

North Chicago VA News



North Chicago VA Medical Center
3001 Green Bay Road
North Chicago, Illinois 60064

June, 2003

North Chicago VAMC Supports Our Troops



Lisa Moeller, Executive Director of Chicago USO is presented a check in the sum of \$2,400.00 by Mary Lange Alberts, SGRC, Mary Roseborough, Associate Director for Patient and Nursing Services, and Patrick Sullivan, Acting Medical Center Director

47 Bunnies Donated to Children of Active Duty Troops



Mary Roseborough, Associate Director for Patient and Nursing Services, poses with several of the 47 stuffed bunnies that were donated by North Chicago VAMC employees for the children of families serving in the 101st Airborne.

Our Medical Center staff and volunteers wanted to show our support to troops overseas in Iraq and in the war on terrorism. The Patient/Nursing Services Business Unit coordinated efforts for raising monetary donations thru various activities such as popcorn sales,

yellow ribbon sales, a bake sale and raffle ticket sales. The raffle included a 27" TV and a DVD player donated by the Military Order of the Purple Heart and an U.S. Flag flown over the Capitol Building

on September 11th donated by Congressman Mark Kirk. Area restaurants also donated gift certificates for the raffle. A check for \$2,400.00 was presented to the USO Operation Care Package program.



Heather Brooks and Sarah Fouse, Patient Services and Debbie Rosenthal, OPI sell popcorn in the atrium of 133CA to raise funds for the troops.



Kathy Carrubba and Carroll McShane enjoy a hot dog lunch in which proceeds went to support military working dogs.

An ice cream and hot dog social was held to support our four-legged K-9 troops serving overseas and over \$1,600.00 was raised for this project. Many former military K-9 handlers stopped by to lend their support.



June Andrzejewski of Pharmacy, Mary Lange Alberts and Judy Hattendorf, SGRC, sell baked goods that were donated by medical center staff.

We wish to thank everyone who helped us with these events and thank everyone who donated to our mission to support the troops. The North Chicago VA employees are truly a caring community.

North Chicago News

North Chicago News is published for staff and volunteers of the North Chicago VA Medical Center. Submissions can be sent to douglas.shouse@med.va.gov
Contributors for this issue

Katherine Dong
Audiology/Speech Pathology

Doug Shouse
Director's Office

Nancy Gember
EEO

Colleen Smoger
Patient/Nursing Service

Donna Gonzalez
Patient Care

Mary Waterman
Learning Resource Center

Kenny List
Community Affairs

Dedication of New Patient Education Resource Center



Many staff were involved in planning and bringing this exciting center to life. From left: Alfreda Rhodes-King - manager; Maribeth Hogan - planning committee; Nick Konz - volunteer; Kay Willis - Pharmacy/SPD; Bill Nielsen - Learning Resource Center; Lourdes Gube - Interior Design; Joyce Wadlington, planning committee; Patrick Sullivan, Acting Medical Center Director.

The Patient Education Centers' mission is "to provide patients and their families with access to a full range of educational resources and consumer information on health, disease and other aspects of health care that will promote healthy behaviors, support recovery, encourage individual responsibility for health, and empower veterans to become more involved in decisions about their own care." The ribbon cutting ceremony was held on April 7. The Center is located in the outpatient pharmacy waiting area on the first floor bldg 133.

North Chicago VA Hosts Psychiatry and Neurology Boards

The North Chicago Veterans Affairs Medical Center hosted the American Boards of Psychiatry and Neurology (ABPN) on May 12 and 13, 2003. It was a great honor to be the host site of this prestigious event. Over 1,600 candidates were examined for specialty certification in neurology or psychiatry. The examinations took place in Building 131 and Building 133, utilizing wards 133 2A, 133 3A and 133 4A.

This was an excellent opportunity for us to show participants from across the country that the staff of North Chicago VA is truly a caring community, anticipating needs and exceeding expectations.

Dr. Sheila Maliekel Selected as Chief of Primary Care



Dr. Sheila Maliekel is a Board Certified Internist who began practicing medicine in 1988. She came to the United States in 1981 after obtaining her medical degree from the University of Kerala, India. In Chicago, she pursued a 3-year Internal Medicine Residency at Cook County Hospital followed by a 2-

year fellowship program in Critical Care Medicine and was Board Certified in Internal Medicine and Critical Care in 1986 and 1989 respectively.

For the past 11 years, Dr. Maliekel has worked out of her privately owned Internal Medicine Practice in Gurnee, IL. In 1988, Dr. Maliekel held an Attending Physician Position at North Chicago VA and, in March 2003, was chosen as Chief of Primary Care. Dr. Maliekel also holds an academic position as Assistant Professor of Medicine at the Finch University of Health Science/The Chicago Medical School. She has previously worked as the Director of the Primary Care Clinic at Great Lakes Naval Hospital and as a Consultant Attending Physician at Cook County Hospital's Medical Intensive Care Units. Her special interests in medicine also include Women's Health, Cardiovascular Diseases, and Preventative Health. Welcome!

