



# CONGRATULATIONS DR. CARVALHO!



***The Boise VA's own Dr. Paula Carvalho was selected as one of the 50 Idaho 'Women of the Year' for 2023 by the Idaho Business Review!***

***[Click here for more info](#)***



## ***Below is one of the many nominations the Idaho Business Review received on behalf of Dr. Carvalho.....***

It is with pleasure that I write this nomination letter in staunch support of Paula Carvalho, MD. For 25 years, I have known Dr. Carvalho locally through her work at the Boise VA Medical Center as Chief of Pulmonary and Critical Care, as well as in academic medicine circles on the state and national level. Dr. Carvalho's reputation for excellence in patient care, passion for teaching, and her leadership in research and scholarly endeavors make her highly respected amongst healthcare leaders and academics. Hundreds of physicians and other healthcare providers throughout the world, me included, have been lucky enough to have been trained by Paula at some point during our careers. Dr. Carvalho is as humble as she is accomplished, and in short, is a total "rock star," a term of endearment that I use only for incredibly special people. It is my absolute honor to give her my highest recommendation.

As Assistant Dean for the University of Washington School of Medicine and Idaho WWAMI Medical Education Program, I have the opportunity to work with physicians, healthcare leaders, and trainees throughout Idaho and the nation. Paula stands out as the cream of the crop. Not only is she an accomplished pulmonary and critical care specialist who saves lives every day in the ICU, Paula publishes her research in world-class medical journals, and she lectures internationally. Many of our Idaho WWAMI medical students and other learners are lucky to be able to spend time with Dr. Carvalho in the ICU and simulation lab, and Dr. Carvalho has been recognized with numerous teaching awards throughout the years, citing her ability to explain complex concepts in an understandable way and for her compassion with her critically-ill patients, many of whom are veterans. Paula is a role model for all of us, and no other time was it more apparent than when she worked thousands of hours on the front line during the COVID pandemic, putting her own life at risk while saving others.

Paula is extremely engaged in her community and in her "spare time" serves as a lecturer at local and state medical meetings, shares her knowledge as an educator for rural physician and other healthcare providers through Project ECHO, teaches Advanced Cardiac and Life Support classes to practicing physicians, and does outreach to elementary and high school students. Nationally, she has a renowned reputation and has served on several FDA Advisory Panels and is a leader within the American Board of Internal Medicine.

Despite all of Dr. Carvalho's accomplishments and accolades, she is extraordinarily humble and always uses her abilities to raise those around her up. Paula has been a mentor to me and dozens of others, blazing a path for women in medicine throughout her career. Her grace, sense of humor, and zest for life makes her someone that we all admire and hope to emulate someday. She really should wear a Wonder Woman suit under her white coat.

I cannot think of anyone more deserving to be Idaho Business Review's Woman of the Year. Please accept my highest nomination for Dr. Paula Carvalho.

- Mary Barinaga, M.D.

*Hello's*



*Goodbye's*

THE BOISE VAMC WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME OUR NEW  
EMPLOYEES WHO CAME ABOARD IN JUNE 2023:

**Alex Hytros, Pharmacy**  
**Bricelyn Towne, Nursing**  
**Cassandra Gutierrez, Nursing**  
**Heather Coronado, Nursing**  
**Jean Bishop, Imaging**  
**Joseph Potter, Nursing**  
**Kathleen Rathfon, Nursing**  
**Laura Rassow, Primary Care**  
**Megan Pfeil, Laboratory**  
**Nicholas Outumuro, Specialty**  
**Karen Hoffman, Facility Management**  
**Rebecca Lomonaco, Nursing**  
**Robert Baldwin, Facility Management**

**Susan Tuttle, Primary Care**  
**Theresa Harris, Specialty**  
**Yareli Huitron, Nursing**  
**Dallas Peck, Imaging**  
**Rachel Van Duyn, Nursing**  
**Elizabeth Johner, Health Administration**  
**Madison Vargas, Facility Management**  
**Steven Orlando, Connected Care**  
**Katherine Wilsey, Connected Care**  
**Michael Collier, Connected Care**  
**Phiara Moore, Connected Care**

*Hello's*



*Goodbye's*

THE BOISE VAMC WOULD LIKE TO SAY GOODBYE TO  
THE EMPLOYEES WHO LEFT US IN JUNE 2023:

