

NEWSLETTER

CHARLOTTE HALL VETERANS HOME

FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

As we get into the heat of summer 2021, we look forward to a healthy and safe 4th of July and beyond. We are excited for activity calendar revisions supported by the new regulations, including extended courtyard hours for all residents, increased off-site outings, communal activities, and in-person resident council meetings. You all have played a pivotal role in restoring some normalcy to the daily routines of the men and women that we care for. Thank you, everyone, for the effort and personal sacrifice over the last year that has helped us get to this point. It has not gone unnoticed! As always, stay safe.

-Zena Merchant, MHA, LNHA

CONQUERING COVID!

For June, we administered 60 doses of the Moderna vaccine through our independently operated vaccine clinics. We continue to see regulatory changes that allow more socialization opportunities for our residents. That speaks to the efforts and dedication of the entire staff to protect and serve our Veterans. I am proud of all of you for the work you have done to get us to this point, but please remember that we must remain vigilant. Excellent job, everyone!

LET US ALL WELCOME:

Monica Helwig
Quality Assurance Director



Monica Helwig joined CHVH on April 12, 2021. A registered nurse with 27 years of experience, her primary focus had been skilled nursing care. She was born in Leonardtown and has lived her entire life in Southern Maryland.

After 16 years working as the Director of Nursing for a local facility, she worked as a travel Nurse Consultant and Vice President of Clinical Services. Ms. Helwig has practiced nursing in eight states and left her Vice President position in New Jersey before coming back home. A Certified Legal Nurse Consultant, Certified DON/LTC, and a Certified Rehabilitation Registered Nurse, she is a most welcome addition to our community. She is happy to settle down here at CHVH to be closer to family and make new CHVH residents and staff connections.

VETERAN SPOTLIGHT



Mr. Willie Johnson joined the Army when he was 17 years old. His work assignment took him overseas to Korea and Japan. While in combat, Willie got shot in the right leg. Despite the injury, Willie pushed forward and enjoyed all kinds of activities, particularly dancing! Willie loves music and moving his feet! Willie has entered CHVH talent shows and is always a star on the Senior Prom and Winter Ball dance floor. Willie lived in North Carolina, Virginia, and Southern Maryland after getting out of the service. He has a daughter that he raised in a loving home. In 2016, CHVH became his second home and family. He loves living here and feels so honored to be amongst other veterans. If you ever need to find Willie, listen to the music playing; he will be right there with it dancing the day away!

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OUR PARTNERS IN THE COMMUNITY



THE MARYLAND VETERANS HOME COMMISSION

The Maryland Veterans Home Commission was created in 1975 to provide a home for veterans in Maryland. In 1999, the Commission became part of the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs. The Commission advises the department on Charlotte Hall Veterans Home issues, the only state veterans home. Charlotte Hall Veterans Home is located in St. Mary's County. The Commission has fourteen members. Eleven are named to five-year terms by the Governor with Senate advice and consent, and three serve ex officio.

Commission Members:

- Brig. Gen. Warner I. Sumpter USA (RET), Chair
- Gary Knight, Vice-Chair & Secretary
- Katie Smith
- Lt. Col. Glynn E. Parker USA (RET)
- Jason E. Franklin
- Thomas L. Davis
- Maj. Gen. Andrew H. Anderson, U.S.A. (RET)
- Gloria J. Larman
- LTC Rod Azama, USA (RET)
- Stephen L. Clagett, Jr.

Ex officio:

- George W. Owings, III, Secretary, Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs, designee of the Governor,
- Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr.
- C. Bernard (Bernie) Fowler, Senator, designee of the President of the Senate
- John F. Wood, Jr., Delegate, designee of the Speaker of the House of Delegates



FEATURED DEPARTMENT

MAINTENANCE

The Maintenance department Director Otis Williams with his assistant Raul Rios leads 17 multitalented hardworking individuals. Their administrative assistant Patty Miller distributes an average of 1200 work orders a month. The department works on everything from wheelchairs to beds, HVAC, painting, plumbing, electrical to carpentry, and grounds maintenance for 70 acres of the 270-acre state property. The department is open 7 days a week from 6:30 am to 8 pm M-F, and 6:30 am to 3 pm on the weekends.

Even more amazing, this group of guys cares about the residents, knows everyone by name, and engages them in conversations while helping with everyday tasks such as programming TV remotes or hanging a picture in their room. These interactions provide our veterans a sense of belonging to a community that improves their overall emotional well-being. Our guys go above and beyond the call of duty on any given day by helping staff as well. Flat tires, dead batteries, and even keys locked in cars are not unusual given the large facility we have.

Otis says one thing he appreciates about his team is that they understand we are all here for the residents, genuinely living up to our motto, "Serving those who served."

This monthly newsletter is a joint effort of the MDVA & HMR Maryland for the whole CHVH community. For article ideas and contributions, email Ashley Radano at aradano@charhall.org.



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