Eddie L. Littlejohn Named New Safety Manager



Ed Littlejohn comes to the North Chicago VA from Indianapolis, Indiana, where he worked for the Department of Metropolitan Development as the Warren Township Administrator. He has 25 years of experience in Occupational Safety and Health which includes positions as Corporate Safety Manager, Occupational Safety and Health Manager and Safety Specialist. Ed served over 20 years on active duty in the Air Force. He holds a Master's Degree in Public Administration from

Indiana University and undergraduate degree in Political Science and Safety Technology. Ed is originally from Alexandria Virginia but currently calls Indianapolis home. Welcome!

Facility Management on the Job

Electronic Control Technician Dan Brandes and Electrician, Leroy Cobb are just 2 of our Bldg engineers that make up the 97 FTEE responsible for maintenance and repairs within the 1.6 million square feet of the North Chicago VA.



Naval Hospital Great Lakes Corps School Honored

For over 25 years the North Chicago VA Medical Center and the Naval Hospital Great Lakes Corps School have had a partnership that benefits both organizations. A Recognition Awards Program was held on May 14 to recognize our shared mission in support of the Naval Corps School as well as its unique contribution. A Certificate of Appreciation was presented to Captain Rosalind Sloan, Director for Academics Naval

Hospital Corps School, Great Lakes, IL, which read, "In recognition of the longstanding and ongoing VA/DoD partnership in support of the training of Naval Hospital Corpsmen. In appreciation for the unselfish dedication, great enthusiasm, and pride in the care of our veterans by students and staff. We Salute You!" Instructors and current students were in attendance and were honored.



Captain Rosalind Sloan accepts award from Mary Roseborough Associate Director for Patient and Nursing Services

Nursing Week Celebrated May 6 - 12

National Nurses Week was celebrated at the North Chicago VAMC during the week of May 6 - 12, 2003. This year's theme was "Nurses Lifting Spirits, Touching Lives". Mary T. Roseborough, Associate

Director for Patient/Nursing Services, personally distributed "energy kits" to Nursing Staff and thanked them for their hard work and the energy they consistently expend in caring for our veterans.

North Chicago Nominees for the Excellence in Nursing Awards



Excellence in Nursing Award Recipients



Left: Helena Sznicer, NA - 2003 NCVAMC and VISN 12 Recipient pictured with Mary Roseborough.



Kenneth King, RN
Kyung Lee, RN
Rosario Vongsakul, RN
Emily White, NA

Claude Owens, RN
Maria Granada-Ronquillo, RN
Maria Witkowski, RN

Left: Sharon Latz, RN - 2003 Staff Nurse Recipient-NCVAMC pictured with her coworkers from Day Treatment Center from left: Ronald Arnold, Nursing; Annamma Varghese, social worker; Mary Roseborough, Associate Director for Patient Services/Nursing Executive; Sharon Latz; Shirley Hoffman, Director, Day Treatment Center; and Mary Little, program assistant.

Federal Employee of the Year Nominees

For 46 years, the Chicago Federal Executive Board has recognized and honored the brightest stars of our Federal workforce. Hundreds of employees in all fields of endeavor were nominated by their Supervisors to receive the Federal Employee of the Year award which was awarded at the luncheon held on April 23, 2003.

This year Kay Willis of Pharmacy/SPD Service, nominated for Outstanding Supervisory Employee was selected as one of the Finalists. Congratulations to our nominees and finalist!



Outstanding Technical/Program Support Employee Nominee, Lucius Campbell, Jr. pictured with Dr. Hassan



From Left: Dr. Hassan, Colleen Smoger, Outstanding Secretarial/Clerical Employee Nominee; Mr. Sullivan and Mary Roseborough.

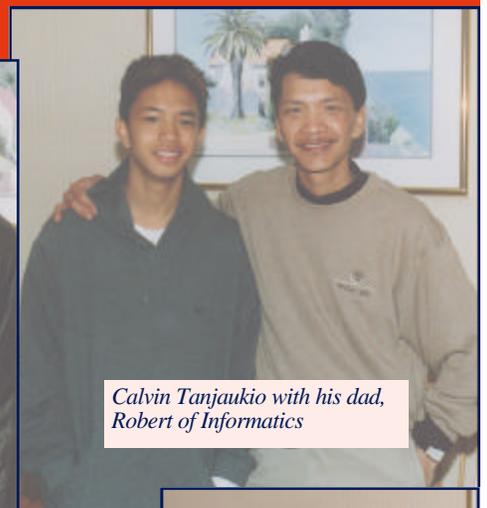
Bring Your Child To Work Day

Bring Your Child To Work Day is an annual event that is held the last Thursday in April. It is a 9-5 opportunity for parents who work for the North Chicago VA Medical Center to introduce their children to the VA and its mission to serve our nation's veterans.