**Sarah Siegfried, Nursing**

**Michael Vega, Nursing**

**Sophia Spotts, Canteen**

**Jerry Ledford, Facility Management**

**Kathleen Mosier, Primary Care**

**Vincent Brown, Facility Management**

**Ian Howarth, Chaplain**

**Jon David Anderson, Nursing**

**Sharene Campbell, Nursing**

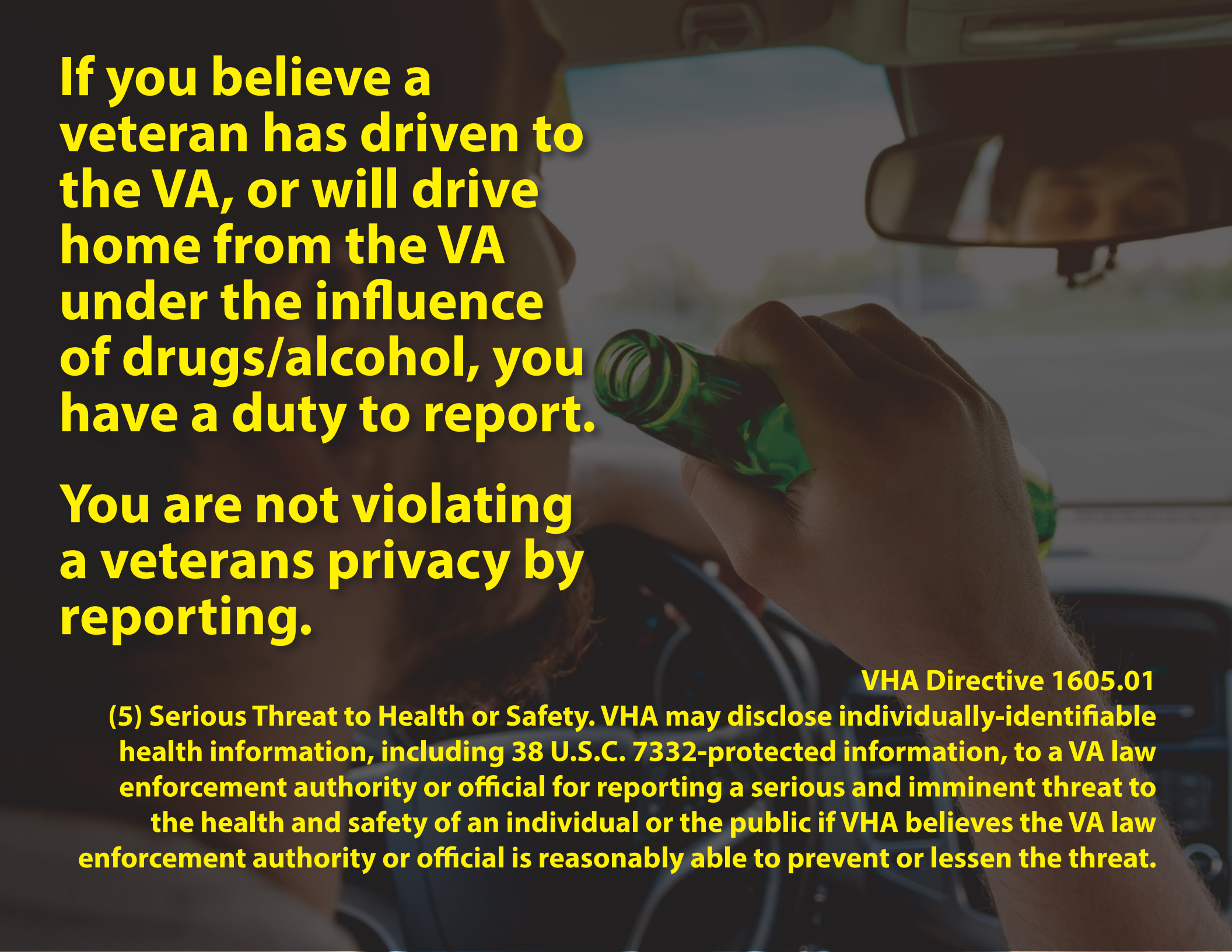
**Jason Nye, Health Administration**

**Albert Sedillo, Nutrition**

**Brenda Decker, Connected Care**

**Ashley Valentine, Connected Care**



A photograph of a person's face and hand while driving. The person is holding a green glass bottle to their mouth and drinking. The background shows the car's interior, including the rearview mirror and the road ahead. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

**If you believe a veteran has driven to the VA, or will drive home from the VA under the influence of drugs/alcohol, you have a duty to report.**

**You are not violating a veterans privacy by reporting.**

**VHA Directive 1605.01**

**(5) Serious Threat to Health or Safety. VHA may disclose individually-identifiable health information, including 38 U.S.C. 7332-protected information, to a VA law enforcement authority or official for reporting a serious and imminent threat to the health and safety of an individual or the public if VHA believes the VA law enforcement authority or official is reasonably able to prevent or lessen the threat.**



## 2023 Boise VA Medical Center Flood

As you may know, on Tuesday evening, it rained a lot! How did it affect the Boise VA medical center? It seemed like there was water everywhere! It was first noticed draining out of the walls on 2P. It took multiple towels and blankets to slow the water flow down. As we thought we were wrapping that up, we received a call to come to the front entrance. When we arrived, water was coming in the side door by the ED in front of the AOD desk and out of the wall in front of the AOD desk. Shortly thereafter, we checked upstairs in the OR and noticed that it was leaking in the Pre-op area. To ensure we looked everywhere we went to the basement and discovered that IT and the records room were flooding.



