

## NEWSLETTER

# CHARLOTTE HALL VETERANS HOME

### FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

*The COVID-19 pandemic has proven to be the ultimate test of endurance for our residents, family members and staff. We encourage each of you to communicate with us, ask questions, and above all remain calm. Remember, we are all in this together. We must temper fear with reason, panic with patience, and uncertainty with education. We hope that this newsletter will provide a bit more light into the activities taking place at Charlotte hall. Please remember that our information line updates daily to provide you with the most current information related to the SARS-CoV-2 virus. On behalf of Charlotte Hall Veterans Home, I cannot thank you enough for the support and love you have shown our Home. It is truly a privilege to work with each of you as we care for your loved ones.*

*Russell Keogler MBA, MPH, MA*

LET US ALL  
WELCOME:

Z e n a e  
M e r c h a n t ,  
M H A ,  
L N H A



*Our soon-to-be administrator comes to us from Eagan, Minnesota where she oversaw two skilled nursing facilities. Ms. Merchant held a variety of senior-level healthcare positions in her hometown of Queens, NY. She completed her Administrator-in-Training Program at the Long Island State Veterans Home. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Health Science from Stony Brook University and a Masters in Health Administration from Hofstra University. In her leisure time, she enjoys traveling and spending time with family.*

### CONQUERING COVID!

*Charlotte Hall Veterans Home has received tremendous support from our community throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Charlotte Hall recently received a personal protective equipment (PPE) sterilization device donated by St. Mary's County Health Department and Southern Maryland Loves You. The \$150,000 device has the capability of sterilizing up to 24,000 N95 respirators per day, as well as other critical equipment used to protect our Veterans and staff every day. Approved by the FDA, this "hot box" will serve Charlotte Hall both now and in the future. We are fortunate to have these local partners who have worked tirelessly alongside our team to offer our CHVH family the best outcomes.*

### VETERAN SPOTLIGHT

*Life at the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home During the Covid-19 Pandemic*

*Difficult is probably the best way to describe life at the "Home" during the year 2020. I suppose that could be said of anyone, anywhere throughout the world! But now that 2021 has arrived, and with it vaccinations which should help improve things, we sincerely hope.*

*2020 was a long and arduous learning process. Luckily it was made bearable through the administration's efforts to provide large screen TVs in the rooms for entertainment – as much as that medium can allow. Most beneficial since most of the year was characterized as learning to "solo." Due to the restrictions of the pandemic, we were isolated in our rooms for safety reasons. Meals were provided to us individually – three squares a day.*

*Testing was constant and, if the virus was found to be active on the floor, we were confined to our rooms to make sure that the spread of the infection was controlled. Once it had been contained, we were allowed the freedom to walk the spacious grounds of the "Home." A real plus for me since I'm a walker and enjoyed the beauty of the grounds whenever possible.*

*I know this "picture" sounds somewhat severe, but I think the measures were necessary until the vaccine became available in early 2021. What the future holds is uncertain. Visits with family members were always possible via cell phone from inside to guests outside. What the future will hold is yet to be determined, but so far, all is well.*

*- William "Willie" Lowry, Assisted Living Resident*

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## OUR PARTNERS IN THE COMMUNITY

*As we launch our first newsletter for residents, staff, friends, family, and supporters of Charlotte Hall Veterans Home, I would like to take the opportunity to thank the many service organizations, community organizations, businesses, and individuals who donated over the last year. As we leave 2020, a year we will not soon forget, I can tell you that we would not be in front of COVID-19 as we are now without the support of our donors. The donations and donors are too numerous to mention, and we could not do it without you. Charlotte Hall received gifts from \$20 - \$35,000 from the American Legions, Auxiliaries, Sons of American Legions, DAV, MOPH, VFW, AMVETS, Korean War Vets, Masons, Elks, Cruisin Southern MD, Lions, Moose Lodge, Boy Scouts, Pizza Hotline, Subway, Texas Roadhouse, Mission Barbeque, Walmart, Kaiser Permanente, Lomaxis, Pets on Wheels, American Red Cross, Rotary Clubs, churches, schools, groups and many individuals. We received donations of PPE, some handmade and some donated by engineers making face shields. The staff and residents are eternally grateful for your continued acts of kindness that have carried us through an unprecedented time in this world. I believe Charlotte Hall Veterans Home is an accurate representation of "Heroes Serving Heroes."*

*A most sincere Thank you!*

*Sharon Murphy,*

*MDVA Veterans Home Program Director*

## FEATURED DEPARTMENT:

# NURSING



*Charlotte Hall Veterans Home Nursing staff exemplify the definition of Family. They truly embody the Home's motto "Serving Those Who Served". As a result of the pandemic it has been almost a year since some residents have been able to physically touch their loved ones. The nursing team continues to step up in every way imaginable; putting in countless hours, providing phenomenal care and attention to make our country's veterans feel loved and appreciated. Thank you can NEVER be said enough to this awesome FAMILY of nursing staff, you are appreciated.*

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](mailto:clewis@hmrmd).