

VET Quarterly

Salem VA HCS
With Clinics in... Danville | Lynchburg | Staunton | Tazewell | Wytheville

VOL 3 ISSUE 3 | Fall 2022



**Veteran finds healing
with help of horses**

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The Tennant T380 is taking to the floors of Salem VAMC and scrubbing them with robotic precision. Learn about these new mechanical helpers and how they make life better for Veteran patients.



ON THE COVER

Seyward McKinney, a US Army Veteran, practices for a ceremony at the Healing Strides equine therapy facility in Boones Mill. After suffering a stroke upon her return from Iraq, McKinney has been working with Healing Strides for more than a decade, with the goal of entering the Paralympics.





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The Salem Council 10015 of the Knights of Columbus donated 90 wheelchairs to the Salem VAMC through a drive that raised more than \$16,000 for the purchase.



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Wytheville Telehealth Technician Nick Edwards earned a Golden Ticket to the Steak Cookoff Association's World Championships after taking Grand Champion at an event in Big Stone Gap in September.



REBECCASTACKHOUSE CTRS,
FACHE
Director, Salem VA HCS

PACT Act results in major expansion of benefits

The beginning of the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act signed into law in August, represents a major expansion of benefits and services for Veterans exposed to toxins such as burn pits and other substances. The law will provide care and benefits to Veterans and their survivors.

It's important that we are all aware of the PACT Act and what it provides as the Act expands and extends eligibility for Veterans with toxic exposures to include Vietnam, Gulf War and Post 9-11 Veterans. In addition, there are many new presumptive conditions for burn pits and other exposures, as well as new presumptive locations for Agent Orange and radiation.

As VA health care professionals, we are required to provide a toxic exposure screening to every Veteran enrolled in VA health care.

For Veterans to receive a disability rating from the VA, their disability must be connected to their military service, and for many conditions, proof is needed that service caused the condition. But some conditions are automatically presumed to have been caused by service and these are annotated as 'presumptive conditions.'

For Gulf War and post 9-11 Veterans, the following conditions have been added to the presumptive category:

- Brain cancer
- Gastrointestinal cancer of any type
- Glioblastoma
- Head cancer of any type
- Kidney cancer
- Lymphatic cancer of any type
- Lymphoma of any type
- Melanoma
- Neck cancer of any type
- Pancreatic cancer
- Reproductive cancer of any type

- Respiratory (breathing-related) cancer of any type
- Asthma diagnosed after service
- Chronic bronchitis
- Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)
- Chronic rhinitis
- Chronic sinusitis
- Constrictive bronchiolitis or obliterative bronchiolitis
- Emphysema
- Granulomatous disease
- Interstitial lung disease (ILD)
- Pleuritis
- Pulmonary fibrosis
- Sarcoidosis

Presumptive exposure to burn pits includes any of the following after Sept. 11, 2001:

- Afghanistan
- Djibouti
- Egypt
- Jordan
- Lebanon
- Syria
- Uzbekistan
- Yemen
- The airspace above these locations

On or after Aug. 2, 1990, in these locations:

- Bahrain
- Iraq
- Kuwait
- Oman
- Qatar
- Saudi Arabia
- Somalia
- The United Arab Emirates (UAE)
- The airspace above these locations

Continued on Page 12

Snapshots



Veterans who live in the Allegheny area got good news over the summer as another option for receiving VA healthcare through the use of Virtual Services and with the aid of a VA registered nurse, opened from a space within the Allegheny YMCA building at 101 YMCA Way, Covington, VA 24426. Similar facilities exist in Radford and Martinsville. To learn more about the telehealth program, to include what services will be offered, call Jeanine Bomber, RN at 540-982-2463 Ext. 1649 or Dr. Lindsay Gill at Ext. 5090.



On Sept. 8, the Lynchburg CBOC celebrated its 14th anniversary. At left are the original 6 members of staff who have, and who continue to work to ensure Veterans have the best healthcare possible. From left: **Denise Coyle**, LPN to RN, 14 years; **Melissa Morgan**, LPN, 14 years; **Theresa Whorley**, LPN to RN, 14 years; **Stephanie Taylor**, RN, 26 years; **Kim Haynes**, AMSA, 26 years; and **Becky Gilbert**, LPN, 14 years. Congratulations to the entire Lynchburg CBOC Team!

Salem Knights of Columbus donate wheelchairs

Ninety wheelchairs were donated to the Salem VA Medical Center Aug. 15 by representatives from the Salem Council 10015 Knights of Columbus.

David Wyble, Grand Knight of Council 10015 and a retired Marine, presented the chairs to Rebecca Stackhouse, Executive Director of the Salem VA Healthcare System during a short ceremony in the VAMC's auditorium.

"The Council decided we'd go ahead and do a fund drive for wheelchairs for the Veterans Medical Center. We knew they were in dire need of wheelchairs, (which come from) the American Wheelchair Foundation and the Global Wheelchair Mission and through the generous people of Southwest Virginia area who raised \$16,500," Wyble said.

Knights of Columbus State Deputy Pat Rowland (US Navy, Retired) praised the collective efforts of the Salem Council and said he was appreciative of the support the VA had given the Knights, and, "you know the Knights will always be here if you need us."

Father Kevin Segerblom performed a Blessing of the Chairs, stating, "the gratitude in our hearts today for the many Veterans who have served our country so well; sacrificing of themselves for the protection of our people, our land, and our values."



David Wyble, Grand Knight of Salem Council 10015 of the Knights of Columbus presents 90 wheelchairs the group donated to the Salem VAMC.

Stackhouse presented a plaque to Wyble in appreciation for the efforts of the Knights of Columbus, adding, "when we discuss our needs with our community partners, wheelchairs come up top on the list and I appreciate the Salem Council for their willingness to take this on and their generosity. I know Veterans will make great use of these and be forever grateful to you for this donation. On behalf of the Medical Center and the Veterans we serve, thank you for your fantastic and generous support."

ON THE COVER



For Seyward McKinney, joining the Army was a calling - something she realized she needed to do from the moment she took a school trip to New York City. Growing up locally and going to Glenvar High School, McKinney was active in school groups and found herself in New York prior to the events of 9-11. She was able to go back after 2001.

"I've been in both buildings after and there was dirt and stuff on the ground - but they said it was ashes of people and everything, so it was really hard to see that; and because of that, I wanted to join the Army.

As an enlisted surgical technician, Seyward found herself in Iraq for eight months, working on patients - both American and Iraqi.

