

SPRING 2021

Pulse



**Resiliency.
Innovation.
Survivors.**

PROUDLY SERVING VETERANS OF NORTH TEXAS AND SOUTHERN OKLAHOMA FROM LOCATIONS IN

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Pulse

SPRING 2021

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15

VA NORTH TEXAS SERVED MORE THAN 134,000 VETERANS IN FY2016 WITH ALMOST 1.5 MILLION OUTPATIENT VISITS. IT IS THE SECOND MOST COMPLEX VA FACILITY IN THE NATION, AND OUR WORLD-RENOWN CLINICIANS AND RESEARCHERS DRIVE THE TECHNICAL QUALITY OF OUR HEALTH CARE SERVICES AND PROGRAMS.

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration
VA North Texas Health Care System

Changing lives.
One Veteran at a time.



13



17

3 COVID-19

By the Numbers

4 Serve Our Heroes

Hot meals and thanks motivate frontline providers

5 From Simple to Complex

Robots pass 2,000 successful surgeries

7 INNOVATION

Innovative cancer treatment offers Veterans an extension on life

9 Whole Health

Though dental care

11 Not just one of the guys

Iraq War Veteran overcomes trauma to remain visible and thrive

13 Forging identities & healing

Through arts therapy

15 Birthday Drive-by

Veteran celebrates 96th birthday with drive-by parade

17 Bringing Visibility

To those who have served in the shadows



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Director's Message

Commitment, innovation, and empathy equal resilience

Twelve-months of COVID-19 brought forth the best in VA North Texas' 6,000 employees

2020 and the first few months of this year presented real opportunities to meet and address challenges for this country and VA North Texas Health Care System. We answered the call, moved aside obstacles, and realized the best versions of ourselves along the way.

The pandemic required us to quickly modify how we did many things and we responded to each new challenge by focusing on the safety of employees and patients. We stayed true to our core mission, had a bias for action, and continued to provide the highest quality of care. Through commitment, innovation and empathy for our patients and employees, we achieved a level of resilience that saved lives.

Using our High Reliability Organization (HRO) principles, VA North Texas effectively handled the challenges brought by the pandemic, including safely triaging and delivering virtual urgent and emergency care for Veterans at risk for COVID-19. Much of our patient care shifted from in-person outpatient services to delivering care virtually using secure communication platforms. VA Video Connect appointments increased by nearly 1,300 percent. Along the way we treated over 700 employees and 1,500 patients for COVID-19 and utilized our newly acquired Garland VA Medical Center for patient overflow and treatment.



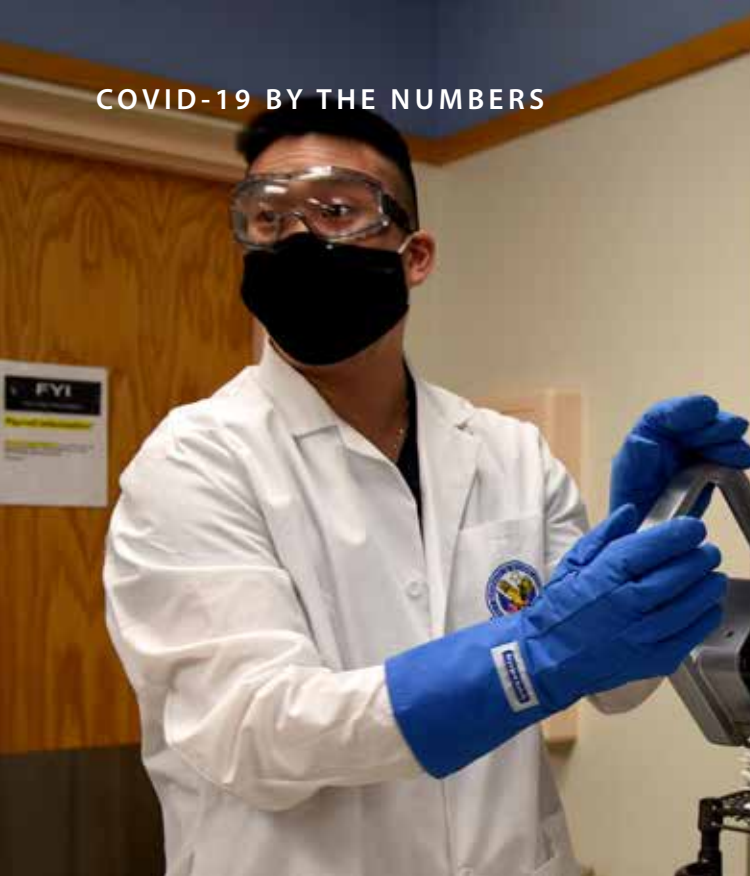
We secured millions of surgical gloves, N95 masks, gowns, shields, and sanitizers to keep our employees and patients safe and maintain our stellar access to care, and administered nearly 50,000 doses of Pfizer and Moderna vaccines within 90 days of receipt to our front-line health care providers, and elderly and immune compromised patients.

