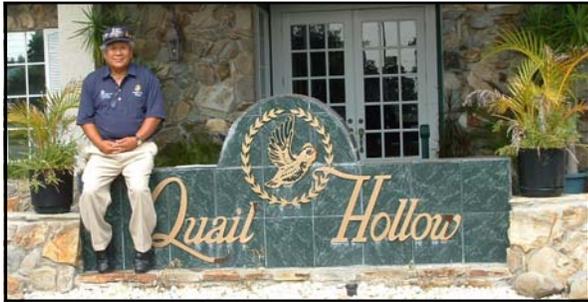




Bay Pines Volunteer News

Volume 1, Issue 3

Fall 2004



Between hurricanes, Voluntary Services was able to hold the annual Golf Tournament. Thanks to the dedication and hard work of the volunteers and employees who coordinated this year's Golf Classic the tournament flourished!!! On August 21st one hundred & twenty-two golfers had a wonderful time at the Quail Hollow Country Club and Voluntary Services was able to raise over \$6000. The proceeds from the tournament help fund our annual Volunteer Recognition program.

A special thank you is extended to Eddie Koh for allowing us to make our Annual Golf Classic successful.



United Veterans Annual Golf Classic

Saturday, August 21, 2004

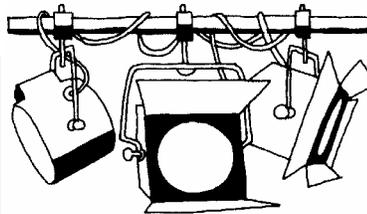
Quail Hollow Golf & Country Club, Wesley Chapel, FL



Volunteer Spotlight

Millie & Bob O'Neill moved to Florida in 1987.

They drive up from Bradenton to volunteer on Thursdays and between the two of them they have over 17,000 hours. Millie has volunteered for 10+ years and Bob has volunteered for 12+ years. Bob and Millie have also volunteered at the VA Hospital in Brooklyn. At Bay Pines, Bob originally volunteered as a shuttle driver, then in the domiciliary and for the past four years has been at the main information desk in the lobby. Bob was in the Navy for 37 years on submarines and also with a reserve group on the Intrepid. He is secretary of the Gulf Coast Chapter, Submarine Vets and Commander of the VFW in his district. Millie is a member and past President of the VFW Auxiliary and is President of the Auxiliary of the Submarine Vets. Millie volunteers in the Office of Education and assists Deborah Bell with filing, typing, copying and answers the phone.



They have two sons, James and Ralph who live in Greentown, PA. Millie and Bob enjoy volunteering at Bay Pines because they like meeting people and helping veterans. Millie says she contributes her volunteerism to her mother who she remembers invited a house full of people over for dinner every Sunday. Bob and Millie enjoy traveling and taking cruises together.

Thank you for your dedication !

From the Voluntary Service Office



The Holidays are upon us!

The next few months will bring a flurry of volunteer activity and celebration to our medical center. I think we are all deserving of a period of celebration! It's hard to believe but we've experienced four hurricanes in two months!!! We have done well. Thank you!

Let's continue to stay on course to help our veteran patients and keep Voluntary Service (VS) upfront and prospering!



Speaking of prospering, here's a engineering project that I know many of you will be thrilled about. Ever face a parking challenge at Bay Pines? Hopefully in the next few months your crunch will be eased. The medical center is constructing 267 additional parking spots.

Fall is a beautiful time of year with pleasant weather AND the return of our Winter Volunteers! Throw out the Red Carpet ... We welcome the return of our winter friends!

*Barbara L. Parker, CTRS
Acting Chief, Voluntary Service
Coordinator Therapeutic Recreation Services
(727) 398-9394*

The VAVS Executive Committee



Since our last issue, there have been many things going on here at Bay Pines. Most all of them have had many volunteers and staff participating. Well done to all!

There are a number of Volunteers who do not have a Representative or Deputy as a member of the VAVS Committee which meets quarterly. Our VAVS Executive Committee meets the first Friday of every month in the Voluntary Service Office Conference Room.

