# World Diabetes Day (November 14th, 2020) – Nurses Make the Difference

World Diabetes Day, celebrated on November 14, 2020, is designed to raise awareness about diabetes and to encourage Veterans to prevent or effectively manage this disease. On this occasion, please meet Leigh Ann Russell, an Army Veteran, a 21-year veteran of VA and a Registered Nurse (RN) for 26 years. Much of Leigh Ann’s career in nursing has been dedicated to serving her fellow Veterans with diabetes, a critical health issue facing nearly 1 in 4 Veterans. She is a Certified Diabetes Care & Education Specialist (CDCES) having supported Diabetes Self-Management Education curriculum, chaired the committee that led to the American Diabetes Association (ADA) accreditation for the Diabetes Self-Management Education Program for VA clinics in northeast Ohio. Leigh Ann credits her appreciation for diabetes management to Sharon A. Watts, DNP, FNP-BC, CDCES, who was instrumental in mentoring Leigh Ann for most of her VA career. Currently, Leigh Ann works at the Louis Stokes VA Medical Center in Cleveland, OH supporting telehealth, where she has been part of the Home Telehealth program since 2012. Please reach out and thank your RN diabetes specialist on World Diabetes Day.

<https://www.diabetes.org/>

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