If that wasn't enough, the team also implemented a new innovative weapon to fight a rare and aggressive cancer, expanded our access to dental care, and became a best-place-to-work as acknowledged by our 6,000 employees. VA North Texas reaffirmed our commitment to our employees and patients, gave them the tools to succeed and heal, and watched them find the other side of the pandemic with a resilience all too rare in today's world. Our performance continues, as does our steadfast commitment to providing the very best health care to those who've borne the battle.

We are VA. And we are proud.

Stephen R. Holt

STEPHEN R. HOLT, MD, MPH, MSNRS | DIRECTOR



AS OF MARCH 1, 2021

Total number of COVID-19 positive patients treated
1,586

Total number of COVID-19 positive employees treated
713

Total number of COVID-19 vaccine doses administered
53,000

Total number of lost patient care days due to COVID-19
zero

Hot meals and thanks motivate frontline providers



“We wanted to make a huge impact for Veterans and healthcare workers lives but also in a way that we can appreciate healthcare heroes and continue it after the pandemic is over.”

CELESE GIERHART
FOUNDING MEMBER OF SERVE OUR HEROES

Serve our Heroes have also donated meals to VA employees in San Antonio and Temple.

“It’s also been amazing to see how much of the community has come together to support us in doing this,” said Dedman. “It has been super exciting for us to broaden our reach in the community and see how many people are also serving Veterans like we do.”

VA North Texas Nurse Manager, Zanzine Boult, is one of the many employees who has been caring for Veterans during the pandemic and has received meals from donated from *Serve of Heroes*.

“Receiving the meals has positivity impacted our staff and it has made us feel appreciated,” said Boult. “We come in everyday and our goal is to ensure all Veterans receive outstanding care and to know an outside organization values us and respects what we do makes us feel important and we just really appreciate it.”

Coronavirus or COVID-19 was declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization (WHO) and Public Health Emergency (PHE) by the U.S. Government in February 2020. As the nation’s largest integrated health care system, VA’s COVID-19 response has been robust and far-reaching. This includes 24 current and 75 completed Fourth Mission assignments involving more than 2,000 VA employees helping to support non-Veteran patients and non-VA health care systems. VA’s agility throughout the pandemic to adapt based on lessons learned, enabled the continuance of safe, quality health care to Veterans as the pandemic continues through 2021. As of January 2021, VA has tested 1.3 million Veterans and employees for COVID-19.

As the second largest and most complex VHA facility in the U.S., VA North Texas Health Care System has led the way in testing, treating, and providing vaccinations during the pandemic, in one of the largest impacted COVID-19 saturated areas in America.



It began in April with 75 hot meals delivered to VA North Texas employees preparing to face the onset of a pandemic. By the end of 2020, the meal count had eclipsed 15,000 thanks to four Dallas women.

Serve our Heroes and its founding members, Nancy Dedman, Celese Gierhart, Morgan Lutz, and Catherine Dedman started the nonprofit to show their appreciation for frontline medical employees.

The founding members have close military ties.