Please be advised that any Bay Pines volunteer is welcome to attend the Executive Committee Meeting. There are a lot of topics discussed that may be of interest to you. This Committee addresses all issues that involve our volunteers. If you have any suggestions, cares, questions or problems, please write them down, sign, date and give them to one of us. We're available to help. Again, thank you for your time, dedication, and service rendered to our Veterans. They may not always say so, but they really do appreciate what you are doing.

*Chuck Wisner
Executive Committee President*

Newsletter Committee



Secretary Principi is a 1967 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, Md. A combat-decorated Vietnam veteran, he first saw active duty aboard the destroyer USS Joseph P. Kennedy and later commanded a River Patrol Unit in Vietnam's Mekong Delta. Mr. Principi earned a law degree in 1975 and was assigned to the Navy's Judge Advocate General Corps in San Diego, Calif. In 1980, he was transferred to Washington as a legislative counsel for the Department of the Navy.

As Editor of the Bay Pines Volunteer News, I had the distinguished honor to meet Secretary of Veterans Affairs Anthony J. Principi and Congressman Bill Young during their August visit to the Bay Pines Medical Center. Secretary Principi said he appreciated the volunteer newsletter, wished us continued success, and praised all the volunteers for their hard work and service.

Anthony J. Principi was nominated to be Secretary of Veterans Affairs by President George W. Bush and confirmed by the Senate on January 23, 2001. As Secretary, Mr. Principi directs the federal government's second largest department, responsible for a nationwide system of health care services, benefits programs, and national cemeteries for America's veterans and dependents.

Congressman C. W. Bill Young is serving his 17th term in Congress as a representative of the Tenth Congressional District of Florida. He is the senior member of the Florida congressional delegation and serves as Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee. He was born in Harmarville, Pennsylvania, and moved to the St. Petersburg area at the age of 15.

Before being sworn into Congress in 1970, Young served ten years in the Florida State Senate. A veteran of the Army National Guard, Young is nationally known for his expertise on defense and security issues. He has served on the House Armed Services Committee and chaired the House Appropriations Subcommittee on National Security, and his 14 years of service on the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence are the longest tenure of any member in history.

Send your suggestions, comments, articles and photos to the Newsletter Committee today. The **Bay Pines Volunteer News** is published Spring, Summer,

Fall and Winter.
[If you would like to join our committee or for more information please contact:](#)
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Visit the **Bay Pines Volunteer News online at the VA web site:**

www1.va.gov/vsn8/BayPines/News.cfm

History of Bay Pines Medical Center Part III

- Following the move, a separate manager for Regional Office activities was appointed. Despite the move, space continued to be a problem at Bay Pines and it was necessary to utilize temporary Quonset hut buildings to house some of the administrative offices, Brace Shop, canteen and the chapel.
- The need for building space continued at the Center. The use of the Quonset hut buildings, thought to be only temporary, continued. However, the need for land was not so acute. In 1955, 18 acres of land were deeded to the Board of Public Instruction of Pinellas County for use as a site for construction of Madeira Beach School. In 1959, an addition was made to the existing laundry in order to meet Center demands. In 1963, 4 additional acres of land were deeded to the County Board of Public Instruction for a playground area at the new Madeira Beach School. During 1966, 359 acres of land were deeded to the Pinellas

County Planning and Development Commission for a recreation park to be named "War Memorial Park." The acreage, located on the southeast side of the reservation, was primarily woodland and included the Center's sewage treatment plant, a sanitary fill and the incinerator. The terms of conveyance of the land provided for construction of a new incinerator, Center connection to the Madeira Beach Sanitary Sewer System and installation of a chain link fence at the boundary separating VA property from the park- all at the expense of the county.

- On January 1, 1967, the jurisdiction of the Veterans Outpatient Clinic was transferred from the St. Petersburg Regional Office to the Bay Pines VA Center. On March 28, 1969, as a part of an effort to locate all area federal agencies in the downtown St. Petersburg area, space was leased and the Regional Office and the VA Outpatient Clinic moved from the Don Cesar to the Federal Building in

downtown St. Petersburg.

