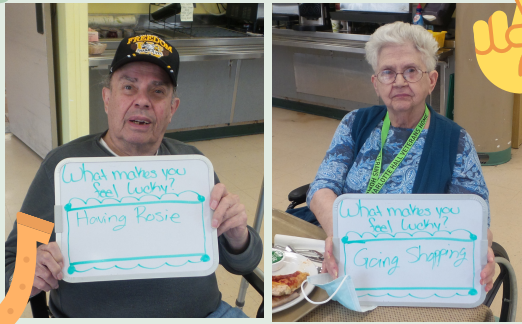


CHARLOTTE HALL VETERAN'S HOME

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

WHAT MAKES YOU FEEL LUCKY?

As St. Patrick's Day approaches, the luck of the Irish may stop by to BLESS a couple of our CHVH family members. We asked our residents, "What would make you feel lucky?"



RESIDENT SPOTLIGHT: JOHN "BOB" BETTIEN



Baltimore Maryland, catholic school, Missouri, and the great outdoors shaped the man who we now know as Navy Veteran, John "Bob" Bettien. John Bettien was born in Baltimore Maryland in 1941 and grew up attending catholic school. He could tell you various stories about the treatment he received while in school, but he felt like that school prepared him for his treatment in boot camp. John has stories about his time in the small town of Missouri he lived in as a kid. The wooden sidewalks, the population of 100 or less, fishing and swimming in the Elk River, raising chickens, knowing that Jesse James

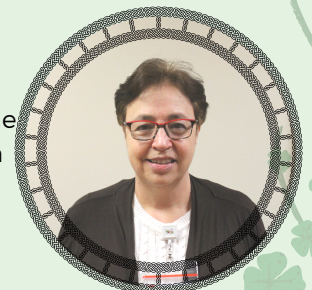
lived 3 miles away with a cave of his treasures nearby, and going to a school he actually enjoyed were all momentous to his childhood. In 1959, at the age of 18, Bob started boot camp. He was placed on a Man-O-War Destroyer Ship, which they called a "tin can" because it doesn't have the maximum amount of armor. About 300 men were on this same ship. Initially, he wanted to be a Gunner's Mate but was told he had to be Boatswain's Mate first. Bob's most memorable experiences were due to being on the water, interesting occurrences, and the people he met throughout the seven-month-long Mediterranean cruise to Italy, Greece, and France, and the three Caribbean cruises to Gitmo Cuba, San Juan Puerto Rico, Jamaica, and the Dominican Republic. "I knew I would never be able to do something like that again."

He could never forget one guy he met who held an octopus in his hand and said, "let me cook this octopus for you!" Bob stated, "I wish I ate that octopus." He recalled training with the Marines in Cuba where they completed exercises on a beach for practice. The Navy shot at sleds, drug by tug boats, and balloons, pulled by planes. The Marines would come afterward to clean up anything they missed. They were judged by how good they did and received an "E" with two hash marks, which exhibited excellence.

After leaving the Navy in 1962, he held a job at the Baltimore City Zoo and worked for three Veterinarians. Around 1982, he moved to Caroline County on the Eastern Shore. He worked for people in Talbot County by taking care of their gardens. This is how he met his girlfriend. In this current year of 2023, Bob said, "I'm glad to be here [at Charlotte Hall Veterans Home]. I prayed to be here. I couldn't make it at home by myself." He transferred from the Skilled Nursing Facility side to our Assisted Living side and said, "I am looking forward to meeting the guys over here and the summer fishing trips." He has met another resident with the same nickname as him who served in the Navy but worked inside a submarine. "It's nice to have my own room which has a good view of the pond." If he could do anything right now, he would take part in his favorite outdoor hobbies: hunting, fishing, crabbing, shooting at birds, gardening, maintaining the lawn, and having animals to take care of. Welcome to Charlotte Hall Veteran's Home John Bettien! We hope you enjoy yourself here.