"It was a great experience and I got to do things I normally wouldn't get to do," she said. "We were preparing to take out someone's appendix and the doctor was like, 'are you ready?' and I said, 'yeah, here's the knife' and he hands it back to me and lets me do the whole surgery while he assisted."

In addition to working on American service-members, she also recalled another patient

who was more well-known while working in Baghdad's Green Zone in 2004.

"Saddam Hussein was working out in his jail cell and pulled some muscles, so we had to do a hernia repair on him."

But McKinney's story with repairing injuries was only just beginning. Her own injuries began after returning to the United States when, in 2009 while at Fort Sam Houston, Texas she wasn't feeling well.

"I started getting headaches and they did a CAT scan and found an arteriovenous malformation."

What the doctors found was a twisted mass of blood vessels connecting McKinney's arteries and veins that were disrupting normal blood flow. After five surgeries, three related procedures and two radiation treatments, McKinney hoped she was out of the woods.

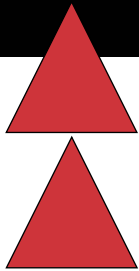
Nine days later she had a stroke.

"My parents had just retired and were on their way for a vacation, so fortunately they were with me," she said. "We ended up at Walter Reed."



[Veteran Finds Outlet With Horses]

Healing Strides Offers Veterans Unique Therapy



Click image to
start video

McKinney spent two years at Walter Reed Army National Military Medical Center and while she was there, she was introduced to horses.

"I got in touch with some rehabilitation people, and they told me about this place at Arlington Cemetery, so I got to go there and ride horses. I'd never ridden horses before, so I did that and the person in charge there told me about Healing Strides."

Begun in 2011 Healing Strides is a non-profit in Boones Mill, Virginia that offers equestrian therapy for Veterans and others. The program works with licensed clinical social workers and mental health professionals along with professional trainers to teach Veterans how to ride and to understand the varied benefits of working with the animals.

Ricki McKinney, Seyward's mother and Regent for the Fort Lewis Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution said, "Seyward travels to Healing Strides three times a week supported by the Wounded Warrior Independence Program, supplemented by her father or me when needed."

"I think one of the things Veterans get when coming to Healing Strides is a big relief from PTSD. Just to have a one-on-one with the horses, to be able to talk to them, it relieves a lot of stress. It helps them emotionally, but also physically as riding builds core strength, leg strength and really helps in your day-to-day living."

For the retired army staff sergeant, being with other Veterans is a helpful experience.

"Hanging out with other Veterans, not only when we're on the horses, but just when you need someone to talk to, you always have someone who knows your story and who has been there – who has had that experience. After getting injured you don't really have as many friends as you want to have – no one really talks to you, so when I'm here I always feel that camaraderie. Everyone asks me how my day is and makes

sure I'm doing ok. It's a great organization and I'm really glad to be a part of it."

But there is an aspect to working with horses that goes beyond fun or relief.

"I have a friend who was in the Army as well and he went to talk to the horses," McKinney said. "That night he was going to go home and shoot himself. But because of an experience he had here, with a horse, he didn't feel like he needed to do that."

Carol Young, the CEO of Healing Strides smiles as Seyward mentions her friend. In her more than 10 years with the organization she has plenty of stories to tell of Veterans who have left the program better than when they arrived.

"In 2011 we had our first Veteran walk through the doors. He had done six tours in Afghanistan, and he walked in not knowing what to do. I asked if he could drive a tractor and he said, 'yes, ma'am.' So, he mowed our field. He came back every day for six weeks, from 9 to 5 every day and was constantly helping. He learned how to ride and no matter what I said, his answer was, 'yes, ma'am.'

"After he learned to ride, he came to me and said, 'I have a daughter, she's 11 years old and she's afraid of me. Do you think that if she came down here and saw me with the horses, I think she wouldn't be afraid? Would that be ok?' I said, 'yes, sir'."

The Veteran's daughter did come to visit and the two were able to build trust.

"The horses helped heal that relationship," Young said. "So, when we serve our Veterans, we serve our Veterans and their families. That's how the program got started."

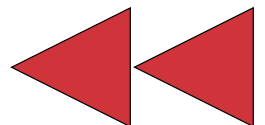
For McKinney, horses have opened up a new outlet for her well being and created a goal – to be a Paralympic Equestrian athlete. The training will take several years, and she's already been involved in several shows and competitions and said she is working with trainers on a long-term Paralympic plan.



[The Difference a Horse Makes]

Horses, caring, and a Veteran saved

Click
image to
start
video





Jorge Markin, Third Shift Team Lead, sets the map option for a T380 AMR Autonomous floor scrubbing machine in Bldg. 74. The machines operate independently cleaning more than 10,000 square feet an hour, and free EMS staff to maximize high-value tasks such as keeping high-touch areas disinfected.

Floor scrubbers keep facility clean, help EMS focus on high-value tasks

With more than 1.2 million square feet of space spread throughout 68 buildings, the men and women of the Environmental Management Service have more than enough to do, so when a technology comes along that can help, it has a positive impact throughout the Salem VA Medical Center.

In July the service received the first of three Tennant T380 AMR Autonomous floor scrubbing machines. The large blue vehicles can autonomously clean about 33,000 square feet on each four-hour battery charge using a built-in 20-gallon solution tank and a 20-gallon recovery tank for dirty water. The machines also feature an 'eco mode' that uses up to 70% less water than traditional cleaning, and coupled with the system's squeegee and vacuum systems, decreases the amount of time floors take to dry, making them safer for everyone.

"On average it takes one person an hour to clean up to 2,500 square feet," said Jorge Markin, Housekeeping Aid Team Leader. "When the medical facility has a high scope of work and a lot of sanitation is required, the square

footage can drop below 2000 square feet per hour to do the job properly. So ultimately, the AMRs are about four times more efficient than a single employee on that particular task."

Despite their initial cost of just over \$74,000 each, the machines pay for themselves quickly.

"Over the seven-year expected lifespan of the machines, we estimate that we'll save about \$91,000 per year over that time period vs. the cost of three full time employees."

The AMRs as good as they are, however, were not purchased to replace employees, but rather to supplement the current EMS workforce.

"The AMRs are great, but they are limited to a single purpose – cleaning floors," said Naymon Mack, Chief of EMS. "By freeing up our people from the never-ending task of floor cleaning, it allows us to assign them to high value tasks such as room cleaning and keeping high-touch areas disinfected. These tasks ultimately help prevent delays in patient care and improve the health care experience of our Veterans."



