadline is Dec. 11.

The commemorative medal may be presented posthumously. The next of kin, such as a spouse or children, may apply for the medal on behalf of a deceased veteran.

For more information, visit the commission's website at <http://wvc.wyo.gov>, or call 307-777-8152.

## Republic of Korea Ambassador for Peace Medal Application Form

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Middle Initial: \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Service Dates in Military: \_\_\_\_\_

Unit during the Korean War: \_\_\_\_\_

Branch of Service: \_\_\_\_\_

Is the Veteran Deceased? Yes or No: \_\_\_\_\_

Next of Kin and Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address (Street or PO Box): \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*

I have reviewed the separation documents of the person listed above and attest to the fact that they served in the U.S. Armed Forces during the period June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Duty position which gives you the authority to sign: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please note: members of the U.S. Armed Forces, Officers of a Veterans Service Organizations, Commissioners and Employees of the Wyoming Veterans Commission may attest to military service.*

Applicants who are unable to find someone to attest to military service may fax or email this form and separation document to the Wyoming Veterans Commission. Fax number is 307-777-8150 or email is [wyvet@wyo.gov](mailto:wyvet@wyo.gov). For more information call 307-777-8152.

Applications and copies of separation documents may be sent to: Wyoming Veterans Commission, 5410 Bishop Blvd. Cheyenne, WY 82009

Application processing and presentation ceremonies coordinated by the Wyoming Veterans Commission and the Wyoming Military Department.

## *Veterans Day Activities*

### **Cheyenne**

- The Cheyenne **Frontier Days Old West Museum** is offering free admission to veterans and active duty military in observance of Veteran's Day. The museum will present a continuous showing of the acclaimed "Wyoming Warriors," throughout the day as tribute to our nation's veterans and active duty military.
- Post 6, in partnership with the VFW 1881, will be hosting the Veteran's Day "Indoors" Ceremony. Guest Speaker is State Command Sergeant Major Thomas F. Allen, Wyoming Army National Guard. Lunch will be served following the ceremony. Veteran's Day is designed to honor the living men and women who served this great nation. However, we will strive to honor the memory of our deceased comrades. The indoor ceremony will be no different, to include the wreath portion of the ceremony.

### **Ft. Collins**

- The Colorado State University Veterans' Day 5K is an annual, non-profit fund raiser designed to raise money for the Veteran's Scholarship fund. This scholarship is awarded to veterans who were honorably or medically discharged and are living with disabilities related to their military experience.
- The Fort Collins Golden K Kiwanis Club and the Fort Collins Senior Center invite the community to share a morning of food, song, and patriotism. This is a yearly honor celebration of those who served. Note: Posting of the Colors is at 8 a.m. with music to follow.
- Veterans Day ceremony, 11 a.m., Edora Park War Memorial. Ceremony and speaker, organized by the Veterans of Foreign Wars and other veterans organizations.

### **Loveland**

- *4 a.m. to 6 a.m.* – Bell Ringers throughout the City of Loveland
- *6 a.m.* – Doors open at Associate Veterans of Loveland. Open to the Public.
- *6 a.m. to 9 a.m.* – Breakfast in the Dining Room with over-flow in the Main Hall if needed.
- *8 a.m.* – Organizational displays and information in the Main Hall.
- *10 a.m.* – Staging starts for the Parade.
- *11:11 a.m.* – Parade starts. The Parade will proceed to Dwayne Webster Memorial Park followed by a Ceremony in the park.
- *12 p.m. to 2 p.m.* – Lunch in the AVoL Dining Room. Open to the Public.
- *There will be entertainment throughout the day.*

### **Greeley**

- *The next event scheduled for the Weld County Veterans Memorial is Veterans Day 2010. This event will occur on Thursday, November 11th at 11:00 a.m. at the Memorial in Bittersweet Park. The memorial and Park are located at 16th St. and 35th Avenue in Greeley.*
- Make sure to come early for coffee and goodies and to get a good parking place and seat. The following is the tentative program, however keep in mind final scheduling is subject to change.

### **Sterling**

- Veterans Services at the Fort Morgan Elks Lodge, 430 State Ave. in Fort Morgan, will be held on Wednesday, November 11th. Fundraising dinner from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. with the program following at 7:30. Proceeds for local veteran services and McCandless Veterans Home in Florence. Veterans, current military, and children under 5 eat free.

### **Scottsbluff**

- Scotts Bluff National Monument "2015 Fee Free Days - Veteran's Day"
- *8 a.m.* coffee at Western NE State Veterans Home
- *11 a.m.* Veterans Day Parade on 19th Ave & East Overland
- Noon Luncheon for participants in Veterans Day Parade at the VFW Post 1681 in Gering
- *1:30 p.m.* Veterans Day Program at the Western NE State Veterans Home
- *6:30 p.m.* Veterans Day Banquet at VFW Pos 1681 in Gering.