Continental breakfast was served and Mr. Sullivan Acting Medical Center Director and Dr. Hassan, Chief of Staff were on hand to greet the staff and children.



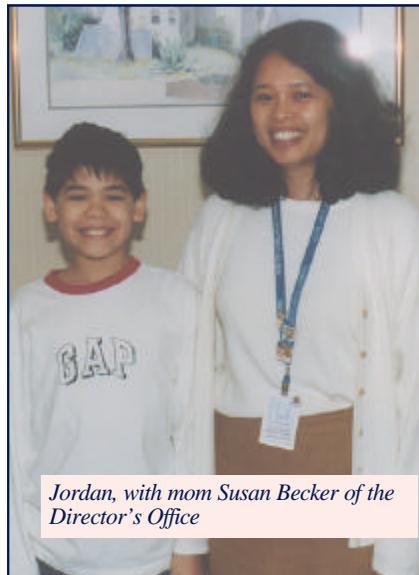
Jazmin with grandmother, Kay Caston of the Business Office



Calvin Tanjaukio with his dad, Robert of Informatics



Matt, son of Janine Stoll, Endocrine; Julie Peterson, Ambulatory Nursing and daughter Caitlin.



Jordan, with mom Susan Becker of the Director's Office



Pam Burke of Research Service and daughter Emily



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North Chicago Volunteers Honored at Annual Awards Luncheon

Two hundred eighty volunteers, guests and staff were in attendance on May 8th at the 2003 Annual Volunteer Awards Program at the Country Squire Restaurant in Grayslake. The theme "Somewhere in Time" highlighted this year's recognition luncheon focusing on the Turn of the 20th Century. Giant pocket watches and timepiece decorations adorned each table including antique model cars that were kindly assembled for our program by the veterans of Bldgs. 7, 11, 46, and 66. Miniature teddy bears and crayola crayons, both invented during the 1900's, were presented as

small mementos of the era. A pre-luncheon show with the barbershop quartet "Playback" (pictured) was the highlight of the program and had the volunteers singing along with some of their favorite old songs.

One hundred sixty eight volunteers in attendance received awards ranging from 50 hours to 49,500

hours for their service to our medical center and patients. Forty six volunteers also received a special 4,000 hour award pin, borne out of President Bush's call encouraging all Americans to donate 4,000 hours of service to their community and country over the course of a lifetime. Overall, 74,000 hours were served by 876 Regular Scheduled Volunteers this



Congratulation to Dorothy Waters from Patrick Sullivan and Tariq Hassan.



Dr. Hassan congratulates Herman Rosenthal at the banquet.



Sam Tzakis, Marine Corps League and Thalia Sipple, American Legion.

year. Congratulations and a special thank you to each and every volunteer for their dedication and service to our Nation's veterans.

Women Veterans Memory Quilt



By Kathy Dong
Women Veterans Coordinator,
North Chicago VAMC

On November 6th, 2002, approximately 30 women veterans met at the North Chicago VA Medical Center to participate in a commemoration of their military service. After the light of a memorial candle, There was a sharing of "her-stories"- memorable experiences from the military. Stories were told that spanned the decades from World War

II to the Persian Gulf and ranged from poignant to humorous. No one present will ever forget the story of the military-issued khaki girdles!

After the sharing of experiences, the women set down to work. Each woman present created her own square for the Women Veterans'

Memory Quilt. It is hoped that the quilt will serve as a lasting reminder of the history of women veterans and their many contributions to this country's military service. Many women brought mementos to add in as part of their square. Mementos included photographs and news clippings (that were computer-scanned onto the quilt squares), bars, buttons, insignias, and ribbons. Various patriotic fabrics, ribbons, and fabric pens were also available as aids

to creativity. The quilt squares were later sewn together by three volunteers who also added a patriotic border and pictures of the medical center and own Women Veterans monument. The quilt is displayed in the Admission Desk area in Building 133CA. Be sure and look for it during your next visit!

A luncheon followed the making of the quilt squares and provided additional opportunities for reminiscing. Special thanks to the Ladies Auxiliary of the Jewish Was Veterans, Post No. 328 for contributing the supplies for the quilt; to Charlene Cooper, Lois Dick, and Juanita Render for sewing together the quilt squares; and to all the women veterans who shared of their memories and their keepsakes. Their contributions will help visitors to the North Chicago VA Medical Center come to a new and more complete understanding of what women in the military have done and continue to do.