Patient Point

Nathaniel Andre-Erwin, a contractor with Choisis Technology, a service disabled veteran owned small business out of Ashburn, Virginia, installs a mounting for a 55" television screen near the Primary Care Team II desk in Bldg. 143. Five screens were installed by the PCT 1, 2 and 3 and pharmacy waiting areas for the Patient Point information system. The screens will show information to provide education and Salem-specific content such as Whole Health offerings, Vetext information, Veteran resources, medication resources and local events. The screens are part of a trial program that may be expanded within the Salem VAMC and CBOCs.

[Salem VA Simulation Center Goes VR]

TRAINING TO BETTER SERVE VETERANS



Click image to start video

Service Awards

The following service awards have been presented since July:

40 Years

Judy Turner

35 Years

Tammy Kendrick; Mary Tinsley; and Christopher Spencer

30 Years

Sameh Hanna; Thomas Martin; Lori VanNess; and Christine Woodrum

25 Years

Sandra Cothran; Anthony Jarrett; Beverly Myers; and Pavan Reddy

20 Years

Joseph Canvin; Katheryne Hoover; Larry Looney; Jyoti Ashutosh Muni; Katina Redd; Rathnakara Sherigar; and Carolyn Turner

15 Years

Crystal Bethel; Paige Collins; Christopher Cullen; Antwon Curtis; Harleen Grewal; Theresa Grossheim; Neeraj Gupta; Alicia Hall; Aaron Jeter; Lisa Keeney; Philip Lehman; Lanita Lonon-Chase; Deborah Lowery; April Ochelli; Katherine Siever; Tara Stone; Tamicha Terry; Danette Whorley; and Lille Willis

10 Years

Valerie Bailey; Cathy Bayer; Paula Blake; David Boone; Shane Bossard; Joshua Brown; Carl Childers; Evadora Claxton; Peter Danyi; Ashley Engels; Tiffany Epperly; Peggy Etter; Chang Feng; Susan Gluth; Amanda Hamilton; Lenora Hinson; Jillian Hof; Josiah Kelly; Alec Kidd; Christine Lanham; Christine Mangone; Edward Mitchell Jr.; Paula Randolph; Melissa Richards; Mihaela Savu; Ezley St. Louis; Lashawne Talley; Katherine Woods; and Nicholas Zeltvay

PACT Act From Page 4

For Vietnam era Veterans the following Agent Orange conditions have been added as presumptive conditions:

- High blood pressure (hypertension)
- Monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance (MGUS)

The following locations have been added to the list of presumptive locations. Service on active duty in any of these locations will be presumptive of exposure to Agent Orange:

- Any US or Royal Thai military base in Thailand from Jan. 9, 1962 through June 30, 1976
- Laos from Dec. 1, 1965 through Sept. 30, 1969
- Cambodia at Mimot or Krek, Kampong Cham Province from April 16, 1969 through April 30, 1969
- Guam or American Samoa or in the territorial waters off Guam or American Samoa from Jan. 9, 1962 through July 31, 1980
- Johnston Atoll or on a ship that called at Johnston Atoll from Jan. 1, 1972 through

Sept. 30, 1977

The following locations have been added as presumptive for radiation:

- Cleanup of Enewetak Atoll from Jan. 7, 1977 through Dec. 31, 1980
- Cleanup of the Air Force B-52 bomber carrying nuclear weapons off the coast of Palomares, Spain from Jan. 17, 1966 through March 31, 1967
- Response to the fire aboard an Air Force B-52 carrying nuclear weapons near Thule Air Base Greenland from Jan. 21, 1968 to Sept. 25, 1968

The PACT Act is wide ranging and there is a comprehensive list of information regarding how to secure benefits and information for survivors at the following site: [The PACT Act And Your VA Benefits | Veterans Affairs](#)

I urge all of you to take a few minutes and review the information on the PACT Act so we can continue to inform our Veterans of these important changes.

For more
on the
PACT Act,
click here

Telehealth technician wins as Grand Champion at Big Stone Gap

Nick Edwards, a Telehealth Technician with the Wytheville CBOC earned Grand Champion honors at the Big Stone Gap Steak Cookoff competition Sept. 24.

The win earns Edwards a Golden Ticket to compete in the Steak Cookoff Association's World Championship in Fort Worth Texas in March, 2023. It will be Edwards' second trip to the world championship.

"Steak Cookoff is the fastest growing food competition and it's something anyone can get into; it's also a very family friendly activity," he said.

Edwards, who is sponsored by Veteran-owned DB-180 spice and rubs, Jealous Devil Charcoal, and Hilly Haven Meat processing in Barren Springs, Virginia, started competing soon after joining the VA more than 11 years ago.

"There was an occupational therapist here who ran a contest and he got me into judging and then I was hooked. I had some success with barbecue and then three years ago I switched to steaks and have been doing that exclusively ever since," Edwards said.

Part of the appeal of steak, according to Edwards is how

accessible it is. Whereas barbecue cost much more and events take longer, steak competitions are affordable - the cost of the meat is included in the competition - and events are day-long or a weekend.

"The SCA also does a great job of getting families involved with grilled cheese cookoffs and events that kids can be involved with."

Edwards, who began in the VA as an LPN at Salem, is the son of a Vietnam Veteran, said he loves being able to connect with rural patients and helping them on their roads to recovery.



A clearly excited Nick Edwards with his wife, Kasey and his Grand Champion Trophy from Sept. 24's Grilling in the Gap Steak Cookoff Association competition. Edwards said Kasey is his biggest supporter and he couldn't do it without her. With the win, Edwards earns a Golden Ticket to the SCA Worlds in Texas in March 2023.



Click image to start video

KUDOS

"I want to thank you most sincerely for the benefits I have and continue to receive from the VA since September 2021. Unfortunately, cancer has knocked on my door three times in the past years. VA benefits have afforded me to continue with my current treatment. I want to thank all the staff at Lynchburg VA Clinic - Dr. Brian Mandeville, the nurses, technicians, social worker and front lobby staff along with all the connections we have had by phone in other locations which are not only competent and prompt, but professional, polite and respectful. I wanted to take the opportunity to thank you for all you have done for me and all the Veterans in your care."