“Our inspiration for *Serve our Heroes* came mostly from our family members who are Veterans,” said Lutz. “All of our grandparents served and once we saw all the frontline organizations come out and trying to feed the frontline workers during the pandemic, we saw there wasn’t a Veterans specific program and we really wanted to join forces and share our love for country and Veterans by helping the hospital workers that are saving the lives of those who served our country.”

Serve our Heroes raises money to order meals that are delivered to feed the staff members caring for the Veterans with COVID-19. Since April, *Serve our Heroes*, has raised more than \$120,000 and donated 15,000 meals to VA employees.

From simple to complex, robots pass 2,000 successful surgeries



Surgeons at VA North Texas Health Care System have a few extra hands in the operating room.

These hands are part of the da Vinci surgical system, and they have assisted with more than 2,000 Veteran surgeries at Dallas VA Medical Center. VA North Texas has two da Vinci robots with three surgical sections using the robots on a daily basis: general surgery, urology and cardiothoracic surgery.

“For general surgeries, there are a wide variety of procedures where the robot is used,” said Dr. Thai Pham, Section Chief of General Surgery. “They range from less complex cases such as hernia repairs and cholecystectomies, to very complex cases like bariatric, colorectal, hepatobiliary, pancreas, and foregut surgeries.”

Using the robot to perform these surgeries offers many benefits to both the patient and surgeon.

“For the patient, the robot allows for easier application of minimally invasive surgery and greater access for patients to minimally invasive surgeries,” said Dr. Pham. “Minimally invasive surgery has the advantage of less post-operative pain, shorter hospital stays, faster recovery to normal activities, and decreased complication rates.”

The robot allows for better ergonomics for the surgeon, as they will stand for hours while in surgery and may need to work

in difficult angles, that over time, can lead to repetitive stress injuries. Robot use reduces the risk of these injuries.

“The robot really excels in small spaces in the human body and many of the spaces we need to get to are in tiny areas,” said Rashann Coleman, RN, Robotic First Assist and U.S. Air Force Veteran. “One example is the prostate, it’s a small organ and is difficult to get to with our hands because our hands are so big and the robot’s hands are a whole lot smaller and they can fit into those tiny spaces.”

Compared to standard laparoscopic instruments, the da Vinci surgical system recreates a wristed motion and gives a significant increase in dexterity, making it possible to perform more complex surgeries, explains Dr. Jeffrey Gahan, Urology Surgeon.

