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Central Arkansas Veterans Healthcare System

Central Arkansas Veterans Healthcare System Honors Top Nurses of 2021



Central Arkansas Veterans Healthcare System (CAVHS) celebrated the service of its top nurses with the presentation of the 2021 VA Secretary's Awards for Excellence in Nursing in a ceremony May 25.

CAVHS' Top Nurses for 2021 are:

Nursing Assistant/Health Technician Category: Jonathan Lowman, CAVHS Emergency Department Emergency Medical Technician. *Lowman won the VA-level Veterans Affairs Secretary's Award for Excellence in Nursing.

Licensed Practical Nurse Category: Shaun Carey, CAVHS Community Living Center LPN.

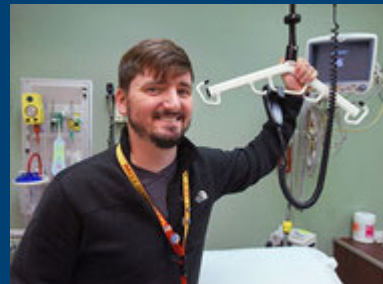
Staff Registered Category: Audie Bailey, CAVHS Operating Room Robotics Coordinator.

Registered Nurse Expanded Role Category: Jacqueline Nunn, CAVHS Operating Room Nurse Manager.

The Secretary's Award for Excellence in Nursing honors nursing staff members who are actively engaged in the care of our Veterans. Their contributions to Veteran centered care demonstrate excellence and merit recognition.

"I'm very proud of all our nominees and winners; they display the highest level of commitment to the Veterans they serve. Their accomplishments are truly phenomenal despite the challenges faced during the COVID-19 pandemic," said Dr. Salena Wright-Brown, Associate Director for Patient Care Services/Nurse Executive. "Throughout it all, our team took care of each other while focusing on exceptional care for our Nation's heroes. I'm very proud to be part of the of the CAVHS nursing team."

CAVHS nurse earns VA Secretary Award



Central Arkansas Veterans Healthcare System Emergency Medical Technician Jonathan Lowman was honored yesterday as one of six VA-wide Secretary's Awards for nursing excellence.

During a virtual awards ceremony, Secretary of Veterans Affairs Denis McDonough oversaw the presentation of the award to Lowman, a Marine Corps Veteran who has worked at CAVHS for three years. "I know firsthand what powerful people you are," said Secretary McDonough, referencing his mother who was a nurse.

Lowman earned the award for outstanding work and an innovation designed to reduce fall related injuries in the home. Lowman researched fall related injuries in elderly and discovered that Arkansas ranks highest with 34 percent of



people 65 and older being injured in a fall each year.

CAVHS urges Veterans to schedule cancer screening

Central Arkansas Veterans Healthcare System has joined a nationwide effort to encourage Veterans, their caregivers, and family members to resume appropriate cancer screening to prevent cancer-related illnesses.

CAVHS is urging Veterans throughout Arkansas to talk with their health care provider to resume regular primary care checkups and recommended cancer screening. Taking these measures can lessen the negative impact the pandemic is having on identifying and treating Veterans with cancer.

The impact of the pandemic affected screening related procedures, which dropped drastically in March and May 2020 according to the American Cancer Society (ACS). Estimates project 35% of Americans missed routine cancer screening due to COVID-19 related fears and service disruptions.

Throughout the pandemic, CAVHS has implemented numerous infection control measures to provide a safe environment for Veteran health care and screening.

“Regular cancer screening can improve or save Veteran lives,” said Dr. Tina McClain, CAVHS chief of staff. “Many cancers are treatable when they are detected early. We’re encouraging every Veteran to talk to their provider about getting screened.”

Breast cancer remains the leading cause of cancer death among women, and colorectal cancer is the third most common cause of death among men and women in the U.S.

CAVHS offers a robust cancer program for Veterans accredited by the Commission on Cancer, including diagnostic evaluation services to catch cancers early and treat affected Veterans.

Volunteer Drivers Recognized for Dedication, Service to Northeast Arkansas Veterans

Central Arkansas Veterans Healthcare System (CAVHS) Voluntary Services recently recognized three Volunteer Transportation Network (VTN) drivers from Jonesboro for their dedication and service to Northeast Arkansas Veterans.

Volunteer drivers Loyd Clark, Wes Westenrieder and Loyd Davis were presented recognition certificates by a Michael Dobbs, CAVHS Voluntary Service chief.

“Over the past year many Volunteers have made the decision not to Volunteer or return due to the pandemic. Volunteer Drivers are critical part of CAVHS healthcare mission. Many Veterans depend on rides to the medical centers for their care,” Dobbs said. “These selfless gentlemen display willing hearts to serve their fellow Veterans who would have no other means to get to their appointments.”

CAVHS Voluntary Services and the DAV partner to operate a fleet of vehicles around Arkansas to provide free transportation to VA medical facilities for injured and ill veterans. The VTN Network in Central Arkansas transports veterans from Batesville, Eldorado, Camden, Fayetteville, Heber Springs, Hot Springs, Hope, Jonesboro, Magnolia, Mena Mountain View, Mountain Home (with two vans), Newport, Pine Bluff, Russellville, as well as other locations along designated routes to Little Rock and North Little Rock VA facilities.



*Volunteer Transportation Network (VTN) driver and Air Force Veteran Wes Westenrieder from Jonesboro was presented a recognition certificate for his volunteer service transporting Veterans to Little Rock and Memphis Veterans Affairs Medical Centers. Westenrieder has logged more than 4,485 hours and 85,522 miles transporting **871** Veterans from Northeast Arkansas to scheduled medical appointments. He is a member of Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Chapter 26 in Jonesboro.*

Volunteer Transportation Network (VTN) driver and Veteran Loyd Davis from Brookland was recently presented a recognition certificate for his volunteer service transporting Veterans to Little Rock and Memphis Veterans Affairs Medical Centers. For more than 12 years, Davis has transported Northeast Arkansas Veterans to their scheduled appointments. He has logged more than

*5,075 hours and 11,305 miles transporting **964** Veterans from Northeast Arkansas. Davis is a member of the American Legion and Disabled American Veterans posts in Jonesboro.*



*Volunteer Transportation Network (VTN) driver and Veteran Lloyd Clark from Powhattan was recently presented a recognition certificate for his volunteer service transporting Veterans to Little Rock and Memphis Veterans Affairs Medical Centers. For more than 4 years, Clark has logged more than **2,071** hours and 55,208 miles transporting **368** Veterans and driven more than **55,208** miles, from Northeast Arkansas to scheduled medical appointments. He is a member of the member of American Legion, Veterans of Foreign War (VFW) and Disabled American Veterans (DAV).*



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Veterans Health Administration

Central Arkansas Veterans Healthcare System

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