JULY KUDOS

Ron Abbott	Joe Bratt	Angel Cunningham	Allyson Gladden
Ajith Abraham (X3)	Thomas Bratton	Darlene Curtis	Beau Glass
Jim Akers	Mona Britt	Shelley Davis	Kathy Godbey
Shannon Altizer (X3)	Wryene Brooks	Taniel Davis	Laura Good
Teodora Andrade (x2)	Belinda Brown	Kim Dayton	Dawn Gravely
Roman Angulo (X3)	Sabrina Brown	Alexandra Deandrea	Dixie Greer
Shelby Arms Foster	Shekeira Brown	Dr. Gerard DeGuzman	Tyler Grossheim
Chrystel Arnold	Beth Bryant	Elvira Delic	Scott Guilliams
Stephanie Arnold (x2)	Shellie Bryant	Dr. Scott DePoe	Kathy Hairston (x3)
Kelly Audria	Dr. Kris Bulas	Kate Donaldson (x2)	Margo Hall
Aaron Bage (x2)	Andy Bullard	Jeff Doyle	Susan Hall
Onajomo Bakare	Michelle Cabaniss	Amber Drew	Liz Halterman
Wendy Barker	Dr. Erin Caldwell	Whitney Duff	Sarah Hamed
Barrett Bass	Willie Caldwell	Jody Duke	Amanda Hamilton
Lisa Bates	Nicholas Camilletti	Patrick Dunham	Tamara Hamilton
Amanda Baumgardner	Rebecca Cantrell	Nick Edwards	Dr. Sameh Hanna (x2)
Jason Baumgardner	Annmarie Carillo	Dr. Glenn Ekblad	Tim Harris
Lori Baumgardner	Cassandra Carter	Diane Elmore, PhD (x2)	Dr. Alia Hasan
Cathy Bayer	Carolyn Casey	Kathleen Endraske	Chris Hatcher
Katherian Begasse (x2)	Chad Cavicchio (x3)	Summer Engelhardt	Donna Hatchett
Stephanie Beheler	Carl Chambers	Darren Epperly	Molly Hayslett
Denise Bennett	Seth Chester	David Eppes	Emily Head
Nathaniel Bennett	Cristy Chewning (x3)	Tyler Epperson	Kayla Heins
Ann Benois	Jerry Childress (x2)	Dr. Diane Eugenio (x2)	Jennifer Helms (x2)
Amy Berry (x2)	Dr. Arindam Choudhury	Kevin Evans	Dr. Russell Hender-shot
Dr. Roshan Bhowansingh	Ignacio "Gi Gi" Ciriaco	Nathan Felty	Ashley Henderson (x2)
Cida Bialek	Charla Clark	Vicky Fieschel	Amber Hernandez
Ronny Bigham	Marcus Clausen (x2)	Dean Fink	Nina Herron
Jennifer Black (x2)	Eric Collard	Jeremy Floyd	Darin Hevener
Paula Blake (x2)	Krystal Connor	Nick Floyd	Randy Hicks
Celeste Boggs	Blaine Coon (X2)	Arnold Fonseca	Leslie Hindle
Dr. John Bonk	Carroll Copen	Brittany Frost	Leslie-Ann Hindman
Cozette Booker	Dave Corbitt	Mara Fuller (x2)	Doris Hodges
Deb Borum	Dr. Amy Cox (x2)	Tony Furline	Ginger Hodges
Dr. Soheir Boshra	Trina Craggett	Levi Gandy	Jeremy Hodges (x2)
Kevin Boudreaux (x2)	Glen Crawford	Teresa Gearhart (x2)	Jill Hof
	Elizabeth Crockett	Jeff Gerig (x2)	Sarah Holdren
	Tyler Crouch	Bob Gibson (x2)	Debbie Holmes
	Christopher Cullen (x2)	Becky Gilbert	

Roseann Holmgren	Tom LaRocca (x2)	Dan McNulty	Paul Powell
Jason Holt (x3)	Dr. Steven Lash	Dr. Pamela Melton	Eugenia Preston
Sarah Hood	Michele Lawrence	Dr. Jody Meredith (x2)	Marilyn Radatz
Dr. Mitchell Horowitz	(x2)	Kayla Mick	Jennifer Raines
James Howard	Maria Lawson	Dr. Lisa Mieskowski	Zenaida Rambadt
Chris Huff	Jamie Lee	Mary Miller	Paula Randolph
Machele Huff	Dr. Phil Lehman	Loretta Mills	Karen Ray
Dr. Ed Humerickhouse	Dr. Dolly Lent	Laura Mitchell	Sherry Renick (x2)
(x2)	Chris Lentz	Raquel Molina-Kirkwood	Heather Reynolds
Emily Hundley	Nic Leonard	Charles Moore	Rita Rhame
Susan Hunley	Maria Lescord	Natalie Moore (x2)	Jennifer Rice
Teanna Hutton	Emily Lewis	Seth Moore (x3)	Melissa Richards (x3)
Dr. Nabil Jarmukli	Katrina Lindholm	Jimmy Moran (x2)	Joann Rider
Sherry Jenkins	Billy Lipes (x3)	Ben Morgan	Angela Rittenhouse
Tyga Jennings	Amy Lively	Anna Morris	Dave Roberts
Vonda Jividen (x2)	Pat Lockett	Tammy Morton	Missy Roberts
Debbie Johnson	Charles Loftland (x2)	Kim Motley	Lindsay Robertson
Linda Johnson	Brad Looney	Allen Moyer	Timothy Robertson
Tim Johnson	Lisa Lopez (x2)	Wendy Murphy	Belinda Robinson
Tanyia Jones (x2)	Laura Love	Jennifer Myers	Wilma Routt
Trevor Jones	Margaret Mabie	Melanie Neal	Sylvio Roy
Angela Jordan	Ashley Macauley	Tracy Neff	Charlene Russell
Kathy Jordan	Matt Madonna	Dr. Soroor Nemat	Safet Sabanija
Marsha Jordan-Akers	Tre Majors	Temple Newbold	Ben Sackett (x2)
Devinder Kaur	William Majors	Crystal Nichols	Stephanie Sackett
Dr. Mehdi Kazemi	George Mallory	Michael Nichols	Exley St. Louis
Josiah Kelly	Dr. Brian Mandeville	Dr. Scott Nixon	Jacquelyn Salem-Newman
Julie Kelly	Julie Manico	Ashley Noel	Chris Sandoval
Robin Kennedy (x2)	Jessica Manns	Susan O'Bryan	Norma Santana
Michelle Kesling	Jim Markey (x3)	Emmanuel Ofo-su-Ameyaw	Amanda Saoit (x2)
Carolyn Keyes	Emily Marston	Denise Olma	Jim Scharp
Akram Khalil	Christi Martin (x2)	Ron Parker	Carmella Schumacher
Alec Kidd	Jody Martin	Sarika Patel	Sydney Scott
Dr. Venkat Killipara	Stephanie May	Shital Patel	Ginny Sculla
Dr. Timothy Koch	Pam McAnally	Eva Paxton	Cinnamon Sexton
Dr. Timothy Krohe	Dr. Andrea McClure	Angela Peters	Dr. Paul Shearer (x2)
John Kusiak (x2)	Rebecca McCorkle	Chelsea Phillips	Matt Shields (x2)
Dr. Sagar Lad	(x2)	Helena Phillips	Amanda Shrader
Lois Lail	Rebecca McCraven	Karen Phillips	Frances Shugart
Dr. Deepa Lala	Wayne McDaniel	Steve Poole	Rebecca Shumate
Suzanne Lancaster	Teresa McFaul		Deanna Smith
Elizabeth Larkin	Brent McGraw		