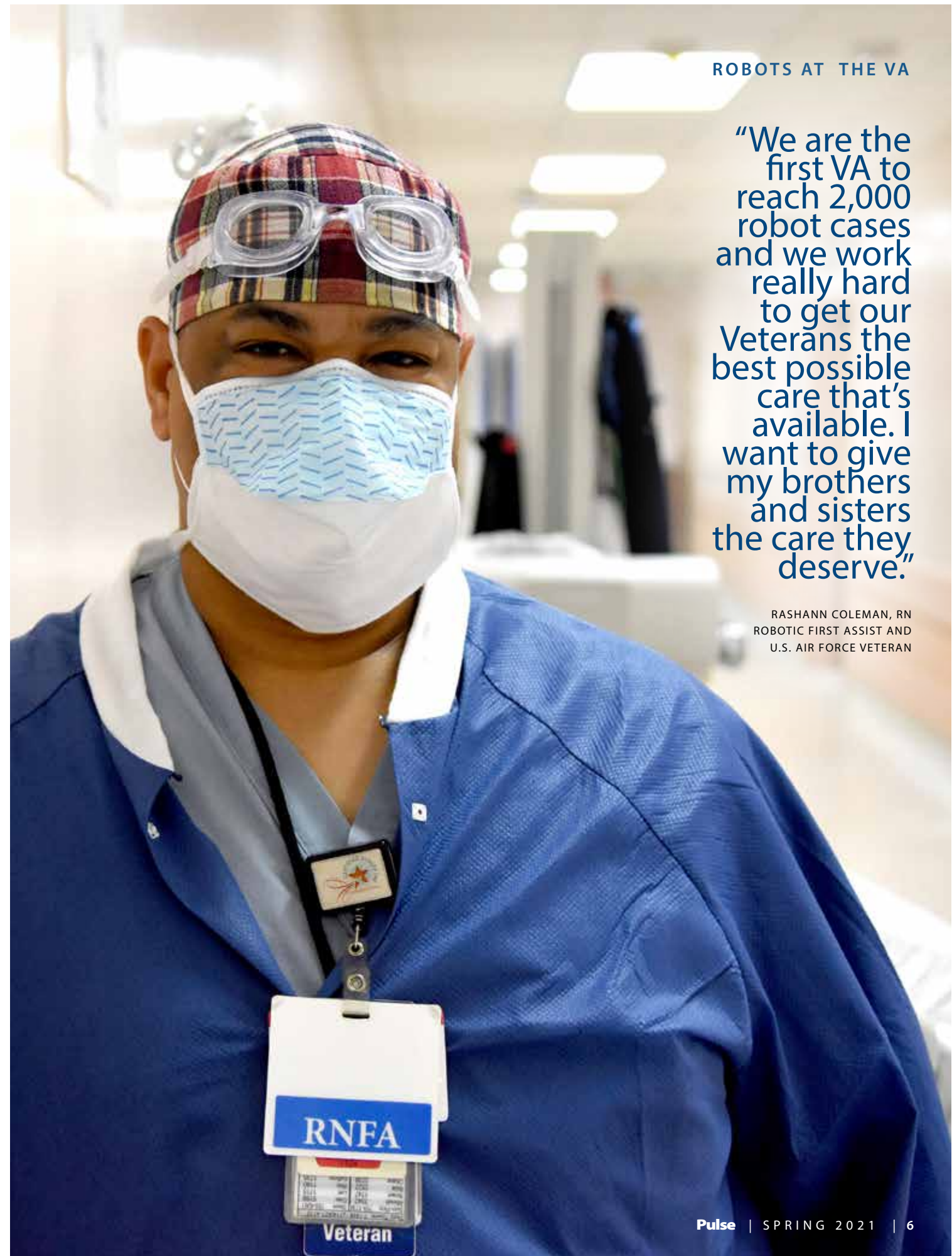
“We have done more robotic cases than any VA in the country and are the busiest by surgical volume in terms of urologic cases,” said Dr. Gahan.

The surgeons who use the robot must complete a formalized credentialing plan that includes simulation training, hands-on cadaver lab training and case proctoring. Additionally, the surgeon must perform a number of cases over a two-year period to maintain their credentials.

ROBOTS AT THE VA

“We are the first VA to reach 2,000 robot cases and we work really hard to get our Veterans the best possible care that’s available. I want to give my brothers and sisters the care they deserve.”

RASHANN COLEMAN, RN
ROBOTIC FIRST ASSIST AND
U.S. AIR FORCE VETERAN





INNOVATIVE TREATMENT

“It took an incredible amount of work to pass the necessary inspection processes and get the program up and running. It is a tremendous source of pride that we were able to set this up and ensure our Veterans have the most advanced cancer care available.”

DR. GORDON BUTLER
VA NORTH STAFF
INTERVENTIONAL RADIOLOGIST

Innovative cancer treatment offers Veterans an extension on life



Through the collaborative efforts of several VA North Texas Health Care System interdisciplinary professionals in radiology, interventional radiology, safety, and nuclear medicine, a new weapon in the ongoing fight against cancer in the Veteran population was recently unveiled.

Selective Internal Radiation Therapy (SIRT) using the Yttrium-90 resin microspheres or “SIR-Spheres,” was performed on a Veteran with metastatic cholangiocarcinoma—more simply known as bile duct or liver cancer—at the Dallas VA Medical Center. The rare and aggressive cancer occurs in less than 20,000 people across the U.S. each year.

Liver cancer diagnoses in the United States have tripled over the past three decades, and its effects on the health of Veterans will likely continue growing over the next several decades.

SIRT using Y-90 glass microspheres was approved for humanitarian use by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in 2000, followed by the Y-90-bearing resin microspheres in 2002. These microscopic, radioactive, microspheres are used to control and even eliminate cancers in the liver that cannot be removed with surgery.