*Pictured is Ken Weybright and Danny Ortiz, unclogging a drain in the parking lot in front of the Emergency Department.*

We couldn't have accomplished the goal of getting the water to stop and the flooding contained without the help of everyone on duty this evening. As we can't take pictures of all the places of the water in the hospital, we tried to capture photos of areas most impacted by the flood.

The RNOD group Ken, Josh and Ray were super helpful in alerting those that needed to be aware. AOD Corby Bennett was super helpful in notifying Director Wood, Nate Stewart, Chief Brown from IT. AOD EL Dawson notified Jason Nye in the records room that water had infiltrated the records room.

The 2P staff involved with containing the water on their unit included Shane Vitagliano, Jeremy Himle, Kevin Engman, Mykala Velez, and Shannah Clark.

Housekeeping staff Norbert, Sword, Sammie, and everyone else on duty made the cleanup look easy and efficient.

A special thank you to our FMS staff members, and housekeepers Danny Ortiz, Corey Byrant, Matt Hall, Christian Wesbrook, Mindy Weldy, Austin James, John Goodsell, Jeremy Ravenscroft, Euphemia Walbuck, Mark Lieks, Phillip Olson, and anybody else involved with the cleanup effort. We appreciate you all!



*RNOD Ken, Housekeeping supervisor Sword, and Housekeeper Matt Hall in the records room.*





# BOISE is HIGHLY RELIABLE

## HRO PRINCIPLES & VALUES

THEME OF THE MONTH

**It's About the Veteran**

June 2023 | National Safety Poster

### Simple Actions Have a Heroic Impact

**C**

#### CONTEXT

Motor Vehicle Operator Fred Buckley was transporting two Veterans from Bath VAMC to Buffalo VAMC in New York. During the drive, a historic snowstorm forced the group to stop outside Buffalo Niagara International Airport. The storm's severity stranded their van—and the group—for six hours.

**A**

#### ACTION

While stuck, Mr. Buckley took precautions to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning and maintain the heating system by frequently clearing the van's tailpipe and hood. He also shared his food with the Veteran passengers. Eventually, a plowing company towed the van to the airport. Once safely inside the airport, he secured places for the Veterans to sleep as comfortably as possible, while he slept on the floor.

**R**

#### RESULTS

Mr. Buckley's exemplary efforts prioritized the Veterans' welfare throughout a difficult situation. The storm resulted in 44 deaths across the state, with most victims stranded in vehicles. Mr. Buckley's actions ensured the safety of these two Veterans, demonstrating that It's About the Veteran.



**"My main priority was making sure the Veterans had what they needed and were as comfortable as possible."**

*Fred Buckley  
Motor Vehicle Operator  
Bath VA Medical Center  
Bath, New York*

**VA**



U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs

For more information, visit: 

[https://dvagov.sharepoint.com/  
sites/vhahrojourney](https://dvagov.sharepoint.com/sites/vhahrojourney)

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**VA****Boise VA  
Medical Center**

**Catie  
Navejar**

**Employee of  
the Month  
MAY**

As the project leader, Dr. Navejar was tenacious in her quest to have a functioning audiology telehealth clinic at the Caldwell CBOC. The telehealth equipment was not functioning initially. There were numerous technical and logistical issues she addressed with the equipment supplier, manufacturer, and with BioMed to get the equipment operating as it was designed. At least one representative did not have experience with our telehealth cart model. Dr. Navejar had to re-evaluate the situation and assertively get another individual. She endured through a very stressful coordinated effort to get the telehealth clinic functional. She worked with the technical experts both remotely and at the CBOC and was instrumental in getting the issues resolved. Her efforts were completed along with her regular clinic duties and supervision of students.



The Teal Team  
has had a new  
park bench and  
plaque placed in  
honor/memory of  
Veteran and former  
employee Paris  
Morrow.

We welcome all to  
gather here and  
remember our friend  
and colleague.

We would like to  
thank everyone that  
made this possible.





# Welcome To COMPLIANCE CORNER

*Essential integrity and compliance information for VA Boise Health Care System.*

## **Veteran Employees—Treat them right**

### **What do you think? What do you do?**

Suppose you are an MSA and you are messaged through Teams by an employee who also happens to be veteran and patient. They ask you for an appointment to be scheduled with one of your PACT team providers? What do you do or say to them?