Roberto Smith (x3)	Doris Weeks (x2)	Pulmonary Rehabilitation Team	Smantha Moore
Russell Smith	Elizabeth Wegener (x2)	Lab Team	Jyoti Ashutosh Muni (x2)
John Smusz	Bruce Wenger	Lynchburg CBOC Team	Tom Salter
Barb Sparks	Jacob White	MSG Silverine Vinyard James Women's Health Clinic Team	Traci Scott
Evan Spencer	Jamie White		Tammy Yu (x2)
Sharon Stanley	Dana Whitlow		Elizabeth Zook
Dr. Ivaylo Staykov	Dixie Whitt		
Stephanie Stephens (x3)	Theresa Whorley	N&FS Team	AUGUST KUDOS
Sarah Stevens (x2)	Frank Wilkins (x4)	Neurology Team	Dr. Nathalie Abi Hatem
Mandy Stickman	Jennifer Williams	Orthopedics Team	Pennie Ahuero
Nenden Stillman-Runyon (x2)	Kayla Williams	P&LMS Team	Sandra Albery
Victor Stockton	Lamont Williams (x2)	PC Clinic 2 Team	Dr. Ahmed Alkaram
Dr. Erik Storm	Mecrissa Williams	Podiatry Team	Ashley Allen
Dana Sworsy (x2)	Sarah Williams	PRRC Team	Janet Allen
Diana Tampasis	Clay Willoughby	Quick Care Clinic Team	Michelle Alley (x2)
Gail Taylor	Clint Wimer	RCI Team	Richard Anderson
Julie Taylor	Jennifer Witt	Safety Service Team	Teodora Andrade
Bryanne Terry	Andy Wingfield	Salem VAHCS Team	Stephanie Arnold
Amanda Thomas	Christine Woodrum	Urology Team	Aaron Bage
Sheryl Thomas	Noval Wright	VCS Team	Celeste Bailey
Sylvia Thompson	Mike Yodice	WIT	Onajomo Bakare (x2)
Cassie Toledo-Navarro	David Young	Wytheville CBOC Team	Arnetta Banks
Tracy Tran	Tammy Yu		Mark Banks
Joseph Trials	Dr. Mufrad Zaman		Sherentheia Barber
Susanne Tribble	Robin Zebrasky	HRO KUDOS	Tae Barber
Teresa Turpin	Ed Zeller	Christy Anderson	Mary Barber-Otey (x2)
Dr. Bethany Uhrig	Shannon Zimmerman	Julie Carpenter	Jodie Barclay
Michael Ulm		Brad Case (x5)	Byron Barlow (x2)
Hiral Vaishnav	TEAM KUDOS	Marissa Casauay	Aubrey Barnette
Tejas Vaishnav	AFGE Local 1739	Seth Chester (x2)	Noel Barnette (x2)
Sherry Van Antwerp (x2)	Community Care Team	Gary Cook	Dr. Dre Bassett
Lori VanNess	Customer Service Team	Ekaterina Davidova	Dr. Battin
Seth Vaughn	Dialysis Team	Dr. Devasmita Dev	Amanda Baumgardner
Jose Velez-Figueroa	ED Team (x2)	Rebecca Epperly	Tilly Belton
Robin Vonploennies	EMS Team (x2)	Susan Evans	Dawn Bennett
Kevin Walker	FMS Team	Vasilii Fannin (x2)	Marianne Best (x2)
Dr. Ying Wang	FMS Grounds/Transportation Team	Martia Hevener	Dr. Arvin Bhandari
Brooke Ward	FMS Zone Maintenance Team	Machele Huff	Kris Bivens
Tracey Ward	GI Team	Tim Johnson	Jennifer Black
Stephanie Weatherford	HCHV Team	Devinder Kaur	Paula Blake
Brent Webster	Home-Based	Rebecca Krug	Shannon Bodkin
Jeff Webster		Kayla Mick	

