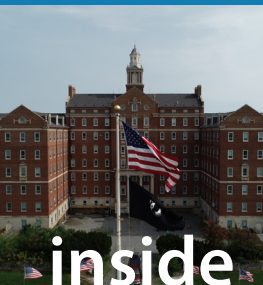


Lebanon VAMC

NEWSLETTER



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Adaptive Sports Saved My Life



Bryan and his service dog, Reo, display some of his new medals.

US Army Veteran Bryan McCrickerd, a former combat engineer, injured his back on the job. When his doctor told him he would be in a wheelchair for the rest of his life Bryan was devastated. He fell into a depression for a while, but it was his introduction to adaptive sports that brought him back to life.

In 2017 he first tried an archery competition. Bryan competed in the Para division, while his 16-year-old son competed in another division. After a short amount of practice with the bow and arrow, Bryan started winning. He was hooked on adaptive sports; the adrenalin rush helped improve his well-being and he enjoyed the socialization.


Bryan soon discovered there were several national competitions for disabled Veterans and VA gave grants for Veterans to be active that would help with the expenses to participate. Over the last 5 years, Bryan has enjoyed cycling, skiing, golfing, hunting, sled hockey, kayaking, waterskiing, as well as archery. He is eager to try all adaptive sports but due to his back injury his doctor told him he is not approved for rugby.

This year alone, Bryan has brought over 20 medals and other awards back home to Pennsylvania. Adaptive sports has been such a rewarding and fulfilling experience for Bryan that he said, "My dream is for every Veteran to try adaptive sports. There are so many to choose from." He is now a regular at VA's national competitions including: the Golden Age Games in Iowa, Wheelchair Games in Oregon, Winter Sports Clinic in Colorado, Summer Sports Clinic in San Diego and Golf Clinic in Iowa.

In September, he got to play golf with the Honorable Denis Richard McDonough, Secretary of Veterans Affairs at the annual disabled Veterans golf clinic and was thrilled to receive his challenge coin. Bryan also participates in the Valor Games Southeast which are funded by a VA grant. Bryan's wife, Rose McCrickerd said, "My son and I will travel anywhere in the world just to see the smile on Bryan's face."

To learn more about VA's Adaptive Sports programs visit, www.blogs.va.gov/nvspse.

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Robotic Surgery Update



Dr. Bryan Pilkington, General Surgeon; Dr. Alexi Achenbach, Gynecology Surgeon; Amy Klahr, OR Nurse; Amber Brown, OR Nurse and Kim Dobson, CRNP, Robot coordinator.

Since the da Vinci robot-assisted surgery system was installed at our main campus last year, it has been used for urology, colorectal and general surgery procedures like hernia repair, colectomies, cholecystectomies (gall bladder removals) and prostatectomies. Recently, our surgery team completed the first two robotic gynecologic cases including a hysterectomy and tubes-tied procedure. Benefits include less blood loss, shorter hospital stays and quicker recovery. Robot-assisted surgery allows surgeons to make smaller incisions with greater precision, resulting in less pain and less blood loss for the patient. Not only does this mean smaller, less noticeable scars but hospital stays and recovery times are often shorter with a reduced risk of infection post-surgery. We have chosen to make this investment to better serve our Veterans.

2022 Physician of the Year



Dr. Jessica Masser, POFPS President with award recipient Dr. Hugh E. Palmer, York VA Community Clinic.

Dr. Hugh E. Palmer received the 2022 Family Physician of the Year award from Pennsylvania Osteopathic Family Physicians Society (POFPS) in recognition of his outstanding service to the osteopathic profession. The award was presented to Dr. Palmer by Dr. Jessica Masser, POFPS President, at an August 6 ceremony. A native of York, Pennsylvania, Dr. Palmer is a 1977 graduate of The Pennsylvania State University, a 1981 graduate of Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine (PCOM) and is board certified in family medicine and osteopathic manipulative therapy. He has been treating patients in the York area since he completed his medical internship in 1982. After working in family practice for over 35 years, he decided to continue his career at the York VA Community Clinic caring for Veterans.

Veterans Supporting Veterans



**Bring a bud,
get a mug!**

Enrolled Veteran? Get a free coffee mug when you bring a fellow Veteran in to enroll!
Call 717-228-6000 for more information!



New number. Same support.
Dial 988 then Press 1

Text: 838255 | Online: [VeteranCrisisLine.net/Chat](https://www.veteranscrisisline.net/Chat)

GEDA Accreditation



Recently, Lebanon VAMC achieved the Bronze Standard Level 3 Geriatric Emergency Department Accreditation (GEDA). GEDA was developed by leaders in emergency medicine to ensure that older patients receive well-coordinated care at the appropriate level at every emergency department encounter. Our Level 3 rating shows that the emergency department at Lebanon VAMC has specific initiatives that are reasonably expected to elevate the level of care of seniors. This will help ensure that our older Veteran population is well taken care of, even in the event of an unforeseen emergency.



The new PACT Act

- » Expands toxic-exposed Veterans access to VA care
- » Extends health care eligibility for Vietnam, Gulf War, and Post-9/11 era combat Veterans
- » Adds new presumptive conditions for radiation, Agent Orange, Gulf War toxins, and burn pit exposures

EXPANDED VA CARE & BENEFITS

Learn more at VA.gov
1-800-MyVA411 (800-698-2411)



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Car Parade Honors Hospice Veteran



Car parade for Veteran Jerry Loeb on August 1, 2022.