- In June 1971, construction of a 120-bed Nursing Home Care Unit at the Center was approved. It was generally assumed that the Center's land had, through history, been occupied by Indian tribes. The contour of the land and configuration of the shore lines suggested man-made changes possibly for defense purposes. Before construction of the new Nursing Home Care Unit began, the Pinellas County Historical Society excavated the area and removed artifacts. The society determined that the site for the new facility had been the site of Indian Kitchen Middens, areas where the Indians ate and discarded their refuse, as well as Indian burial mounds. It was the opinion of the Historical Society that these mounds were formed by the Timucuan Indians who occupied the area during the estimated period between 1,000 BC and 1,500 AD and were, therefore, of historical significance.

To be continued in the Winter Newsletter

Flowers for our Vets



July 15, 2004

Volunteers gathered in the Cobb Room to hand out approximately 400 "smiley" and patriotic decorated mugs filled with bright flowers to our veteran patients. The mugs and flowers were supplied by Tele Flora.



Meet Our Bay Pines Volunteers



Beatrice Tanes has been volunteering for seven years at the information desk in the lobby and has approximately 1500+ volunteer hours. She works every Wednesday from 8 a.m. until noon. Beatrice is originally from Brockton, Massachusetts and moved here permanently in 1995. She was formally employed at Bay Pines as a Contract Specialist and retired as the Assistant Chief of Acquisitions and Material Management. Beatrice has two sons, one living in Massachusetts, another son living in Spring Hill, and she has two granddaughters. Beatrice says she likes working with people and helping them with their needs. Being familiar with the VA helps her in telling people where things are located. Beatrice also volunteers at the Mahaffey Theater.



Anna Iuspa has been a volunteer for 13 years with approximately 5,000 volunteer hours. She works about 10 hours a week in the outpatient pharmacy and receives mail and batches medication for outpatients.



Fran Phrenpreif has been volunteering in the outpatient pharmacy for 15 years and has over 2,500 volunteer hours. She collects medications, places them in bags, staples the bags and puts them on the shelves. She originally handed them out at the window but doesn't do that any more. Fran says she is very proud and devoted to Bay Pines Hospital.



Alice Austin has volunteered in the mail - Pharmacy for fifteen years. At present, she handles the mail that comes in. Alice mails out prescriptions and if a patient fails to pick up a prescription at the window, she becomes "the lucky one" who mails it out to the patient. Alice has over 3,000 volunteer hours.



Phillip Iuspa has volunteered for thirteen years in the Outpatient Pharmacy and has about 4,000 volunteer hours. Phillip checks prescriptions for accuracy and prepares mailings to Veterans.

Calendar of Events



Freedom is the last, best hope of earth.
Abraham Lincoln

November 2004

November 2004

- 2 Election Day
- 5 Executive Committee Meeting
11:00 a.m. Vol. Conf. Rm.
- 9 Veterans Special Recognition
10:00 a.m. Nursing Home
- 10 VAVS Quarterly Meeting
9:30 a.m. Cobb Room
- 11 Veteran's Day Celebration 9:30 a.m.
Parade & Ceremony, Seminole
- 25 Thanksgiving Day

In 1939, President Franklin D. Roosevelt moved Thanksgiving to the third Thursday of November (to extend the Christmas shopping season and boost the economy). After a storm of protest, Roosevelt changed the holiday again in 1941 to the fourth Thursday in November, where it stands today.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 Election Day	3	4	5 Exec Com Meeting	6
7	8	9 Veterans Special Recognition	10 VAVS Quarterly Meeting	11 Veterans Day Celebration Seminole Library	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 Thanksgiving 	26	27
28	29	30				

December 2004

December 2004

- 2 Tree Up Day
10:00 a.m. Cobb Room
- 3 Breakfast Fundraiser
7 a.m. Cobb Room
- 3 Executive Committee Meeting
11:00 a.m. Vol. Conf. Rm.
- 8 Hanukah
- 10 Gift Wrap, 9:00 a.m., B2, Rm 105
- 15 Cookie Wrap, B2, Rm 105
- 17 Patient Christmas Gift Distribution
1:00 p.m. Cobb Room
- 25 Christmas Day