Megan Bonds (x2)	Dr. Devasmita Dev	Dr. Alia Hasan	John Kusiak
Dr. John Bonk (x2)	Dr. Brian Dezzutti	Chris Hatcher	Sarah LaComa (x2)
Annah Borak	Clermann Dieudonne	Rhonda Haynes	Penny Lafferty
Dr. Soheir Boshra (x2)	Brandon Dillon	Emily Head	Ashley Lancaster
Jennifer Bowyer (x2)	Anita Dove (x2)	Lela Hedgepeth	Courtney Lane
Darnell Brown	Lisa Dreyfus	Ron Helton	Elizabeth Larkins
Beth Bryant	CJ Dudley	Ashley Henderson (x2)	Tom LaRocca (x2)
Sarah Bryant	Lori Dunnington	Dr. Calvin Hensley (x2)	Ken Lay
Andy Bullard	Dr. Brandy Edwards	Anglia Hickman	Mark Ledford
Mike Burks	Shannon Edwards (x2)	Ralph Hicks	Valarie Leftwich
Noah Butcher	Darren Epperly	Randy Hicks	Latoya Legans (x2)
Dr. Sarah Buyck	Peggy Etter (x2)	Sonja Hicks	Christ Lentz (x4)
LaShonda Byers	Tracie Etter	Autumn Hiduskey	Nic Leonard
Michele Campbell	Kevin Evans (x2)	Ginger Hodges	Dr. Katie LeSauvage
Joseph Candelario	Shauna Eversole	Jeremy Hodges	Dr. Elias Lianos
Rebecca Cantrell	Holly Fairchilds	Sarah Holdren	Charles Loftland
Dr. Joseph Canvin	Vasiliy Fanin	Jason Holt	Brad Looney
Miracle Carner	Carol Fisher	Shannon Holt	Chelsie Lyons
Cortnie Carter (x2)	Stephanie Fisher	Sarah Hood	Margaret Mabie
Tish Carter	Judy Fitzgerald	Dr. Mitchell Horowitz (x3)	Jacob Mack
Marissa Casauay	Paula Fitzgerald	Nikki Horsley	Dr. Brian Mandeville
Chad Cavicchio	Shane Fletcher	Wes Hudson	Edward Martin
Will Chambers	Larry Freeman	Donna Huff	Jacob Martin
Amy Cherry	Mara Fuller (x2)	Allison Humbert (x2)	Paul Martin (x2)
Chris Childress	Dr. Harrison Galicki	Dr. Ed Humerickhouse	Dr. Tom Martin
Jerry Childress	Dee Garland	Susan Hunley	Tameisha Mason
Charla Clark	Teresa Gearhart (x2)	Dr. Penland Ismatov	Kim Masseille
Bethany Cline	Gabi Gibson	Micala Janosky	David Masterson (x3)
Jennifer Connor	Dr. Kathleen Glymph	Dr. Nabil Jarmukli (x2)	Brenda Mayo
Geri Conway	Beth Gogel	Aaron Jeter	Shanelle McClaine
Blaine Coon	Rebecca Golden (x2)	Vonda Jividen	Alvin Melvin
Philas Cooper	Laura Good	Rhonda Johnson	Dr. Jody Meredith (x4)
Tiffany Cooper	Nicki Gross	Kimberly Jones	Chris Milby
Dave Corbitt	Dennis Guerra	Michele Keck	Brenda Millner
Kelsey Crouch	Dr. Scott Hall (x2)	Jasmine Keeling	Robin Mitchell
Markyta Crowder (x2)	Amanda Hamilton	Robin Kennedy	Amada Montoya
Angel Cunningham (x2)	Elizabeth Hammond	Kevin Kern	Mollie Moody (x2)
Ashley Dalton	Dr. Sameh Hanna (x2)	Theresa Kern	Charles Moore
Greg Daniels	Dr. Suzanne Hanna	Drew Kiracofe	Bennie Morgan
Kim Dayton (x2)	Christopher Harless Ramos	Dr. Timothy Koch	Shannon Morgan
Dr. Gerard DeGuzman	Cheryl Harris	Dr. Tim Krohe (x3)	Michael Morton
Pam Deisher	Susanne Hartsook		John Mrnak
Dr. Scott DePoe			Steve Muniz
			Jennifer Nelson

Dominique Nichols	Heywood Scott	Dr. Tonja Weed	OR Team
Aaron Nitz	Traci Scott (x3)	Beth Wegener (x3)	Pain Clinic Team
Dr. Scott Nixon (x3)	Charlotte Shockley	Gail Wells	PC Clinic 2 Nursing Team
Terri Nordstrom	Rusty Short	Amanda Westmoreland	PC Clinic 2 Team
April Ochelli	Kelsey Siler	Mary Wheeler	Pharmacy Team (x3)
Kevin Oliver	John Skidmore (x2)	Mark Whitney	Podiatry Team (x2)
Patricia Palmer	Carolyn Smith	Theresa Whorley	Preadmissions Team (x2)
Hea Park	Roberto Smith	Frank Wilkins (x3)	Radiology Team
Sarika Patel	John Smusz	Donna Williams	Renal Dialysis Team (x2)
Barbara Perdue	Evan Spencer (x3)	Pam Williams	Salem VAHCS Team (x3)
Katelyn Perdue	Denise Spicer (x2)	Sarah Williams	Staunton CBOC Team
David Pettus	Scott Sprunger	Scott Williams	Surgery Team
Robert Phaup	Sharon Stanley	Kris Windell (x2)	Urology Clinic Nursing Team
Brenda Philpot	Stephanie Stephens (x2)	Darlene Wingo	Women's Health Clinic Team
Tony Pitzer	Amanda Stickman	Dr. John Wood	Wytheville CBOC Team (x3)
Anthony Ponce	Dr. James Stober	Leslie Woodie	Wytheville CBOC Team 2
Cheryl Ponce (x2)	Vic Stockton (x2)	Kate Woods	
Donna Prevatte	Suzanne Stoneman	Jennifer Worley	
Jermaine Prunty	Tracy Surface (x2)	Eddie Wright	
Renida Prunty	Azra Surhio	Robert Wright	
Pam Purcell	Dianna T.	Dr. Hima Bindu Yalamanchili	
Mike Raczynski (x3)	Julie Taylor		HRO KUDOS
Michelle Radtke	Michael Taylor		Emily Agnew
Jennifer Raines	Dr. David Thaler (x2)	TEAM KUDOS	Seth Chester
James Randolph	Donald Thompson	1st Shift EMS Team	Rebecca Cottrell
Danielle Raoul	Hunter Thompson	3J Team	Jennifer Dinneen
Nancy Reichard	Mandy Thompson	4-H Team (x2)	Vasiliy Fanin (x4)
Sherry Renick (x2)	Dr. Mark Todd	Cardiac Cath Team	Aaron Hall (x2)
Francine Reynolds	Drew Tokarsky	Cardiology Team	Elizabeth Halterman
Heather Reynolds	Freddie Trusclair	Day Hospital Team	Sarah Hood
LouAnn Reynolds	Hannah Trusclair	Dental Team	Ray Kiracofe
Lindsay Robertson	Justin Tucker	ED Team (x2)	Katharine Lawrence
James Rutherford	Carolyn Turner	Eye Clinic Team	Jody Meredith
Ben Sackett (x2)	Johnny Turner	FMS Transportation Team	Brenda Millner
Stephanie Sackett (x2)	Kevin Underwood	Imaging Team	Jyoti Muni
Jacquelyn Salem-Newman	Lori VanNess	Imaging Ultrasound Team	Nancy Reichard
Tom Salter	Dr. Brent Viers	Kinesiotherapy Team	Abigail Rexrode
Amanda Saoit	Michael Vogelsong	Lab Team (x3)	SCM Shuttle Bus Driver Team
Dr. Amar Sawh	Dr. Nick Weatherton	Nursing Team	Amanda Shrader
Mark Sayre	Kayleigh Webb	OIT Team	Kathy Tibbs
AnnMarie Schmitt (x2)	Jeff Webster	Ophthalmology Team	Heather Wertz
	Dr. Al Weed		Dixie Whitt

