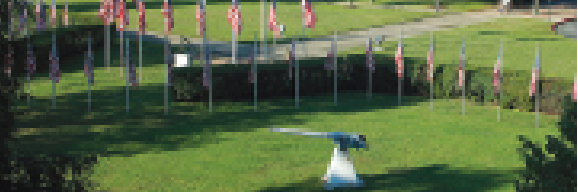


THE CHARLOTTE HALL GAZETTE

CHARLOTTE HALL VETERANS HOME
MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Issue #13 Spring/Summer 2013



Serving
Those Who
Served



DIRECTOR'S CORNER

We are moving through the winter at a rapid pace. It's hard to believe that we are already into February. We have been very fortunate that the weather, to date, has been uneventful. The one snow event we did have was very well supported by all staff. Everyone's dedication to providing uninterrupted services to our veterans is so greatly appreciated.

Also greatly appreciated is the remarkable support Charlotte Hall Veterans Home (CHVH) continues to receive from our cadre of volunteers. Last year we were so blessed to receive 6,436 volunteer hours from individuals and an additional 7,420 volunteer hours from groups. That translates to a total of 13,856 volunteer hours. To put that in perspective, with a normal work year at 2,080 hours, our volunteer hours equaled 6.7 people working forty hours per week. That is really a tremendous gift from so many kind-hearted and caring people and organizations. We now look forward to even more volunteer support and success with the input and guidance of our new Volunteer Director, LaDonna Mohler.

The latest Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Nursing Home Facility Compare Rating has once again reflected our strong leadership and dedicated staff. Charlotte Hall is rated as a 5 STAR facility! Family satisfaction is very important and the annual Maryland Health Care Commission survey consistently ranks Charlotte Hall as a leader in family satisfaction.

The Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs, in its oversight of the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home, works to ensure compliance and quality services to the more than 400 veterans who reside at the Home and their families. The unwavering support of Secretary Ed Chow, Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs and the Maryland Veterans Home Commission has enabled Charlotte Hall Veterans Home to continue to be a leader in quality care for our honorable veterans.

We are proudly "Serving Those Who Have Served".

Sincerely,
Sharon Mattia,
Director, Veterans Home Program



UPDATES ON IMPROVEMENTS TO CHVH

• **Emergency Generator Replacement Project** - Site work to replace/upgrade the emergency generators began July 9, 2012. Many of you have paid close attention to the excavating, underground conduit and manhole placements and back-filling and compacting of the affected areas. That part of the project is nearing completion. What is now taking place is the actual placement of the underground wires that will eventually connect all areas of our building to the new generators through multiple switchgear and switches. The project was originally scheduled to be complete in March of 2013. It now appears that this date will not be met due to a delay in the shipment of some of the necessary components. A new completion date target is not finalized but, be assured, we are in constant contact with

the supplier in efforts expedite delivery as best possible.

- **Assisted Living Dining Room Expansion** - The project of expanding the seating space of the 'E' wing dining room has been awarded to the successful bidder. The start of the expansion, which will enclose the porch area on front of the building, is scheduled to begin in the spring. Services and seating capacity of the current dining room will be minimally impacted during the construction period and the room will continue to be available for dining.
- **Replacement of the Core, 'A' Wing and 'B' Wing Metal Roofs** - This project is currently being engineered for bid. An expected start date for actual roof replacement is scheduled for this summer/fall.

CULTURAL CHANGES

American Legion Dorchester Post 91 and Sons of the American Legion Squadron 91 Contributes \$17,000 to Charlotte Hall Veterans Home

George Williams, Post Commander, and Jim Wilcox of the American Legion Dorchester Post 91 and Don Wilcox of the Sons of the American Legion Squadron 91 in Cambridge, MD., on December 19th, presented \$17,000 to Sharon Mattia, Director, Veterans Home Program, Charlotte Hall Veterans Home in Charlotte Hall, Maryland, to fund the construction of a kitchen for skilled nursing activities. The Home has adopted "Cultural Change" in an effort to deinstitutionalize long term care. The effort is to enhance facility conditions and projects so that residents feel more at home. A kitchen in the Activity Department will have the feel of being at "home" and will allow activities staff to have special events in which residents can participate in such activities like baking or cooking classes.

In addition to the total 2012 donations of \$22,200, \$9,200 was donated in 2011 and \$16,300 was donated in 2010. Every Christmas Post 91 provides funds for Christmas activities. The American Legion Dorchester Post 91 has been a major player in supporting the needs of our residents for many years. Their continued support and thoughtfulness has enhanced the lives of all the residents that have resided throughout the years at Charlotte Hall Veterans Home.



(From left to right) George Williams, Post Commander, American Legion Dorchester Post 91; Sharon Mattia, Charlotte Hall Veterans Home; Don Wilcox, Sons of the American Legion Squadron 91, and Jim Wilcox, American Legion.

WITH SINCERE APPRECIATION

January 2, 2013

Sharon Mattia
29449 Charlotte Hall Road, Charlotte Hall, MD 20622

Dear Ms. Mattia,

I would like to thank you for your letter of sympathy and support concerning the passing of my friend Tommy Roberts. While I have never met you personally during my visits there the past few years, yet I feel a great debt of gratitude for the excellent care that Tommy received from you and your associates.