History, although sometimes made up of the few acts of the great, is more often shaped by the many acts of the small. *Mark Twain*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 Tree Up Day	3 Exec Com Meeting Fundraiser Brkfst	4
5	6	7 Pearl Harbor Day	8 Hanukah	9	10 Gift Wrap	11
12	13	14	15 Cookie Wrap	16	17 Christmas Gift Distribution	18
19	20	21	22	23	24 Christmas Eve 	25 Christmas Day
26	27	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve 	

January 2005

January 2005

- 1 New Year's Day
- 7 Executive Committee Meeting
11:00 a.m. Vol. Conf. Rm.
- 17 Martin Luther King Day

Happy New Year

When one door of happiness closes, another opens; but often we look so long at the closed door that we do not see the one which has been opened for us.
Helen Keller

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 New Year's Day
2	3	4	5	6	7 Exec Com Meeting	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17 Martin Luther King Day	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

More Great Volunteers



Dottie Miller volunteers through the DAVA. Mondays and Saturdays she handles the Recreation coffee socials and other days, she helps Barbara Parker with paperwork.

Dottie is originally from southern Illinois and moved here in 1967. Her husband was in the Army during World War II but never talked too much about his war experience in Germany. She and her husband retired in 1976 from locally owning and operating a gas station. Dottie and her husband had 7 children. She is very active in the DAVA and has held several positions and presently is the State historian. Although her husband recently passed away, she has faithfully returned as a volunteer. Dottie says, "I love volunteering here. There's nothing like it. To me we can't do enough for our veterans and that's the reason I come back."



Fred Howard has volunteered in Escort Service for the past five years. He volunteers four hours a day and has approximately 6,189 volunteer hours. He moved from Cleveland, Ohio 10 years ago and is

living in St Petersburg. He is a DAV life member. He was in the Marine Corps for three years. Fred is retired from bus driving. He enjoys volunteering because he feels that all Veterans think alike which makes him feel he's not alone in how he thinks.



Jean Bilig, received her nurses training at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and Johns Hopkins. She went into the Army Nurse Corps and was stationed in France in 1944 and 1945.

After the war, she married and had four children. Bradford lives in Jupiter, Jeanette lives in Ft. Walton, Linda lives in Tarpon Springs, and Debbie lives in California. Jean worked in various hospitals in Virginia and Pennsylvania before moving to Florida in 1959. She has also worked as a nurse at Morton Plant. Since her husband passed away, she is still very active with the POWs, likes to play bridge and travel and enjoys volunteering: "I like so many of the people I volunteer with and enjoy helping the veterans."



Eric Wolf says he has been volunteering here for about three or four months but has volunteered in other capacities on and off for several years. He is mostly at the information desk in the outpatient area two

days a week, three hours a day. He enters a patient's social security number into the computer which tells him where the patient has to go for their appointment. Eric lives in Largo and takes care of his 87 year old mother which keeps him pretty busy. Eric enjoys volunteering because it gives him self-esteem which makes him feel better when he helps other people.



Marie Moran has been volunteering since 1991. She volunteers four days a week in Escort and on Sundays, helps set up the Cobb room for church service. She has approximately 5,000 hours

volunteering. Marie worked for General Electric, retired after 29 years and moved from Lynn, Massachusetts to St. Petersburg in 1979. Marie had three boys but one died of cancer when he was 42 years old. Her two sons live in Massachusetts. She has seven grandchildren and one great grandchild. Marie use to go dancing but lately she spends most of her time volunteering. She also does a lot of cooking and reads a lot. She takes care of veterans outside of the VA as well, and also helps people in her mobile home park. She likes volunteering because she meets wonderful people and patients. Marie had five brothers who all served in the military and feels a closeness when she helps a veteran.