Elizabeth Zook

SEPTEMBER KUDOS

Chris Adkins

Hafiz Ali

Janet Allen

Michelle Alley

Shannon Altizer

Teodora Andrade

Michelle Andrews

Roman Angulo

Stephanie Arnold

Chrystel Arnold
Wright

Kim Atkins

Onajomo Bakare

Arnette Banks

Carolyn Barner

Paula Basham (x2)

Ann Benois

Crystal Bethel

Amy Betterton (x2)

Dr. Rajapillai
Bharathan

Dr. Roshan Bhowansingh

Tommy Biggio (x2)

Adam Bishop

Lori Bishop (x2)

Paula Blake (x2)

Jennifer Blankenship

Shannon Bodkin

Celeste Boggs

Patricia Bohannon

Dr. Brian Bolinger

Jeanine Bomber (x3)

Jacob Bond

Dr. John Bonk

Dr. Shane Bossard

Kevin Boudreaux (x2)

Linda Bower

Angelina Bowman

Dr. Jennifer Bowyer

Ashley Bradley (x2)

George Bradley

Dr. Esther Brahmstadt

Pam Braun

Magna Brito (x2)

Belinda Brown

Katelyn Browne (x2)

Howard Brunson

Mary Beth Bryant

Robert Buckhead

Andrew Bullard (x2)

Michael Burks

Cathy Burton

BT Butler

Dr. Ralph Butler

Michelle Cabaniss (x2)

Dr. Erin Caldwell

Nicholas Camilletti

Brian Campbell (x3)

Joseph Candelario

Rebecca Cantrell

Virgil Case

Ashley Cason

Roberto Castorena

Jodi Cerv

Amy Cherry (x2)

Kristina Clark

Mindy Clingenpeel

Sara Cometto

Gary Cook (x3)

Kelly Cook

Bradley Coon

Chasity Cooper

Kristaen Cooper

Carroll Copen

Dave Corbin

Denise Coyle

Betsy Crawford (x2)

Kelsey Crouch

Tyler Crough

Dr. David Crouse

Chris Cullen

Angel Cunningham

Dr. David Dalrymple

Dr. Catherine Daniel

Jazmyn Davis

Robin Davis

Willie Davis (x2)

Reginald Dawson

Tiffany Dawson

Kim Dayton (x2)

Alexandrea Deandrea

Myra Deane

Dr. Devasmita Dev

Brandon Dillon (x2)

Jennifer Dinneen

Amanda Dooley

Anita Dove

Tim Dowd (x2)

Ryan Driscoll

Mark Duff

Jody Duke

Mark Eagon

Mariah Eastman

Dr. Boakye Ebenezer

Baron Edmonson

Dr. Meade Eggleston

Dr. Glenn Ekblad

Nelvin Ellington

Diane Elmore

Summer Engelhardt

Dr. Christy Epperly

Girum Eshetu

Kevin Evans

Connie Fahey

Vasiliy Fanin (x3)

Jason Fender

Vicky Fieschel

Jade Fillinger

Stephanie Fisher

Jeremy Floyd (x2)

Katie Foust

Anthony Francis

Julie Francis

Dr. Harrison Galicki

Dana Garman

Mike Gartland

Bob Gibson

Becky Gilbert

Lindsay Gill

Lori Gillespie

Allyson Gladden

Susan Gluth

Tim Goins

Dana Grant (x2)

Dawn Gravley

Dr. Alicia Greene

Georgine Gulotta

Amy Haddox (x2)

Alicia Hall

Aaron Hall

Michelle Hall (x2)

Dr. Scott Hall (x2)

Chris Hatcher

Erin Hatter

Robert Hand

Dr. Suzanne Hanna

Susanne Hartsook (x2)

Barbara Hawn

Kim Haynes

Dr. Carolyn H'Doubler

Emily Head (x2)

Lela Hedgepeth

Kayla Heins

Ashley Henderson

Mary Hensley

Amy Hernandez

Nina Herron

Martia Hevener

Tracy Hicks

Evelyn Hill

Cheryl Hinkley

Jason Holt (x2)

Dr. Sarah Hood

Carol Hypes

Caitlin Irish

Shelley Ivey

Christina Jackson	Jessica Manns (x2)	Lorna Oldson	Rebecca Shumate
Dr. Nabil Jarmukli	Dr. Leonard Marcus	Emily Oliver	Kelsey Siler
Aaron Jeter (x2)	Dr. Madalina Macrea	Jeff Ostrander	Nikki Simko
Tim Johnson	George Mallory	Shannon Owens	Josh Slate
Kim Jones	Amie Malone-Jones	Paul Paige	Deanna Smith (x2)
Barry Joyce (x3)	Dr. Brian Mandeville	Ron Parker	Jeremy Smith
Janice Kastler	Jim Markey (x3)	Tanvi Patil	Mary Smith
Dr. Alamdeep Kaur	Melissa Markley	Kristina Patterson (x2)	Roberto Smith
Devinder Kaur	Lauren Marsh	Marquita Payne (x2)	Sarah Smith
Michele Keck	Dr. James Martin	Dr. Sara PerezTorres	Sherri Smith
Jasmine Keeling	Jody Martin	Angie Peters	Heather Smithson
Josiah Kelly	Paul Martin	Michael Petika	Tammy Snyder
Tonya Kelly	David Masterson	Dr. Antonio Petralia	Elizabeth Sollecito
Danay Kent	Mary Mattox	Dave Pettus	Megan Spence (x2)
Kevin Kern	Dennis McClaine	Julie Poff	Maggie Spracher
Theresa Kern	Terry Mclaughlin	Chris Powell	Scott Sprunger
Jody Kiker	Walter Mellott	Paul Powell	Dr. Lizzie (Elizabeth) Stein
Gerald Killian	Dr. Jody Meredith	Pam Pozzi	Stephanie Stephens
Paula Kirtley	Virginia Miilu	Jenna Pratt (x2)	Dr. Rebecca Stevenson (x2)
Dr. Tim Krohe (x2)	Chris Milby	Eugenia Preston (x2)	Dr. James Stober (x2)
Adela Krtic	Loretta Mills	PJ Puriefoy	Azra Surhio
Robin Krupin	Kimberly Minton	Mike Raczynski	Roy Sylvio
Brittany Kuilan	Dr. Bhabra Misra	Marilyn Radatz	LaShawn Talley
Chantel Lacy	Laura Mitchell	Paula Randolph (x2)	Dianna Tampasis
Lois Lail	Mark Mizuba	Tariq Rashad	Marie Tate
Amanda Lancaster	Amada Montoya	Dr. Pavan Reddy	Kourtnei Taylor (x2)
Tom LaRocca (x2)	Mollie Moody (x2)	LeAnn Renick	Stephanie Taylor
Steve Lash	Charles Moore	Abigail Rexrode	Tamicha Terry
Maria Lawson (x2)	Seth Moore	Joanne Reynolds	Gregory Thompson
Phil Layman	Melissa Morgan	Louann Reynolds	Ron Thompson
Dr. Aliza Lee	Shannon Morgan	Norm Riley	Melody Thornton
Jamie Lee	Tara Mowles	Belinda Robinson	Susan Tribble
Ivana Leko	Jon Mrnak	Erica Robinson (x2)	Justin Tucker (x2)
Nic Leonard	Kayla Mullins	Francisco Rodriguez	Johnny Turner
Katie Lintz	Dr. Jennifer Mundorff	Katie Rush	Tim Tuttle
Victoria Littles	Wendy Murphy	James Rutherford	Michael Ulm
Amy Lively (x2)	Dr. Saim Mustafa	Ben Sackett	Tejas Vaishnav
Charles Loftland (x3)	Jenn Myers	Tom Salter	Lori VanNess
Robin Loftland	Kristie Napier	Angela Saunders (x2)	Jose Vargas
Brad Looney	Linsey Neff	AnnMarie Schmitt	Dr. Shikha Vasudeva
Lisa Lopez	Crystal Nichols	Malinda Shelor-Rogers	Jason Vena
Karrie Lord	Joshua Nowocin	Matt Shields	
Margaret Mabie (x2)	Mike O'Chalek	Debra Shipman	