“We are one of a few sites in all of North Texas that offers both types of microsphere therapies as treatment for cancers in the liver,” said Dr. Irfan M. Farukhi, VA North Texas Chief of Nuclear Medicine. “We use the glass microspheres filled with Y-90, a radioactive element, to treat cancers that originate in the liver and the resin microspheres coated with Y-90 to treat cancers that have spread to the liver from other organs.”

Radiation, when delivered in adequate

amounts, can be deadly to cancerous tissue. However, radiation is also lethal for healthy cells. This is something that Dr. Farukhi says is one of the upsides to using microspheres to treat liver cancer.

“We were able to deliver nearly 200 Gy radiation to the tumor, while normal tissues received less than 15 Gy of radiation, which is a phenomenal result,” said Dr. Farukhi. “Y-90 emits Beta Radiation and that radiation kills tissues. It will cause a break in the DNA of a cell and that cell will die because it is not able to replicate.”

Once inside the body, the resin microspheres become permanently lodged in the tiny vessels of the tumors. The radiation, however, will decay over time. The half-life of Y90 is 64 hours, so most of the radiation is deposited in the tumor over the first week.

“There are generally no side effects from the treatment and most patients go home the same day,” said Dr. Butler.

SIRT usually requires just one treatment, however, a subsequent treatment might be administered to deliver a sufficient dose of radiation to the tumor. Often, SIRT can offer Veteran patients, who might otherwise be untreatable, an extension on life.

“Often it’s up to 14 months,” said Dr. Butler. “In certain instances, where the patient has limited disease, (SIRT) can offer a curative treatment to patients, who would otherwise not have a curative option.”

WHOLE HEALTH

through dental care



Wayne McLeister never misses his twice-yearly dental cleanings at the Dallas VA Medical Center.

Wayne McLeister is one of 8,000 patients receiving dental services at VA North Texas Health Care System's Dallas campus each year. With a staff of 50 providers, hygienists, technicians and assistants, and medical support professionals, VA North Texas' dental service offers general dentistry, oral surgery, specialty care, restorations,

bridges, and prosthesis to eligible Veterans.

"Dental care is a critical whole health component as a lot of other conditions are affected," said Dr. Ronaldo Ramirez-Ramos, VA North Texas Health Care System's Chief of Dental Services. "We see a lot of consults from the medical side for patients going in for joint replacements, heart transplants, and other life-saving procedures as the patients need to have a good oral health."

Veterans must meet certain criteria to be eligible for dental care, such as a service-connected dental disability, a 100 percent service-connected disability rating, or former prisoner of war status, to name a few.

In 2019, Dr. Ramirez-Ramos' team preformed some 85,000 procedures via 33,000 individual patient visits. To enhance access and accommodate a growing demand for dental services, the team recently converted two former office spaces into additional exam rooms, bringing their total to 16. Current plans also call for a further expansion of dental services

"You can't beat it. I am getting good health care and I look forward to seeing the employees and my fellow Veterans."

WAYNE MCLEISTER
U.S. ARMY VIETNAM WAR VETERAN

at two other VA North Texas locales throughout a 40-county patient catchment area.

Despite a pandemic that limited elective services for a few months, Dr. Ramirez-Ramos' team remained a constant for the urgent dental needs of surging patient population in need.

"If patients can't keep up with their dental hygiene everything will fail," said Dr. Ramirez-Ramos. "We are bringing back all the patients who had routine appointments cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions and have added many new patients in need of care."

For long-time patients like Wayne McLeister, VA North Texas' available dental services have improved his quality of life.

"I'm really lucky as the VA has been really good to me, and I tell all of my fellow Veterans to be appreciative of the care they receive here," said McLeister.

According to Dr. Ramirez-Ramos, it's all in a day's work for his team.

"Our patients need us, and we cannot afford to fail them."



Not just one of the guys



Iraq War Veteran overcomes trauma to remain visible and thrive

Benita Swinners grew up just outside Dallas and was raised by her single mother. It was just the two of them. As Swinners neared the end of her high school days, she met someone that would provide an opportunity to change her path in life.