Chuck Miresola moved here from Buffalo, New York and retired from the Ford Motor Company. Chuck and his wife, Jane have two daughters and a son. Their son will be moving to Florida within a year. Chuck has more than 3,000 volunteer hours,

volunteering for approximately eight years doing different volunteer duties. He started out working with the grounds crew, later as a van/shuttle driver, and now works in Escort and front lobby information desk. Chuck volunteers four days a week and also volunteers his time at the Fisher House. In Chuck's spare time, he's an auxiliary ranger on the Pinellas Trail. His wife, Jane, volunteers at the lobby front desk on Tuesday mornings, and bakes and cooks at the Fisher House on Thursdays. Chuck enjoys meeting and helping veterans who he considers to be like family.



Mary Farley has been volunteering for the past four years and has over 1,126 hours. She volunteers in Recreational Therapy and Voluntary Services for Barbara Parker. Mary

answers phones, takes messages, does copying, uses the computer and helps out in any aspect of office work. She comes in three or four days a week. Mary has been living in Redington Shores since 1970. She was born in Manhattan, raised in the Bronx, and lived in Staten Island before moving to Florida. Mary and her husband have five children and four great grandchildren. In her spare time, she knits and reads. She says, "I enjoy helping the people who work here because they work so hard and also I enjoy helping the veterans."

"Life may not be the party we hoped for ... but while we are here we might as well dance."



Jim Esbensen has been volunteering for ten years in the green house -- Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings during the summer and then in cooler weather, he works longer

hours during the day. He has over 4,000 volunteer hours. Jim does everything in the greenhouse including growing plants and making sure that plants are in the nursing home. Jim also enjoys doing plant sales and is getting ready to have plants available for the gift shop. Jim moved here from Arizona fifteen years ago. At home in St. Petersburg, Jim has hundreds of Bonsai plants that he takes care of which keep him very busy. Jim is divorced and has two children living in Pennsylvania. Jim loves volunteering and the happiest time of his life is "when the kids are here" -- this year he had 15 student volunteers -- he also won Supervisor of the Year. Jim and the kids take plants to the cemetery and to the nursing home. He says the kids really enjoy helping and that's what keeps him going.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
 ★ Special thank you to ★
 ★ Deborah Bell and Paul Hughes ★
 ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

It's Our Passion—The Hospice Care Unit

"It's a sacred time when the patient is ready to make that transition from this world."

In the middle ages, a "hospice" was a place where weary or sick travelers could find rest or comfort on a long journey. About 10 years ago **Deborah Grassman** was the head nurse in the Oncology unit. Having so many terminal patients and very few beds, Deborah and others looked into creating a Hospice unit which has now grown to 10 beds. Deborah Grassman is a Registered Nurse Practitioner (ARNP) who is now in charge of Hospice. Assisting her is **Sheila Lozier**, Nurse Manager, **Lorraine Acompora**, Registered Nurse and Bereavement Counselor, and **Pat McGuire**, Bereavement Coordinator who works closely with the volunteers and Hospice. Families of terminal patients stay in the rooms with them or in the break room where the couches become beds. They also can stay at the Fisher House. Extensive training is needed for Hospice volunteers. Hospice has a total of 15 to 20 volunteers and more are needed, especially in the afternoon and weekends.

Candle Lighting Ceremony – after the veteran passes away, Hospice has a very meaningful candle lighting ceremony and a family member or friend lights a candle and has prayer. Each member is given a "footprint pin" which symbolizes the journey that they have "walked together ... not alone." Each family member is told to remember the footprint which symbolizes the impression that their loved one made on their heart in life. "A lot of times we are bringing families together and doing things for that "soul". It's a very special time for them, a very sad time, but we try to make it meaningful because we're all going to be at that place some day. ***Our mission is to have the patient, together with their families, die --- healed.***" Hospice keeps in touch with the families for a full year after the veteran's passing. They have special memorial services every four months in which the veterans' name is called and a candle is lit for each veteran that died during those four months. There are other activities including a Memorial Day Picnic for the families to remember every veteran that died in the community during the year.