Dr. Brent Viers
 Robin Von Ploennies
 Tracey Ward
 Darice Waters
 Dr. Nicholas Weatherston
 Kayleigh Webb
 Elizabeth Wegener
 Rhonda Weinhold
 Heather Wertz
 Jamie White
 Marc Whitney
 Dixie Whitt (x2)
 Theresa Whorley (x3)
 Frank Wilkins
 Anthony Williams
 Jen Williams
 Vickie Wilson
 Kristy Windel
 Darcell Witcher
 Jennifer Witt
 Leslie Woodie
 Stephanie Woodzell
 Beth Wooldridge (x3)

Dennett Worley
 Robert Wright
 Wendy Wyant
 Kari Wygal
 Christina Zickafoose (x2)
 Sharon Zimmerman
 Brittany Zuhlke

TEAM KUDOS

Audiology Team
 Cardiology Team
 Carpenter Shop
 Danville CBOC Team
 Dental Team (x2)
 Domiciliary Team
 Emergency Room Team
 EMS Team (x2)
 Eye Clinic Team (x2)
 Eye Clinic Tech. Team
 FMS Team
 FMS Grounds Team
 Imaging Team (x2)
 Inpatient Hospitalist Team

Inpatient MSA Team
 Interior Design Team
 Lab Team (x2)
 Lynchburg CBOC Team (x2)
 Microbiology Lab Team
 N&FS Team
 PACT Team
 Physical Therapy Team
 Plumbing Shop
 Podiatry Clinic Team
 PREVAIL Team
 Quick Care Clinic Team
 Salem VAHCS Team
 Sleep Clinic Team
 Social Work Team
 Suicide Prevention Team
 Surgery Team
 Telehealth Team
 VA Police Team
 Women's Clinic Team
 Wytheville CBOC Team (x5)
 Wytheville Mental

Health
 Social Work Team
 Wytheville Primary Care Team 1
 Zone Maintenance

HRO KUDOS

Arlene Amadei
 Brad Case (x11)
 Ashley Cason
 Vasiliy Fanin
 Ashley Lancaster
 Karrie Lord
 Chelsie Lyons
 Dr. Jody Meredith
 John Minchak (x2)
 Winnie Mizuba (x2)
 Jyoti Muni
 Dr. Mihaela Savu
 Ginny Sculla
 James Smith
 Matt Smith
 Tammy Yu
 Stacey Zysk (x2)

988 offers national access to crisis support



A new, nation-wide suicide crisis line number, 988, started operation July 16. The number, previously known as the National Suicide prevention Lifeline, is a national network of more than 200 crisis centers that help thousands of people.

The 988 line is a direct connection to care and support for anyone experiencing mental health-related distress to include thoughts of suicide, mental health, substance use crisis or any other kind of emotional distress.

For Veterans, pressing '1' after dialing 988 will connect them directly to the Veterans Crisis Lifeline.

VA IN THE NEWS



'Tens of thousands' more Veterans eligible for healthcare starting Oct. 1

Thousands more Veterans will be eligible for Veterans Affairs health care beginning Saturday under a law passed Aug. 10 that expanded benefits for former service members sickened by environmental exposures. According to VA officials, "tens of thousands" of Veterans can enroll in VA health care starting Oct. 1.



Hershel 'Woody' Williams VAMC raises awareness for Veteran suicide prevention

HUNTINGTON, WV (WOWK) – The Huntington community came together this weekend for an event to raise awareness for Veterans during Suicide Prevention Month.

Representatives from the Hershel "Woody" Williams VA Medical Center were at the event at Ritter Park ([Read more](#))

VA inches closer to 1M participants for its largest research project ever

The Million Veteran Program of the Veterans Affairs Department does not quite have a million participants. Not quite yet. But it did recently reach 900,000, when a retired reservist and Purple Heart recipient joined up. For an update on what VA calls its largest research project ever, the Federal Drive ([Read more](#))



VA says Veteran suicides in 2020 dropped for second straight year

Sept. 20 (UPI) -- The Department of Veteran Affairs said on Monday that veteran suicide deaths in 2020 fell at the fastest rate in the past 14 years, showing the success of the VA's efforts to reduce troubled service members.

The 2022 National Veterans Suicide Prevention Annual report said suicides decreased for the second year in a row, and reached their lowest numbers since 2016. The VA has been addressing the issue through its National Strategy for Prevention of Veteran Suicide.

The Biden administration increased its effort to provide resources for Veteran suicide prevention through its Reducing Military and Veteran Suicide strategy announced earlier.

"There is nothing more important ([Read more](#))