

VAU.S. Department
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NEWS RELEASE**WWII veteran is on the receiving end of ‘Operation Hotel Bravo’**

MANCHESTER, N.H. — Veteran Nelson Hutchings arrived on time for his scheduled doctor’s appointment but was quickly diverted to a different location as the logistical planning of the operation was underway.

Utilizing disinformation techniques, the operation called for varied movements from entering the facility to a new location for Hutchings with the assistance of his family members, who were on the frontlines for this operation.

“This patient engagement is a vital part of my day,” shared VA Manchester Medical Center Director Kevin Forrest. “It is an opportunity to honor and thank World War II Veteran Hutchings for his military service and acknowledge a significant milestone—his 100th birthday.”

Hutchings received a surprise when it was not his doctor who greeted him, but the medical center director. Forrest shared with Hutchings, he had received a personal letter and coin from VA Secretary Denis McDonough for his centenarian birthday honors.

Engaging in conversation, Forrest and Hutchings shared their military experiences and a life-long passion both have in common, hockey. Hutchings was recently inducted into the New Hampshire Legends Hockey Hall of Fame for many years of volunteer work supporting the Rochester Ice Rink Men’s Hockey League.

Hutchings and his family members expressed gratitude for the birthday celebration and moved forward with Operation Hotel Bravo navigating to Hutchings’ medical appointment.

“We are here to serve Veterans, and it is our honor to provide health care to Veteran Hutchings for good health and in this instance, a bit of cheer too,” said Forrest.

Operation Hotel Bravo—for Happy Birthday—is mission success.

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World War II Veteran Nelson Hutchings (center), joined by family members and Medical Center Director Kevin Forrest (left) celebrates his 100th birthday at the Manchester VA Medical Center. (Photo by Lori Flynn/PAO)



World War II Veteran Nelson Hutchings

VA Manchester Healthcare System is part of the VA New England Healthcare System which includes eight medical centers, located in the six New England states. Manchester VA is comprised of one main campus located in Manchester and four community-based outpatient clinics located in Conway, Portsmouth, Somersworth, and Tilton. The Portsmouth outpatient clinic is located at Pease Air National Guard Base.

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