Picture painted by Dr. John Hull

Footprints: ***Together we walk one step at a time !*** The staff and volunteers make little footprints from a special recipe. When the veteran passes away, the veteran's name and the date he passed is written on a footprint and placed on the veteran's bed with a rose. After a few days the footprint is then placed on the painting on the wall. A month later the footprint is taken off the painting and saved. At Christmas time, two big Christmas trees are filled with white lights and trimmed with all the footprints of the veterans that died during the year. The families are then invited for a tree gathering and the footprint is given to the veteran's family in remembrance. If there are unclaimed footprints, those footprints are saved until Memorial Day when Hospice has a Memorial Day Picnic for all the families, and the footprints are ceremoniously buried in the cemetery ---- *It's just another way of honoring the veteran's memory.*

"This is holy ground and we treat it that way."

The **Hospice Care Unit** is located in the main hospital, fourth floor (4B).

It was our sincere privilege to have interviewed and written this important article about Hospice and the volunteers. Thank you ALL for your time and contribution.

*Jim Hink, Reporter
Pam Hinds, Editor*





The Hospice Volunteers



Hank Korcz is a Hospice volunteer and helps Chaplain Dan Hummer and other volunteers cook an extensive breakfast for patients and families every Wednesday from 7 to 9 a.m. which is all supplied by Hospice. Hank has been volunteering through Hospice at Bay Pines for about a year and a half. Hank spent three years with the Army in Anchorage, Alaska. He enjoys volunteering at Bay Pines because "we service the patients needs whether we talk with patients or cook and serve breakfast." Hank also works closely with Pat McGuire, Bereavement Coordinator, orders supplies, hands out flyers and helps with the Memorial Services. Hank was a retail store manager before he retired and originally from Poughkeepsie, NY. Now he plays a lot of tennis. Hank's wife is employed at the Largo Chamber of Commerce.



Frieda Story moved to Florida in 1950 and now lives in St. Petersburg. She worked thirty years for a neurosurgeon in St. Petersburg before retiring. On Wednesday mornings, she helps make and serve breakfast and then helps Pat McGuire with anything she needs to have done. Frieda said her husband was injured in WWII and was a patient in Hospice before he passed away two years ago. Frieda felt that she wanted to volunteer with Hospice because they helped her so much that she thought she could do something for others. Frieda is a member of the DAV. Frieda also enjoys volunteering at her church and helps her friend who has Alzheimer's. She says she likes to travel, exercise, read and enjoys music.



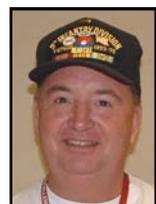
Judy Dellerba was born in Canton Ohio and now lives in St. Pete. She volunteers through the American Legion although she is not a member. She has volunteered for 2 1/2 years and volunteers 20 hours a week, three or four days a week. She also volunteers in the Chaplains office. Her husband was in the Army for four years as a Staff Sergeant. He was a patient at Bay Pines for years and was well taken care of. She feels by volunteering she is paying back. Judy loves to sew when not at Bay Pines.



Marylyn Voerg was born in Chicago and moved to St. Pete when she was 8 years old. She belongs to the Woman's Army Corp Chapter 69 (WACS). Her husband was in the Army Infantry for three years. He is now buried at Bay Pines Cemetery. She volunteers nine hours a week and likes being with friends she has made in Hospice. Marylyn has a PHD in Psychology. Her hobby is breeding cats.



Anna Marshal was originally from Philadelphia area before moving to St. Pete. She first lived here in 1977 thru 1986 and moved back again in 1999. Anna served in the Navy as a storekeeper and was stationed in Cleveland, Ohio. Her husband, Frederick, was in the Navy on the USS Homet, and was at the first bomb testing on Bikini Atoll island in the Pacific. Frederick and Anna met while working at E.I. Dupont. They have three children, three grandchildren, and one great grandchild. Frederick was in the nursing home at Bay Pines and passed away five months ago in Hospice. Anna volunteered for nine years as a "shopper" buying items for the veteran patients. When she came back in 1999, she started volunteering in Hospice. She volunteers on Wednesday mornings giving communion to patients. She makes sure that Hospice books are in each room, helps write the names of the veterans on the "feet," puts them on the wall painting, and helps with the tree gathering at Christmas. "I volunteer because it makes me feel good to help people. I enjoy the patient's families and I know they are grateful. It makes me feel so good inside that they have someone there to talk to." Anna spends a lot of time with friends and meets with bereavement groups. She has a male cat, "Kilroy" — 



Ed Chaffin has been volunteering in Hospice every day for the past three years. He stays with the patient at their bedside and consoles the families. He feels that it's very important to hold the patient's hand. Ed is a Vietnam veteran, wounded in Saigon. "Volunteering helps me deal with my own experiences and problems." Ed has been married for 33 years, has two daughters and just had his first grandson four months ago. He lives in Seminole, life member of DAV, likes to bowl and coaches girls softball. Ed also plays taps on his trumpet for families at funerals.



