

NEWSLETTER CHARLOTTE HALL VETERANS HOME



LET US ALL CELEBRATE

We are celebrating our staff members that have worked at CHVH for 20– 24 years. Your service and commitment to our veterans and their spouses are more than admirable! Thank you all for your dedication!



Mary Robinson
1997



Kelley Cristaudo
1997



Carlene Butler
2001



Sheena Fertig
2001



VETERAN SPOTLIGHT

Thomas "Bert" Norris, Navy Veteran

Mr. Thomas "Bert" Norris served in the US Navy starting in 1947. Bert developed his skills on a destroyer as a plumber, carpenter, and welder during his service. Civilian life allowed Bert the opportunity to work as a heating and air steamfitter in Fort Myers for 26 years! During that time, he found love, married, and had five children. At 92 years young, he is a proud grandfather to eleven and a great-grandfather to eight!

Thanksgiving was always a holiday where his loving wife would showcase her culinary talents with a feast! Turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, and candied yams were the staples of the meal. She would always be sure to include some traditional Italian dishes to the spread to honor her heritage. When the dinner bell rang, the family would stampede to the table!

FEATURED DEPARTMENT

Charlotte Hall Pharmacy, HMRx

The pharmacy opened in May of 2015 and services both the skilled nursing and assisted living residents at Charlotte Hall Veterans Home. The pharmacy team includes Dr. Alesha Entsua-Mensah (Director), Dr. Karin Stewart (Clinical Pharmacist), and Rekeya Dewberry (Lead Technician). There is also an automated dispensing machine we affectionately named Lucy that works very hard to package most of the oral medications provided to the residents.

In addition to supplying medicines, the goal of the pharmacy staff is to promote healthy living and help implement safe medication practices, which enhance resident outcomes. This is achieved through participation on many multidisciplinary committees such as falls, wounds/weights, behaviors, Antibiotic Stewardship, and various quality assurance initiatives. We also provide medication counseling and monthly resident chart reviews. In partnership with providers and nursing staff, the pharmacists consult regarding medication dosing, side effects, and drug utilization reviews. The pharmacy is also responsible for all vaccine procurement for residents and staff.

The Charlotte Hall pharmacy prides itself in providing individualized resident-centered care without sacrificing safety and compassion for every veteran we serve!



What's your favorite Thanksgiving dish?



James Spann
US Army
"Turkey!"



Joe Dillon
US Army
"Apple pie!"



Grady Douglas
US Air Force
"I love turkey & dressing!"



William Birkett
US Army
"Dessert!"



PARTNERS IN THE COMMUNITY



Spirituality and faith care are unique and personal. Providing for the spiritual needs of our Charlotte Hall Veterans Home community are Pastor Daniel Moore, Father Briese, Deacon Billy Kyte, and Grace Lutheran Church in La Plata. Grace Lutheran Church has provided Sunday services since just after the inception of our community! Our clergy team has an excess of 28 years of combined experience serving our community. Their dedication to our home was unwavering throughout the global pandemic. Each provides recorded and live services several times a week. These services are broadcast on our internal television channel that reaches every television in the facility. The bonds formed are treasured by our residents. From their "always on call" attitudes, the lively music provided at Sunday services, the deep connections made with our residents, and messages of faith sharing, we are beyond blessed to have these partners in our lives!



FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR



We are fortunate to have been one of the first nursing homes in the state of Maryland to partner with Walgreens to conduct our booster clinic last month, where we administered over 300 Pfizer booster doses to residents and staff. As we head into the holiday season, we continue to adopt practices that allow as much normalcy as possible. We anticipate our SNF dining room re-opening on or before November 11, just in time for Veteran's Day.

We also are looking forward to facilitating our first virtual family council meeting on November 23 and returning to some of our annual traditions, like Woolf Entertainment performing on Thanksgiving day for lunch. These significant developments are possible because of the brave men and women who live here and the brave men and women who work here. As always, stay safe.

-Zenae Merchant, MHA, LNHA

HUMAN RESOURCES INSIGHT

In Human Resources, we have a saying, "Serving those who Serve others who have served." This belief system is geared around taking care of the employee here at CHVH and allowing every voice to be heard. We also have a significant push for recruiting new employees, and employees are encouraged to refer with a possible referral bonus. Come on by the office, and let's chat. The door is always open in the Human Resources department. For our latest job postings, visit www.charhall.org or reach out to our team a cdyson@hmrmd.com.



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



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