### **Torrington**

- Veterans Day Program at FA Auditorium at Eastern Wyoming Community College. Honoring our Veterans and their service. 12:30 to 1 p.m.

### **Wheatland**

- 7 a.m. Breakfast @ Glendo School;
- 9 a.m. Program @ Guernsey-Sunrise East Gym;
- 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Coffee @ Glendo Town Hall;
- 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Soup & Dessert @ Guernsey VFW;
- 6 p.m. Dinner @ Wheatland 4-H Bldg

### **Laramie**

- The City of Laramie Recreation Center and the Ice & Events Center will be honoring all who have served by admitting veterans for free on Wednesday, November 11, 2015. Any individual who has served in any branch of our Armed Forces is admitted to the Recreation Center and the Ice and Events Center at no cost. (Please provide documentation.) The Recreation Center regular business hours are from: 5:00 a.m. to 9 p.m. The Ice and Events center hours for free admittance for Veterans will be 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. We are grateful for our freedom and thank you for your service!
- The UW Veterans Services Center (VSC) will host its annual national roll call program, joining campuses from across the country in similar events on Veterans Day.
- The presentation of the colors and the playing of the national anthem begin the ceremony at 8 a.m. at Simpson Plaza, followed by the reading of the names of the deceased. A moment of silence is scheduled at noon, and the event is expected to conclude at 7 p.m.

### **Rawlins**

- The Carbon County Counseling Center is hosting Veterans Day Event from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 721 W. Maple St. Representatives from Cheyenne VA will be in attendance, and will be giving free flu shots to Veterans. Personnel will be available to enroll Veterans who are not currently enrolled.

### **Estes Park**

- Rocky Mountain National Park offers guests free entrance to the park on November 11th as part of the The National Park Service Fee Free Days this year.



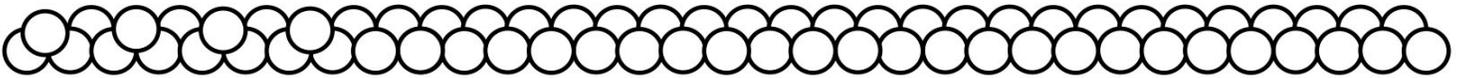
Click the image to view Secretary Bob McDonald's video for Veterans Day 2015!

Thank you all for serving the best organization in the nation for the best customers in the nation!

# L.E.A.D

## Project Update

The 2015 Cheyenne VA Leadership Effectiveness Accountability and Development (LEAD) group would like to share our group project. It is being trialed in several areas to include primary care and several specialty clinic areas. It is a navigating tool to assist Veterans with their appointment day and future appointments. We would like to encourage anyone with questions or feedback to contact one of the LEAD participants. Thank you for helping spread the word to our clinic areas and patients!



### HOW TO HELP PATIENTS



Objective: Provide a quick reference for patients to track the objectives for a "day at the VA"

- 3 trial cycles will be completed in PACT and select specialty clinics
- Patients will be contacted to participate pre-trial and post-trial for data collection purposes
- All patients should be given the tracking tool to guide them throughout their hospital experience
- Providers, nurses, and MSA's to complete (additional training to be provided at presentation)
- Patients will keep these forms, No PII will be listed on the form
- Achieve complete care and stops for hospital services each visit
- Please contact any LEAD participant for additional questions, concerns, and/or feedback
- Thank you for helping us help the Veterans have a positive experience at the Cheyenne VAMC

FOCUS ON FIRST AND LAST IMPRESSIONS

Eliminate barriers to care

Increase access to available resources

## Patient Navigator Tool

This Checklist is to help navigate

### Today's Checklist

	To Do	Done
LAB (1 <sup>st</sup> Floor)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
PHARMACY (1 <sup>st</sup> Floor)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
RADIOLOGY (Basement)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
TRAVEL (1 <sup>st</sup> Floor)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SPECIALTY CLINIC (SPECIFY) _____		
OTHER _____		

PLEASE BE AWARE A VA EMPLOYEE WILL BE CALLING YOU IN REGARDS TO THIS CHECKLIST AND IF IT HELPED WITH YOUR VISIT.

### Follow-Up Appointment

Please be sure to check out with the MSA

Return to clinic: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Prior to appointment: Lab  Radiology  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Fasting Info: \_\_\_\_\_

Pact Team Contact Info: MSA (307)778-7550 ext.

LPN (307)778-7550 ext.

Nurse (307)778-7550 ext.