"A U.S. Army recruiter approached me at school one day, and I was like, you know what let's do this, so I signed up," said Swinners. "I am my mom's only child and I told her that I would be leaving as soon as I graduated. She cried so much. I'm her baby, but I told her it's going to be for the best."

Swinners quickly found herself having to go above and beyond and excel at every task she was assigned in order to prove her competence and worth to the unit. Becoming "one of the guys" was not a goal of Swinners', but it did provide relief from many of the overt practices that made daily life more difficult for her than it was for her male peers.

On the 58th anniversary of D-Day, June 6, 2002, Swinners, the first person in her family to serve in the military, raised her right hand and took the oath to become a soldier. Her first duty station after basic and specialty training was an overseas assignment to South Korea as a 92Y, unit supply specialist.

Swinners' move to Korea brought much excitement and an equal amount of challenges.

"When I arrived in Korea, I was the first female my unit had ever had. It was a very male dominated environment," said Swinners.

"I felt I need to constantly prove myself in everything that I did," said Swinners. "Not delivering was never an option for me."

Fast forward two years and a now 20-year old Swinners was preparing for a deployment to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. A sense of duty, fear, and the unknown came over her. She was expecting to face an enemy.

"When I got to Iraq, I was one of just three females in our unit," said Swinners. "It was extremely difficult because we ended up getting attached to an infantry unit, which at that

time was unheard of because infantry units hadn't open to females."

Life in a war zone circa 2004 was often a balance of monotonous preparation and waiting, followed by moments of sheer terror.

"It was terrifying," said Swinners. "Every single day was tough emotionally, wondering if you were going to make it to the next day. Every morning, I would hear the adhan-- Islamic call to prayer-- and then I would hear mortar rounds. I was just so fearful to even walk around our forward operating base (FOB).

What Swinners didn't expect was that she would also face and fight an enemy face-to-face inside the perceived protection of being inside the wire at her FOB. It was a fight that wouldn't end with a cease fire call or removal from the battlefield. The fight would linger with Swinners for many years.

Swinners was often harassed, but she tried to shake it off and proceed with her efforts to be the best soldier she could.

"Unfortunately, I was scared of the enemy, but I knew the enemy wasn't just the insurgents, it was actually also my fellow soldiers," said Swinners. "It was difficult for all females because we didn't have our own separate showers, so a female would have to pull guard for me. I had to carry a club with me just in case." Even with precautionary personal safety plans in place, it wasn't enough. Swinners was sexually assaulted by another soldier. Swinners made the choice not to report the assault because

she thought she was supposed to be one of the guys and it would be easier at that time to just deal with it.

"Unfortunately, I know what it's like for your battle buddy to not be your true battle buddy," said Swinners. "It was an enemy within the ranks."

After returning from her tour in Iraq, Swinners had a hard time adjusting and not being recognized as a soldier or a Veteran. She would get told by her fellow soldiers and people she met in the community that she was too pretty or too young to have served.

"When I got back, I didn't know who I was. I didn't have any connections with anyone. Everyone seemingly moved on. I left for the Army right after high school and I couldn't really connect with anyone I knew anymore."

After four years in the Army and four years in the Army National Guard, Swinners separated from the military. It was at this time that she decided to pursue health care and her earned benefits with VA.

Swinners first interactions with VA were less than ideal.

"The MAS clerk told me he needed the name of my husband because he was the Veteran and not me," said Swinners.

"I just left. I felt that all of my service was for not."

It would take several years for Swinners to reengage with VA, her health, and her benefits. Swinners is now an advocate for her fellow women Veterans to use VA health care.

"I suffer from PTSD and anxiety like many Veterans," said Swinners. "I may not look like a Veteran, I don't look like a disabled Veteran, but I have invisible wounds."

Swinners takes things day by day and is moving forward from her traumas. She has come to point in her life thanks to the VA where she can talk about it.

"I am a survivor of military sexual trauma (MST) which occurred in Iraq," said Swinners. "It was a very difficult time to get through, but I did. Looking back now, I think, how did I do that?"