A LETTER FROM: *Maria Atten* OUR NEW ADMINISTRATOR

In my two months at Charlotte Hall Veterans Home, I have enjoyed attending resident council on the Skilled Nursing Facility and Assisted Living Facility sides while working with leadership to address some of the concerns. I am impressed by the commitment of our leadership to serve our residents. We are in process of implementing a dining room program to enhance the quality of service in our dementia units. We are also developing a program for environmental rounds to assist our residents and families in maintaining the rooms, keeping them clean and free of clutter. This program will entail the teamwork of staff, management, and residents working together to keep the residents' living quarters clean. To improve teamwork and communication skills amongst our staff, we will be providing in-services to the management team about working in an environment with diverse groups. Also, we will be implementing a program to recognize our hard-working team members and will be seeking nominations from families, residents, peers, and management. I want to thank our residents and staff for welcoming me to the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home family and I can't wait to get to know each of you.



LET US WELCOME: Anthony Woods THE NEW SECRETARY OF THE MDVA



Secretary Woods leads the department whose mission is to assist veterans, active duty service members, and their families and dependents in securing benefits earned through uniformed service. Prior to his appointment in the Moore-Miller Administration, Tony served as the Executive Director of the Quad Fellowship – a first-of-its-kind fellowship program designed to build ties among the next generation of scientists and technologists from Australia, India, Japan, and the United States. Before founding the Quad Fellowship at Schmidt Futures, a philanthropic initiative of former Google CEO Eric Schmidt, Tony had a successful private sector career at Cisco Systems, The Boston Consulting Group, and Capital One. Tony's military career began when he attended West Point and was commissioned as a Lieutenant in the U.S. Army. He served two tours of duty in Iraq where he earned a Bronze Star for his service. Tony was discharged from the U.S. Army in 2008 under the military's "Don't Ask Don't Tell" policy, which barred members of the LGBTQ community from serving openly in the military. Tony worked with advocates to repeal the law and then resumed his service in the U.S. Army Reserve. He currently holds the rank of Major and serves as an intelligence analyst assigned to the Joint Staff at the Pentagon. In the public sector, Tony served as a Program Director at ServiceNation – a national nonprofit dedicated to increasing national and volunteer service. Tony continued his public service as a White House Fellow in the U.S. Office of Personnel Management under President Barack H. Obama. He served on former US Veterans Affairs Secretary, Bob McDonald's commission on minority veterans and serves on Blue Star Families advisory board on race, equity, and inclusion. Tony graduated from the U.S. Military Academy West Point with a B.S. in Economics and Political Science. He earned a Master's Degree in Public Policy from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government and an Executive MBA from the University of Maryland's Robert H. Smith School of Business.

FEATURED DEPARTMENT: OUR MDVA TEAM



Pictured from left to right: Rodney Jones the Deputy Director, Michelle Cariso the Director of the Veteran's Home Program, Cathy Attick the Quality Assurance Manager, Ellen Underwood the Contract Compliance Coordinator, Angela Quade the Fiscal Compliance Officer, and Roger Barnes the Inventory Compliance Specialist.

A GLIMPSE AT LAST MONTH

Lets take a look back at all of the "February Fun" our residents have gotten into before our "March Madness" begins!



EVENTS CALENDAR

- Jeff Bast Music Hour on the 4th
 - Winter Gardening on the 6th
 - Bingo MANIA! on the 7th
 - Jazz Appeal Concert on the 9th
 - Red Hat Society Ruby Diamonds Women's Group on the 10th
 - Synergy Music Performance on the 11th
 - Cooking Class: Corned Beef Hash & Eggs on the 14th
 - Lucky Duck Scavenger Hunt on the 15th
 - Shamrock 'N Roll Concert with S&D on the 17th
 - Marine Corps League Cook-out on the 18th
 - VFW Auxillary 2632 Ice Cream Social on the 19th
 - Sons of American Legion BINGO on the 20th
 - Oyster Scald Social on the 21st
 - SMECO Bingo on the 21st
 - The Thistle & The Rose Celtic Music Performance on the 22nd
 - Trivia Mania w/ Root Beer Floats on the 24th
 - Cooking Class: Homemade Bread on the 28th
 - Canvas Painting on the 29th
 - Nail Spa on the 30th
 - Active Games on the 31st
- And a variety of musical entertainment, activities, and outings held throughout the month!

Happy St. Patrick's Day