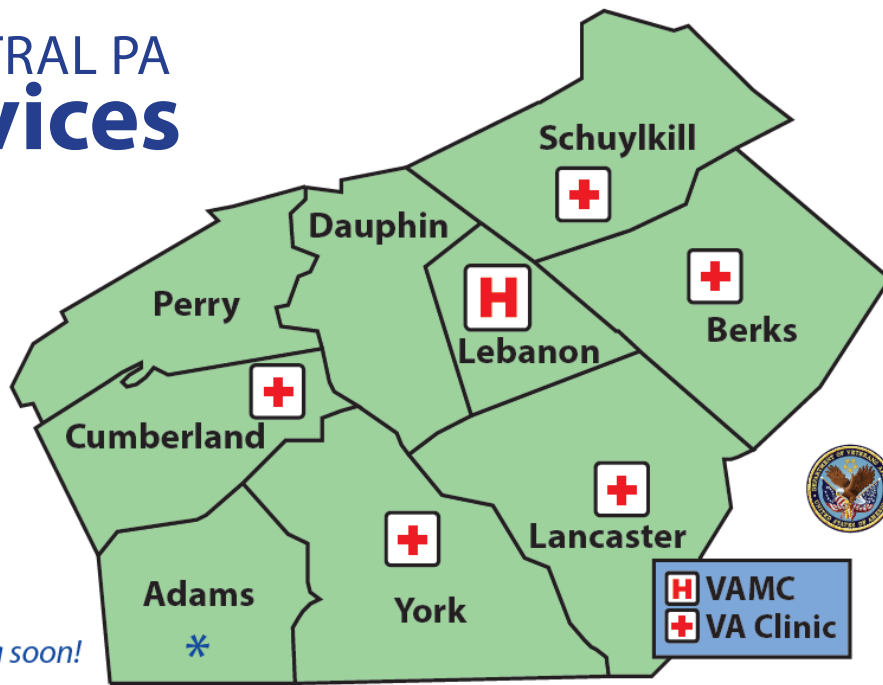
Jerry and his 1964 Plymouth "the Messerschmidt-Loeb dragster" race car.



This summer, friends of US Air Force Veteran Jerry Loeb rallied around him when he asked to see his black rag-top classic convertible race car one more time after he was admitted to the hospice unit here on our main campus. On a beautiful sunny evening a car parade of approximately 97 classic vehicles, trucks and show cars including Jerry's beloved race car drove laps around the VA campus. This special outpouring from friends and the local racing community meant so much to Jerry and his family. Read more about Jerry's story on our website: va.gov/lebanon-health-care/stories/.

Sadly, Jerry passed away shortly after this special tribute.

SOUTH CENTRAL PA VA Services



Clinic coming soon!



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HEALTH CARE SERVICES

VA HOSPITAL

LEBANON VA MEDICAL CENTER
1700 South Lincoln Avenue
Lebanon, PA 17042
717-272-6621 | 1-800-409-8771
www.va.gov/lebanon-health-care

VA CLINICS

ADAMS COUNTY VA CLINIC
*Stay tuned - coming soon!

BERKS COUNTY VA CLINIC
2762 Century Boulevard
Wyomissing, PA 19610
484-220-2572

CUMBERLAND COUNTY VA CLINIC
5070 Ritter Road
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
717-590-1525

LANCASTER COUNTY VA CLINIC
212 Willow Valley Lakes Drive, Suite 208
Willow Street, PA 17584
717-740-4434

SCHUYLKILL COUNTY VA CLINIC
1410 Laurel Boulevard, Suite 2
Pottsville, PA 17901
570-628-5374

YORK COUNTY VA CLINIC
2251 Eastern Boulevard
York, PA 17402
717-840-2730

OTHER VA SERVICES IN OUR SERVICE AREA*

VET CENTERS

Readjustment Counseling Services
Learn more at www.vetcenter.va.gov

LANCASTER VET CENTER
1817 Olde Homestead Lane
Suite 207
Lancaster, PA 17601
717-283-0735

HARRISBURG VET CENTER
1500 North Second Street
Suite 2
Harrisburg, PA 17102
717-782-3954

VA NATIONAL CEMETERY FORT INDIANTOWN GAP NATIONAL CEMETARY

60 Indiantown Gap Road
Annville, PA 17003
717-865-5354
Learn more at www.cem.va.gov

**These VA services/facilities are not
managed by Lebanon VAMC*

*The Best Care Anywhere...The Best Employees Anywhere.
Quality care at six locations in South Central PA.*



Lebanon VA Medical Center

1700 South Lincoln Avenue
Lebanon, PA 17042
717-272-6621 | 1-800-409-8871
va.gov/lebanon-health-care

COMMON LEBANON VAMC CONTACTS

717-272-6621 | 1-800-409-8871

| | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|
| Appointment Line | x 5105 |
| Telephone Nursing Care | x 6041 |
| Pharmacy Center | x 6009 |
| Auto Med Refill / Acct. & Appt. Info | x 5991 |
| Enrollment / Eligibility | x 6000 |
| VETERANS CRISIS LINE | 988 then press 1 |