Swinners became the first person in her family to earn a college degree (in fact, she earned two), became a certified Zumba instructor, a homeowner, and a federal employee in the years since she left the military. Despite everything Swinners has endured, she has no regrets. She served her country proudly and credits her mother for always pushing her to be the best version of herself.

"I'm so glad I joined and served my country," said Swinners. "With everything, there is always a risk. It will either break you or make you stronger. After all of this, I am still here. Even though I'm crying now, these aren't tears of defeat, these are warrior tears. My invisible scars.

"I am a proud female Veteran and I am not invisible."

BENITA SWINNERS
US ARMY

Forging identities & healing

through arts therapy



The pathway for healing comes in many different forms for Veterans, and for one former soldier, it came in the form of a paint brush and a paper mache mask.

The project came together through VA North Texas Health Care System creative arts therapist, Melanie McClure, as a way to give Veterans an opportunity to voice their stories utilizing art. The masks were then made into a mural to be displayed at Dallas City Hall for their virtual Veterans Day event.

"We've had several Veterans come in and make these masks in order to tell us their story and how they took on their identity as a Veteran," said McClure. "More than 20 Veterans came in and painted the masks using any craft items they wanted."

Frye said his mask has several different meanings to it, including red, white, and blue to show his patriotism both pre and post military service. After transition from the military, Frye was a semi-truck driver and incorporated his experiences with being on the road into his personal mask painting.

"I drove all over the place and that's what the blue represents," said Frye. "The white is a division between frustration and anger of just dealing with other drivers, civilian life, and things like that. The black horizontal line is the division from everything in life and being calm."

McClure believes art is a powerful tool of communication and wants each Veteran to feel supported and heard through their own creative process.

"It's an honor to be able to have Veterans engage in this opportunity and understand the value of art therapy and how impactful and beneficial it can be on their lives and mental health," said McClure. "A Veteran's identity can be overlooked or underappreciated and I want them to know that we do appreciate and support them and are thankful for their service."



David Frye joined the U.S. Army in 1986 as an infantryman and served for more than 27-years. One day while at Dallas VA Medical Center for an appointment, he came across the Veterans Day Mask Masking Mural Project and discovered a new approach of expression.



John Palko has seen a lot in his lifetime. He experienced war and injuries that he was awarded the Purple Heart for, in addition to becoming a prisoner of war (POW) during World War II — all before his 21st birthday. Now, this U.S. Army Veteran shares his stories during his 96th birthday drive-by celebration.

The celebration was organized with the help of Janice 'Monique' Sklar, Mr. Palko's social worker at Fort Worth VA Outpatient Clinic. Sklar got together with a few colleagues and friends and wanted to do something to celebrate Mr. Palko on his special day and the planning of the parade started to come together.

"I spoke to his neighbor and very good friend to see what we could do for Mr. Palko," said Sklar. "It was really a friend calling a friend calling a friend. One friend had a friend of a retired fire chief and then a birthday parade was put together with the fire department and the police department."

One friend and colleague Sklar reached out to was Kris McGlathery, social worker and POW advocate for VA North Texas. McGlathery quickly started collecting birthday cards from employees at VA North Texas for Mr. Palko.

Mr. Palko is one of 70 former POWs enrolled at VA North Texas.

On July 16, Mr. Palko was led to his front yard by his neighbor and good friend, Martha Garcia, to watch members of the city of Euless drive by with signs and balloons while they waved, honked their horns and yelled happy birthday to him.



"I can't believe this. All of Euless was out here."

JOHN PALKO | US ARMY

Veteran celebrates 96th birthday with drive-by parade



"I can't believe this, all of Euless was out here," said Mr. Palko. "I kept looking and looking and there was no ending of cars." Garcia has become like family for Mr. Palko and helps look after him now that his wife of almost 73-years recently passed away.

"Today went perfect, more than perfect," said Garcia. "It was overwhelming. He's a good man, a very humble man. He reminds me of my father and he's like a father to me. I just love him, and I love doing things for him."

