

NEWSLETTER

CHARLOTTE HALL VETERANS HOME

FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

Spring is associated with new life and freedom from the harsh winter environment. At Charlotte Hall, we are excited to see that Spring 2021 brings life back into Charlotte Hall. As restrictions on long-term care facilities are relaxed, Charlotte Hall welcomes many of our partners who help serve our residents every day. Whether it be a fresh haircut, routine teeth cleaning, or a massage, our team members are eager to return and support our team. While the pandemic may not be entirely behind us, this spring is showing increased optimism and hope. We thank everyone for their patience over the past year and look forward to springing forward to our new normal.

Russell Keogler MBA, MPH, MA

CONQUERING COVID!

Through Operation Warp Speed and in cooperation with Walgreens Pharmacy, Charlotte Hall Veterans Home has successfully administered 1,077 vaccine doses over three clinics. To date, 94 percent of residents and 54 percent of staff have received vaccines.

Our administration and in-house pharmacy staff work directly with partners to obtain the Moderna product doses as early as March to support ongoing vaccination efforts. The ability to order, secure and administer vaccines independently is unique to the long-term care community and is a testament to the resources available to our residents and staff. We are incredibly pleased that we will offer this service as we continue to welcome Veterans into a safe environment.

LET US ALL CELEBRATE:



Sharon Murphy, CHVH Executive Director 07-09-1984
 Faye Chase Assisted Living RTC 02-19-1986
 Sadie Dickerson Transport Coordinator 02-19-1986
 Judy Young MDS RN 05-01-1986
 Linda Alvey Assist Living CMT 05-01-1986
 Mary Jones Medical Records Specialist 08-16-1986
 Janet Brown CMA 09-29-1986

In celebration of the 36 years of operation of the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home, we recognize the dedicated and gifted employees who have been part of our family. They have worked tirelessly alongside our Veterans, providing respect, compassion, commitment, and quality care. Supporting our Core Mission of "Serving Those Who Served."
THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING YOU DO FOR OUR NATION'S HEROES!

VETERAN SPOTLIGHT

"MY NAME IS WILLIAM J. ALDER. I CAME FROM A TOWN CALLED RIDGEFIELD PARK IN NJ, BERGEN COUNTY."



"I was trained as a heavy weapons operator. I was just turning 18, and a few days later, I was drafted into the Army. I was taken to Fort Dixson, New Jersey. We were transferred to a training facility of the U.S. Army in Alabama [then to a] training facility in the U.S. Army on [Bougainville] island northern of Australia. I got onto a pattonry ship that was being used. I said, 'What the heck am I doing here? I'm trained as a gunner.' I arrived there and got out on the beach and [onto] a truck. In Bougainville was the 37th Infantry of the Higher National Guard, and that's where I was assigned. When I was called, the men came up to me and said, 'Bill Alder?' I said, 'Yea?' He said, 'Welcome to the 288th Army Ground War Band.' I said, 'Band?' I was already in the high-school band in grade school. I was quite capable of assuming all the rules of band and musicians at a very young age. I followed the bands for the rest of the war."

-Interview by Tori R., Activities

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OUR PARTNERS IN THE COMMUNITY

Greetings, Charlotte Hall Veterans Home residents, staff, and family members!

Let me begin by truly acknowledging all of the staff for your dedication and hard work. I want to recognize the family members for your patience as we worked so hard to keep your family members safe. I want to thank the residents for your understanding that things weren't going how they used to as far as your freedoms were concerned. The Year 2020 will go down in history, no doubt, not because of the horrific times we endured, but because of the resilience of those who work here, live here and visit here.

As Secretary for the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs, I received a daily update from your Director, Sharon Murphy, and her team throughout what we have experienced thus far. Collectively they made sure that pandemic supplies necessary to keep us operating were on hand, and HMR staffing was adequate under the direction of Russell Keogler, Administrator. This was done in concert with Dr. Meena Brewster and her team with the St. Mary's County Department of Health, the Maryland Department of Health, the strike teams from the Maryland National Guard, and of course, the DC VA Medical Center.

While this has not concluded yet, and may not be for some time, please know that all the aforementioned groups and individuals stand at the ready to continue on the safest avenue of travel that we are aware of. The Governor, of course, is well aware of our operations, and he is pleased with the way we are conducting ourselves.

THANK YOU, all the best, and please continue to stay safe yourselves.

George W. Owings, III

Secretary

Maryland Department Veterans Affairs

FEATURED DEPARTMENT:

HOUSEKEEPING & LAUNDRY



At Charlotte Hall, our housekeeping and laundry departments fall under the management of Powerlink, an ISO 9001-certified healthcare facilities management and maintenance services company. The Director, Julia Thomas, has been with Charlotte Hall Veterans Home for 26 years. Her staff of 33 operates 24 hours a day, overseeing the cleanliness of the entire building. Floors are mopped and polished daily, windows and doors are shined, disinfectant containers are filled. Wastebaskets are emptied multiple times a day, beds are changed, bathrooms cleaned, and they wash 3500 pounds of laundry a day! With a home as large as CHVH, the list of tasks to keep the building sparkling just goes on and on. They meticulously keep our home looking clean and beautiful. The housekeeping & laundry department is recognized as true frontline Heroes during the COVID Pandemic, cleaning and thoroughly sanitizing our facility daily.

Julia and her staff are a highly dedicated, hard-working group. They are committed to providing quality care to our residents. Each staff member is assigned one unit, which allows the resident to get to know him or her. Often they become more like a family member to the residents they care for. They are enthusiastic and encouraging to all the building employees, spreading a positive attitude every day.

The Housekeeping and Laundry team continues to demonstrate the Powerlink core values, "Get After It Attitude."

This monthly newsletter is a joint effort of the MDVA & HMR Maryland for the whole CHVH community. For article ideas and contributions, email Carole Lewis at clewis@hmrmd.

Check out our facebook and youtube sites or visit www.charhall.org.