Jeanne Koshler was born in Kentucky and now lives in Seminole. Along with volunteering at Bay Pines she volunteers for her church and community food programs. Jeanne worked at Bay Pines as a nurse for 27 years and one month after retiring, she came back to Bay Pines as a volunteer. When asked how she likes volunteering, she said, "After ten and a half years, I am still here." She feels like she is helping somebody which gives her great satisfaction. Her husband was in the Air Force as a radio operator for 4 1/2 years and now volunteers at Bay Pines in escort.

She volunteers Mondays for 8 hours and when not at Bay Pines, she helps others such as a neighbor who has MS and others in need.



Bonnie J. Hossie was born in Evansville, Indiana and moved to Largo 36 years ago. She worked for the City of Largo before volunteering at Bay Pines. She is a life member of the DAV in Clearwater. She also is a member of the American Legion and associate member of the Chosin Few Korean War Vets. Her husband was in the Army in World War II and served in the European theater and then served as a Marine during the Korean War. He passed away in September 2001 and shortly thereafter, Bonnie started volunteering in Hospice. She likes it very much and enjoys helping patients and families. She volunteers 6 to 8 hours a day on Mondays and helps on Wednesdays serving breakfast. She expressed that volunteering gives her great fellowship with other volunteers and families. Her hobbies are computers and swimming, and enjoys having fun with friends.



Maxine Wehry was born in Vincennes, Indiana and lived in the house where Red Skelton was born, which has now been turned over to the Vincennes University as a museum. Maxine lives in Gulfport and moved here from Kentucky. She and her husband were both in the service. Her husband was in the Army and Maxine was in the Marines during WWII and served as a beautician. They raised five children and five grandchildren. Maxine's husband passed away in 1988. In 1989 Maxine started volunteering for the Chaplain, then worked on the 5th floor helping veterans, and for the past 6 years has volunteered with Pat McGuire in Hospice. She does mailouts to all veterans not only in the hospital but throughout the community. She sends letters, notes and invitations for various memorials during the year. Maxine said it was an important experience that at a veteran's request, she could help a fellow Marine become Catholic before he died. Maxine volunteers on the 4th floor for Hospice one or two days a week and volunteers at her church with funeral receptions. She's also a Eucharist Minister at St. John's Catholic Church, St. Pete Beach. She is Historian and Vice President of the Florida 2 Chapter of Women Marines and VAWS Deputy Rep. Maxine volunteers because she's an American, a veteran and "she loves her country and is proud of our military."

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Rita Gaffney volunteers in Hospice. She was a Chief in the Navy and is past President of the Waves, Unit 70, Sand Dollar, which meets in the hospital once a month. Rita enjoys playing golf and lives in Pinellas Park. At this writing, she is recovering from open heart surgery;. We wish her a speedy recovery and hope to see her soon!

Jim Donohue has been volunteering for 10 years. He first started in the nursing home helping patients and Chaplain Hummer. For the past five years he has also volunteered in Hospice. Jim says he's a good listener and enjoys talking with the veterans and their families. Sometimes he'll take the patients outside to enjoy the fresh air and has even taken the patients home to enjoy some time with their families. Jim says that the staff in Hospice is just wonderful and "they always include you in what's going on." Jim is originally from Staten Island, New York and has been living here for 15 years. He's a retired executive from Western Electric, married for 42 years and has three children. He's active in Handicapped Young Adults and organizes activity programs. Jim was also in the Navy during WWII in upstate New York and volunteers through the Telephone Pioneers of America organization. He recently had surgery and says that he'll be back volunteering in November.