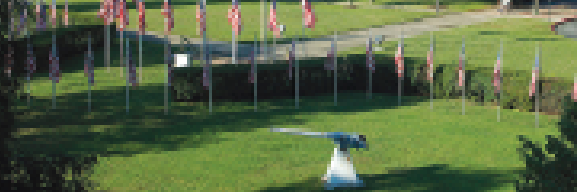
Charlotte Hall Veterans Home was "Hawg Heaven" to my friend Tommy these past few years. Tommy had experienced some hardships in life before coming there. He had a motorcycle accident which cost him one of his legs. He had a stroke which cost him one of his arms. He had two previous marriages that ended in divorce and a third marriage in which his wife died. He was also a veteran of the Viet Nam War. So you can see he knew something about hardships BUT...

At Charlotte Hall Veterans Home, he was right at home with his veteran friends. Though confined to a wheel chair because of his disabilities, he wheeled around the halls and corridors of your

magnificent facility, meeting people and making friends wherever he went. There are two things that I want to say about Tommy David Roberts. I bet he knew more residents than any other resident did and that more residents knew him than anyone else. He was very social. Though he just had one usable arm he loved to play the piano and delighted in entertaining at every opportunity. The fine food and medical care he received were first class and his caretakers were very patient even when Tommy was having a bad day. I dare say that if I had said to Tommy Roberts to list all the prerequisites for a place where he wished to live, that CHARLOTTE HALL VETERANS HOME would meet every requirement. So thank you and your associates for giving my friend, Tommy Roberts, a very rewarding and fulfilling final years of his life. For Tommy, I think I can truly say about his time with you, that he was experiencing a little bit of heaven on earth as a prelude to experiencing the heaven that God has prepared for him. May God's richest blessings be upon you and your fellow workers at Charlotte Hall Veterans Home.

In His Service

James Ralph Cook

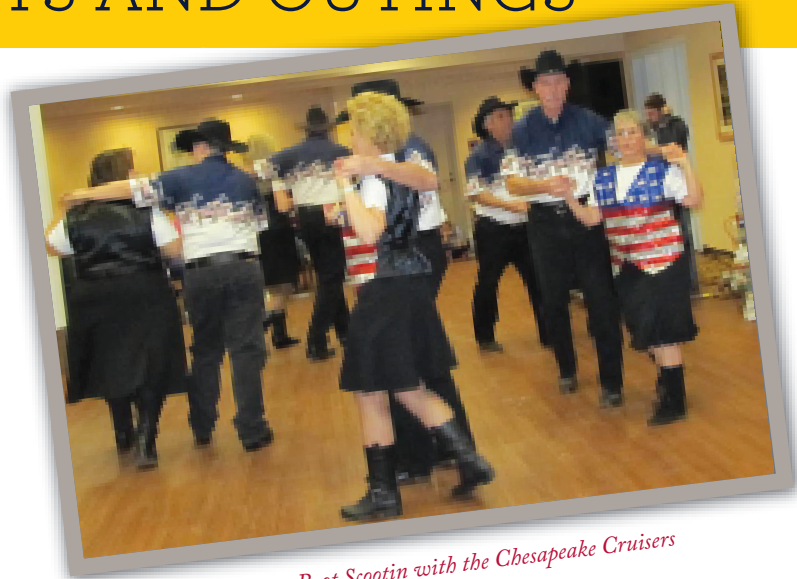


CHVH RESIDENT EVENTS AND OUTINGS

UPCOMING EVENTS



Dancing the night away at our annual Winter Ball



Boot Scootin with the Chesapeake Cruisers



Happy Birthday Elvis Celebration



Playing a lucky hand at Casio Night



Girls Just Wanna Have Fun - Talent Show



Mt. Calvary UMC Production of "Nativity Scene"

These are just a handful of the many fun-filled activities available to our residents. For a complete listing of activities, please check our website for a detailed monthly calendar of events.

March 3
Resident Only Oyster Social

March 7
Comedy Show DVD (Assisted Living)

March 8
Sock Hop

March 9
Pizza Social with the Cub Scouts (Assisted Living)

March 11
Astronomy Night (Assisted Living)

March 16
One Accord Gospel Band

March 20
North Point H.S. JROTC

March 23
Easter Egg Hunt

April 22
PTP Encore Kids present "Alice in Wonderland"

April 23
Grace & Peace Presbyterian Church Hand Chimes

April 26
70's Party

May 17
Hawaiian Luau

May 20
Show Stoppers

May 25
Car Show

June 7
Residents Annual Picnic

June 14
Crab Feast

July 26
Senior Prom

August 9
Crab Feast

August 12
Patriotic Musical

August 17
Ice Cream Social @ Tiki Hut

September 20
Casino Night

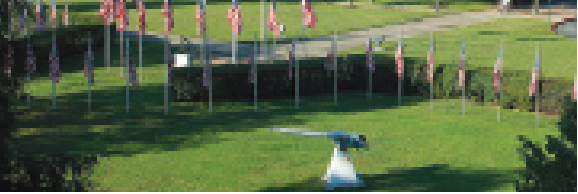


SERVICES

offered at Charlotte Hall Veterans Home

- Skilled Nursing
- Assisted Living
- Rehabilitation
- Alzheimer's Care
- Optometry
- Dental
- Podiatry
- Beauty/Barber Shop
- Massage Therapy





VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

We would like to spotlight John Curran who is one of our longest tenured volunteers here at Charlotte Hall. John is one of the rare individuals who began faithfully volunteering here at Charlotte Hall Veterans Home back in the year 2000 and has never looked back. For years he brought fresh cut flowers, in 2003 he started what is now our resident Computer/Camera Club and has been part of acquiring, donating computers-cameras that has enhanced the lives of many of our residents; past and present.

John belongs to various veterans' organizations and is an active member of the Elks; Calvert Lodge 2620. He chairs the Elks National Veterans Service Commission State Association (ENVSC) for the Maryland, Delaware and District of Columbia areas. Charlotte Hall Veterans Home is grateful for the thousands of dollars John has infused into our facility to the benefit of our residents through his affiliation and position with the Elks.

John also plays the role of Santa Clause and the Easter Bunny for their respected holiday while also providing small gifts, candies, etc. through his Elks affiliation. Doing so has brought a welcomed smile while warming the heart of many a resident here at Charlotte Hall. He

has befriended many a soul for the unselfish purpose of simply giving of self while personally reinforcing the importance of our veterans. It is our honor and pleasure to have such a high character individual as John devoted to serving our residents, veterans here after all these years and the impact he has made upon their lives.



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteers are an important part of the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home. Volunteers are the constant reminder to our Veterans that the community appreciated the sacrifices they have made for our Country. Through visiting the home on a weekly, monthly or quarterly basis, individual volunteers and organizations make the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home a thriving hub of activity and social exchange.

Our Volunteer Program offers a variety of volunteer assignments that fulfill the volunteer's desire to make a difference in a veteran's life. The program can be tailored

to meet the volunteer needs of an individual, family, large group, or corporation.

If you are interested in learning more about our Volunteer Program, please contact our Director of Volunteer/Community Outreach, LaDonna Mohler at 301-884-8171, ext. 664 or lmohler@hmrmd.com.

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

New Director of Volunteer/Community Outreach

Charlotte Hall Veteran's Home is thrilled to announce LaDonna Mohler, as our new Director of Volunteer/Community Outreach.

Prior to her new role, LaDonna served as the Charles County Field Director for the Girl Scout Council of the Nation's Capital for the past 9 years. She is no stranger to community outreach, volunteer recruitment & retention, and volunteer program management. She is very passionate about volunteerism and truly understands the importance volunteers play in our community.

Message from LaDonna:

I'm delighted to have the opportunity to maintain and expand the wonderful volunteer program already established at the Charlotte Hall Veteran's Home. As a

lifetime Maryland resident and wife, sister, and daughter of Veterans; I can't think of a better place to be able to fulfill my passion of working with volunteers. I consider myself fortunate to have been given the opportunity to join an establishment with such a fine reputation for its dedication to "serving those who served".

This position offers new and exciting challenges to me, all of which I am looking forward to. Please make sure you stop by my office to say HELLO.

You can reach LaDonna at lmohler@hmrmd.com or 301-884-8171, ext 664.



DONATIONS

Charlotte Hall Veterans Home is fortunate to receive continued support from wonderful organizations such as the:

- American Legion and Auxiliaries**
- Cruisin' Southern Maryland**
- MOC and Auxiliaries**
- AMF Offshore Racing**
- DAV and Auxiliaries**
- Northern Middle School**
- AMVETS**
- Denny's Place**
- Northrop Grumman**
- Armed Forces Veterans Home Foundation**
- General Dynamics Information Technologies**
- Rolling Thunder**
- Blue Knights**
- Girl Scouts**
- SMECO**
- Calvert County Elks**
- Grace Lutheran Church**
- VFW and Auxiliaries**
- Christ Church Wayside**
- Lowes Home Improvement La Plata**
- Waldorf Elks**
- CHVH Liaison Committee**
- Matthew Henson Middle School**
- Warrior Brotherhood**
- Crossroads of Hughesville Garden Club**
- Military Order of the Purple Heart**

In addition to the generous monetary donations, these sponsorships provide support for a variety of activities, miscellaneous items such as clothing and toiletry items, and time spent volunteering with our residents. Their continue support, sponsorship and thoughtfulness provide our residents with not only basic necessities, but fun outings outside of the Home, as well as in-house activities that help enhance the quality of life for our residents. The support of our individual volunteers, some of who have been part of the CHVH family for many years and others who are just beginning, your devotion and dedication is valued beyond measure. To all our volunteers we extend our deepest thanks. We could not do what we do without each and every one of you.



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PRESORTED
STANDARD
US POSTAGE
PAID
WALDORF, MD
PERMIT NO. 42

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