Please contact pharmacy at (307)778-7550 ext. 4205 for medication renewals or visit the onsite Pharmacy Tech in Primary Care room A-105.



### For More Information, Please Contact:

Cristabel extension x 7260

Catherine extension x 7955

Darcy extension x 3826

Hope extension x 3907

Theresa - [theresa.carroll2@va.gov](mailto:theresa.carroll2@va.gov)

Vicki - [vicki.woods@va.gov](mailto:vicki.woods@va.gov)

## VA History Tidbit

On November 1, 1866, the first Federal veterans facility hospital-home established for disabled veterans who served in *volunteer* forces of the Union Army, known then as the Eastern Branch of the National Asylum for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, opened near Augusta, Maine. It was the first federal institution ever established for veterans of volunteer military forces and was the origins of today's VA hospital system.

In the wake of the American Civil War, thousands of men—many of whom were amputees and recent immigrants with no families—desperately needed help. Many of the men could not return to their prior civilian

occupations as farmers, factory and railroad workers, and such, because of their war injuries and disabilities. The National Asylum for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, re-named as the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers (NHDVS) in 1873, provided medical care, housing, schools, job training, jobs, and other services to the disabled veterans in a residential setting.

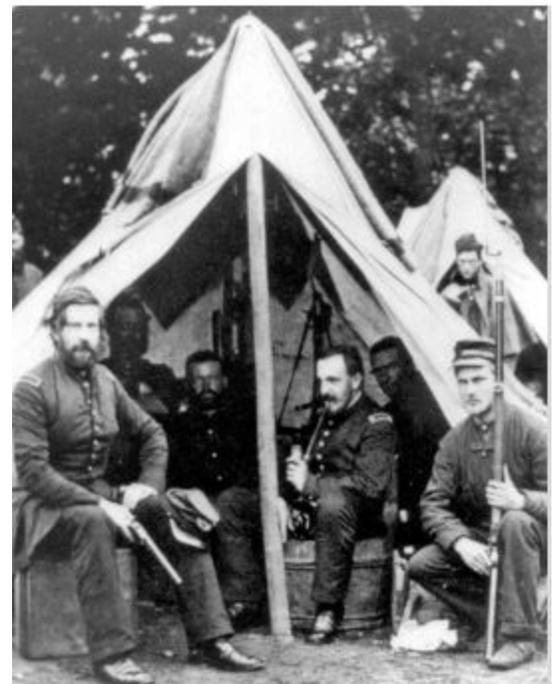
The Civil War prison at Point Lookout, Maryland, was authorized as site for the first National Home in



1865, but a clear title could not be obtained, so the summer resort known as Togus Springs in Maine came under consideration instead. Horace Beals, a wealthy New York businessman, had purchased the resort in 1859 from Orren Emerson and invested roughly \$100,000 to make it into a summer resort comparable to Saratoga Springs. Beals died in the fall of 1864 and his family could not keep up the property, so his heirs sold it.

The urgent needs of disabled veterans, hindered by nearly a year of delays in forming a working Board of Managers, forced the first National Home to open before it was fully ready. A Congressional amendment reorganized the Board of Managers from a body of 100 to 12 in March 1866 and shortly afterwards two of its members, Gov. Frederick Smyth of New Hampshire and Hon. Lewis Gunckel, visited the Togus resort and recommended it as the first National Home.

In early September 1866, newspapers announced the arrival of General Edward W. Hincks (who was still on active duty with the Army) to prepare the old resort for the admission of war veterans. The home's first surgeon, Dr. Bowman B. Breed of Lynn, Massachusetts, arrived in early October and brought the first patient with him: James P. Nickerson formerly a private in Company A of the 19<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Volunteers. According to NHDVS Board of Manager records, the official opening date of the Eastern Branch



was November 1, 1866, although the first patient of record was admitted on October 6, 1866. Dr. Breed's appointment did not take official effect until December 1866, but he was paid from October 6, 1866.