### **Answer**

It is important to treat veteran employees as you would any veteran when they are presenting to you as a veteran. You should inform the employee that they must go through the same channels available to all veterans to obtain VHA services.

### **Reason**

It is important to prevent the appearance of favoritism. Maintaining veteran and public trust is a central goal of the VA Core values. Providing preferential treatment based on employment status would damage that trust. The code of federal regulations (*Title 5/ Chapter XVI/ Subchapter B/ Part 2635 - Standards of Ethical Conduct for Employees of the Executive Branch*) is the "Letter of the law" for this example, while the "Spirit of the law" is integrity...One of our core values.

### **Do you have a concern about the treatment of Veteran Employees?**

***Reach out to your supervisor, the Integrity & Compliance Officer (designated OIC Ethics Advisor), or to an Office of General Council Ethics Official to help you navigate potential restrictions.***

***Have a question?*** If you identify a risk or have a compliance concern, **please don't hesitate to reach out to me**, Steve Waltari, Integrity & Compliance Officer at [Steven.Waltari@va.gov](mailto:Steven.Waltari@va.gov). I am here to help, and your communications to me will be treated with confidentiality. If you would like to make a report anonymously, you may do so by calling the Compliance Helpline at 1-866-842-4357. Additional reporting channels can be found in the [Code of Integrity Section 7, Points of Contact](#). Whistleblower Protections allow that you as a VA employee may disclose a violation of law, rule or regulation; gross mismanagement; gross waste of funds; an abuse of authority; or a substantial and specific danger to public health or safety without fear of retaliation.

# COMPLIANCE CORNER



**VA** | Boise VA  
Medical Center



BOISE VA MEDICAL CENTER

# FARMERS MARKET

FRESH & LOCAL

*EACH WEDNESDAY  
1:30P - 2:30P  
FLAG CIRCLE*



**VA** | Boise VA  
Medical Center

*No photo on file*

**Renee  
Jones**

**Employee of  
the Month  
MAY**

Ms. Jones is a recent hire on 2MS, after taking time away from the field of nursing. Despite the time away, she has grown significantly in her practice and continuously models the Boise VA ICARE values every day. We are extremely lucky to have Ms. Jones on our unit. This nomination describes how Ms. Jones exemplifies both commitment and excellence as a 2MS nurse.

**Commitment:** Ms. Jones consistently goes above and beyond to create ways to make 2MS visually appealing to our veterans and staff. With her experience creating signs and pictures, she has been collecting scenery pictures taken from staff to make into prints for display on the unit. These professionally crafted pictures help to create a warmer, more welcoming place for our veterans during their inpatient stay.

**Excellence:** Ms. Jones has joined our newly implemented US Teams pilot committee focusing on 2MS education and performance improvement. She has been unanimously selected by her peers to Chair this new committee and her engagement is infectious to the other team members. The committee is focused on ensuring all 2MS employees have a voice regarding project ideas this team will be working on. Ms. Jones created a professional sign where staff can write out their ideas for the committee to review for potential projects. By these actions, Ms. Jones displays her commitment to continuous improvement and dedication to excellence on 2MS.

Ms. Jones has been a valuable addition to our 2MS team, and we feel her engagement and contributions to the Boise VA deserve the recognition of employee of the month. We are so grateful to have her on our team!



A young child with light brown hair is seated in a blue and white striped car seat. The child is wearing a white t-shirt with blue horizontal stripes and a blue collar. They are looking out of a car window. The background outside the window is heavily blurred, showing green trees and a road, suggesting the car is moving. The text "HAZARD! Vehicles & Warm Weather" is overlaid on the left side of the image in a large, bold, black font. Below it, the text "Click Here to Learn More" is in a smaller, black font and is underlined.

# **HAZARD! Vehicles & Warm Weather**

**[Click Here to Learn More](#)**





**VA**

Boise VA  
Medical Center



**Tammy  
Plaisted**

**Employee of  
the Month  
MAY**

Tammy works across all service lines to provide support as a Health Information Technician. She is quick to identify issues and areas where we as a facility can improve and has developed user guides and provided staff education based on VHA Privacy and Release of information guidance. She is very adaptable and able to manage multiple responsibilities. Tammy was key in ensuring Release of Information functions continued during critical staffing shortages. Tammy exemplifies the ICARE value 'Commitment' by establishing a strong rapport with internal customers, colleagues and especially our veterans and their families. She is committed to those she serves and is patient and thorough in helping others understand VHA processes and guidelines. She is tenacious in ensuring customers are provided the information requested while strictly adhering to VHA policies.

Tammy performs her duties with integrity, commitment and excellence and she is an asset to the HAS team and the Boise VAMC.