Mr. Palko received more than 50 cards from employees at VA North Texas, collected by McGlathery, that were given to him the day of the parade.

"Unbelievable!" said Mr. Palko. "This is so great; these cards are going to decorate my whole place. This is the most cards I've ever gotten in my whole life. I'm going to have a lot of fun reading all of these."

Mr. Palko was captured in France on November 30, 1943 and was a POW for six months.

"All that was on mind was am I going to live, get wounded or get killed," said Mr. Palko talking about his time as a POW.

"It means so much to the Veterans that the VA does things like this birthday celebration for them. The VA is wonderful and there is no place I'd rather work, and I have the best colleagues. When we do things like this it makes it wonderful for me."

JANICE 'MONIQUE' SKLAR
SOCIAL WORKER | FORT WORTH VA OUTPATIENT CLINIC

"That's what was on mind. I had three choices. That was it."

"I was doing all right without the VA and didn't want to run to Dallas for all the little stuff and bother them," said Mr. Palko. "I'm all alone now that my wife is gone, and I needed a little help and the VA has given me the help and they have been great."

Mr. Palko describes the food in the prison camp as terrible and mostly had potato soup and turnups and black coffee--they never had any cream or sugar.

"I wound up with malnutrition, five men on a loaf of bread, rye bread," said Mr. Palko. "At 35-years-old, I lost my teeth due to malnutrition--everything was catching up to me, but I was just rolled with the waves."

With the help from Garcia, Sklar and McGlathery and others at VA North Texas, Mr. Palko is receiving care from VA North Texas Healthcare System.

Mr. Palko is new to using VA healthcare. He just started using services about seven months ago after Garcia encouraged him to go.

Faces of Resilience. Faces of Service. Faces of VA.



Bringing visibility to those who served in the shadows



There are approximately one million lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or questioning (LGBTQ) Veterans in the U.S. and many receive some or all of their health care at a VA medical facility. Many of these Veterans spent years or lifetimes in the shadows.

VA North Texas Health Care System is strongly committed to serving the needs of and developing culturally competent, patient-centered care for its LGBTQ population.

“The VA Core Values help establish an expectation that VA will promote and provide Veterans, including LGBTQ Veterans, with the best care available,” said Dr. Christopher Holland-Deguire, VA North Texas LGBTQ Veteran Care Coordinator (VCC). “Unfortunately, some LGBTQ Veterans expect to experience some sort of discrimination in VA medical facilities and we are working to change that.”

VHA, through changes in policy and the application of high-quality health care delivered in a sensitive and respectful environment, is working on being the national leader in health care for LGBTQ Veterans.

“The LGBTQ Veteran population is largely invisible and has been for a long time because their military culture was don’t ask, don’t tell,” said Dr. Holland-Deguire. “Now those Veterans are coming into the VA and they’re wanting good clinical care, but they’re still not comfortable talking about it.”

One of Dr. Holland-deguire’s goals is for Veterans, regardless of sexual orientation, gender expression or any other form of minority status, to have a streamlined and comfortable experience in finding the care they need. And it’s not just LGBTQ Veterans, it’s also LGBTQ employees. VA North Texas wants these Veterans to be comfortable being themselves and speak up if discrimination is a reality.

Training and awareness are a significant part of Dr. Holland-Deguire’s plan.

“We’re training our staff in LGBTQ care and pronoun use. Once they are trained, they will receive a rainbow pin that says, ‘VA serves all who serve,’

and it represents that this is a safe person to talk to.”

VA North Texas is committed to ensuring Veterans who identify as LGBTQ will be treated with dignity, compassion and the respect they’ve earned and deserve as individuals, both inside the walls of their facilities and in the communities, they live, work, and educate.

“We really want our LGBTQ Veterans to ask and to tell,” said Dr. Holland-Deguire.

#IGotTheShot

WE ARE



PROUD

Veteran, employee, volunteer, family member — we share a common bond and a legacy of service to those who've borne the battle.

These are the Faces of Service.

The Faces of VA.

We are strong and we are VA Proud.



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Veterans Health Administration
VA North Texas Health Care System