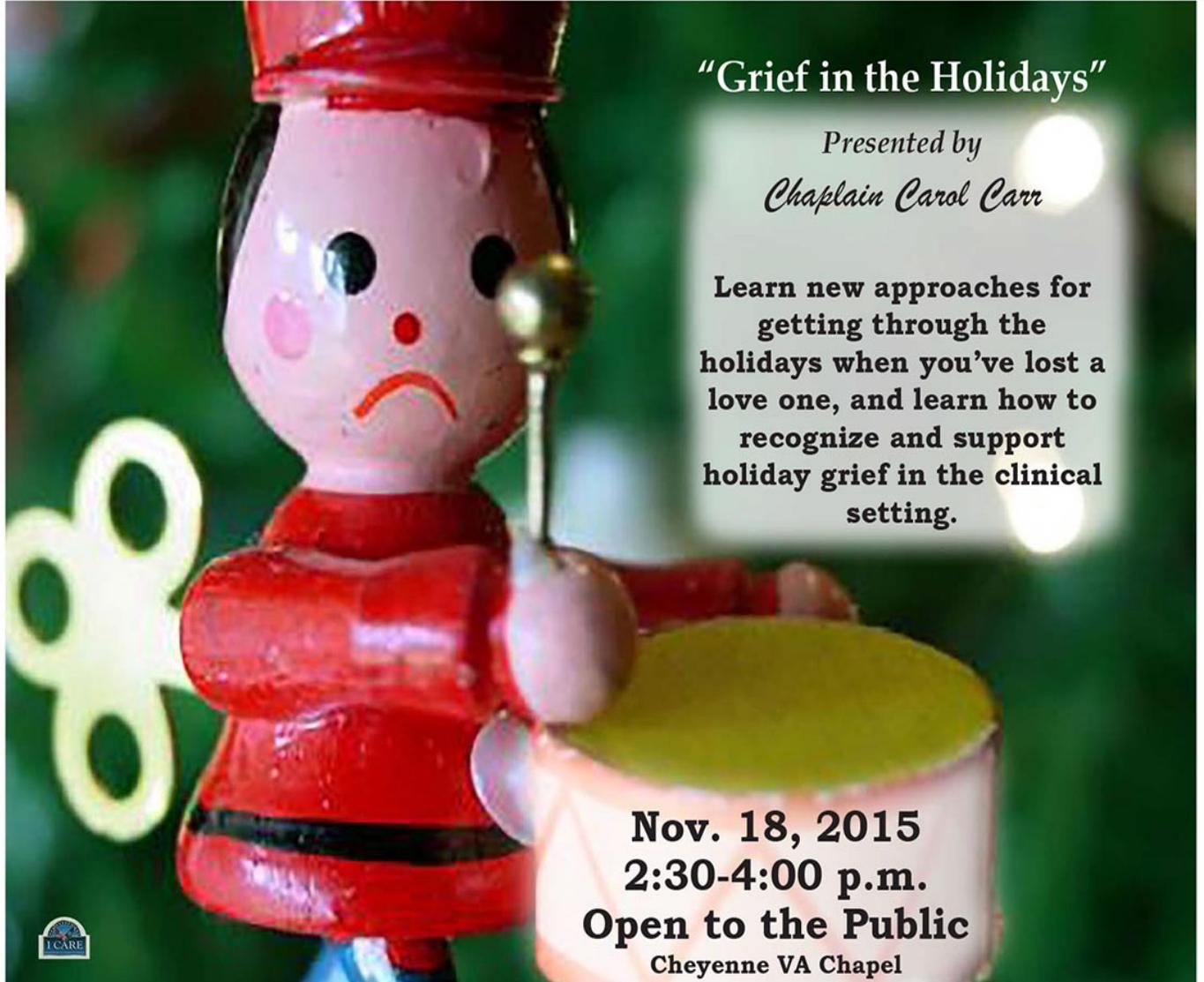
Like all other National Homes, the Eastern Branch provided a cemetery as a final resting place for the veterans. Today all of the NHDVS cemeteries are national cemeteries and maintained as national shrines to honor the nation's patriots buried there.

The NHDVS Eastern Branch at Togus, Maine, and the NHDVS other 10 branches, became part of the Veterans Administration during the second consolidation of federal veterans' programs in 1930. The Veterans Administration was elevated to a Cabinet-level department in October 1988 and renamed as the Department of Veterans Affairs. The former NHDVS Eastern Branch has operated continuously since it opened in 1866, serving generations of American veterans that fought in every U.S. war, and today is known as the Maine VA Health Care System.

Photos:

Top – 1891 lithograph of the Eastern Branch, Library of Congress

Bottom - Dr. B.B. Breed, Civil War surgeon/Togus' first surgeon, sitting inside tent to the right of the pole, 1864 c., Library of Congress



## "Grief in the Holidays"

*Presented by  
Chaplain Carol Carr*

**Learn new approaches for getting through the holidays when you've lost a love one, and learn how to recognize and support holiday grief in the clinical setting.**

**Nov. 18, 2015  
2:30-4:00 p.m.  
Open to the Public  
Cheyenne VA Chapel**



# Veteran's Bi-Monthly Memorial Service



*3 PM Friday November 20, 2015*

*Service in VA Chapel  
Military Honors in Circle of Flags  
Indoor Reception to Follow*

## 2017 Wyoming Veterans and Military License Plates

