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**U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs**

Veterans Health Administration  
Bay Pines VA Healthcare System

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## **AMVETS Post 67 Donates \$10K to Bay Pines Fisher House**

BAY PINES, Fla. – Today, AMVETS Post 67 leaders presented Bay Pines VA Healthcare System with a \$10K donation to support the mission of the Bay Pines Fisher House.

“We’re proud to present this check in honor of a former member who is no longer with us,” offered AMVETS Post 67 Commander John Rafferty. “While he was receiving care in this hospital, his family was being cared for by the Fisher House.”

The former member previously shared the impact Fisher House had on his family, and Rafferty offered that the post has elected to give back, in his memory, to ensure other military families can have a home away from home when they need it most.

“As long as I’m alive and part of this Post, we’re going to continue to support this Fisher House every year,” continued Rafferty.

The [Fisher House Foundation](#) was established in 1990 by Zachary and Elizabeth Fisher to provide temporary accommodations at no cost to family members of hospitalized Veterans and active-duty military. Bay Pines VA has two Fisher Houses on the Bay Pines campus, and since 2002 has received more than \$1M from individuals, community organizations, and Veteran Service Organizations.

“Every donation has two stories – one that focuses on the reason behind the donation and a second story that highlights the impact of that donation to families who benefit from the kindness of organizations like AMVETS Post 67,” said Bay Pines Fisher House Manager Shentrela Diggins. “To know that our mission not only touched the life of a Veteran and his family but also inspired that Veteran’s organization to give in his memory, is incredibly humbling.”

**For additional information on this release or future coverage opportunities:** Contact Bay Pines VA Healthcare System’s Public Affairs Officer Rob Frazier at [Robert.Frazier1@va.gov](mailto:Robert.Frazier1@va.gov) or 727-317-8120. See the latest news, stories, and Veteran health care information available on our official [website](#) or [Facebook](#).



## **About Bay Pines VA Healthcare System**

Bay Pines VA Healthcare System (BPVAHCS) is one of the nation's largest tertiary healthcare facilities, caring for Veterans residing across ten counties in the Southwest region of Florida. We served more than 105,000 Veterans in 2023, across our 10-county catchment area. Our healthcare system includes nine facilities: C.W. Bill Young VA Medical Center, located in Bay Pines, Lee County Healthcare Center, located in Cape Coral, and seven outpatient clinics located in Bradenton, Naples, North Pinellas, Port Charlotte, Sarasota, St. Petersburg, and Sebring. We employ more than 4,500 health care professionals, and we are accredited by The Joint Commission and more than 10 additional accreditation and certification organizations.

## **About Fisher House**

Fisher House Foundation is best known for its network of 96 comfort homes where military and Veteran families can stay at no cost while a loved one is receiving treatment. These homes are located at major military and VA medical centers nationwide, and in Europe, close to the medical center or hospital they serve. Fisher Houses have up to 21 suites with private bedrooms and baths. Families share a common kitchen, laundry facilities, a warm dining room, and an inviting living room. Fisher House Foundation ensures that there is never a lodging fee. Since inception, the program has saved military and Veteran families an estimated \$575 million in out-of-pocket costs for lodging and transportation.



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