FLAG MOMENT When the flag is displayed horizontally or vertically against a wall, the union should be uppermost and to the flag's own right. In a window, the flag should be displayed the same way as viewed from the street. When suspended from a rope extending from a house to a pole, the flag should be hoisted out, union first, from the building.

Something good to help a Veteran

This is a story about extraordinary volunteers caring for a veteran with visual impairment. It's a story of happiness and sadness, of dedication and inspiration, the kind of story which makes us proud to be volunteers.

Melvin Worth, a WWII Coast Guard veteran, needed someone to see for him. With one eye blinded by a stroke and the other affected by macular degeneration, his need was supplied when he obtained a Labrador retriever. **SeeMore**, as he called him, became his guide and affectionate friend in a companionship that lasted four years. Inseparable night and day, SeeMore and Melvin could often be found walking together or sleeping side by side.

A sad day came when Worth had to move into Bay Pines Nursing Home without SeeMore. For days, his condition worsened as he missed his friend. Soon, Recreation Therapy and Voluntary Service arranged for Melvin and SeeMore to visit one another for up to two hours a day, three days a week. In a team effort, **Don Denny** and **Gene Adkins** volunteered to transport SeeMore from a St. Petersburg kennel to Worth waiting in the nursing home. **Helen Lawley**, a volunteer, stayed with the dog throughout the visit. Then Don and Gene drove SeeMore back to his kennel.



The visits lifted Worth's spirits and cheered the medical staff as well. SeeMore would stay glued to his friend's wheelchair, and when Worth lay down to rest, the dog would jump up onto the bed, eager to share for affection.



Worth died on August 30, 2004, at 82 years of age. Shortly before his death, he expressed gratitude to the VA nurses, doctors, staff, and volunteers. "They always pull through," he said. When Don brought SeeMore into Hospice that last morning, Worth had died just three minutes earlier. The dog jumped up onto his bed, kissed him, snuggled, and in his own way, understood it was time to say goodbye.

Don reflected on the experience. "I feel like I've done something good to help a veteran. It's about the best thing I've ever done in order to help someone. I don't know of anyone I've helped more."

*Contributed by Don Denny & Gene Adkins
Article by Pam Hinds, Editor
Special thanks to Sandy & Dick Glessner for their editing*

Gene Adkins and Don Denny are both volunteer van drivers who took it upon themselves to bring SeeMore to visit Mr. Worth. They went beyond the call of duty. We're extremely grateful for their time and dedication.

Happy Holidays

Apple Stuffing

2 cups chopped onions
2 cups chopped celery
1 cup butter
4 cups apples, peeled, cored and chopped
6 cups croutons
6 cups dry bread crumbs
1 tablespoon ground sage
1 teaspoon poultry seasoning
1 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon pepper
Preheat oven to 350° F. In a skillet, sauté chopped onions and chopped celery in butter for 3 minutes. Add chopped apples, croutons, dry bread crumbs, sage, poultry seasoning, salt, and pepper. Mix well until evenly combined. Bake in a baking dish for 30 minutes, or use as a stuffing for a turkey. Makes 12 servings.

Spinach Balls

1 3/4 cups stuffing mix
2 (10-ounce) packages frozen, chopped spinach, cooked and drained well
1 medium onion, chopped
2 eggs, beaten
3/4 cup butter, melted
1/2 cup freshly grated Parmesan Cheese
1/2 teaspoon garlic powder
1/2 teaspoon thyme
1 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon pepper
Preheat oven to 350°F. Lightly grease baking sheet. Combine all ingredients. Use an ice cream scoop to form mixture into balls. Place balls on prepared baking sheet. Bake for 20 to 25 minutes. These may be frozen before baking and stored in the freezer for 2 to 3 weeks. Serves 8.

Cinnamon Nut Sticks

1/2 cup unsalted butter
1/2 cup sugar
1/2 cup brown sugar
1 egg
2 Tbsp cream
1 tsp vanilla
2 3/4 cup flour
1 tsp. baking powder
1 tsp. cinnamon
1/2 tsp. salt
1 cup finely ground walnuts or pecans
Cream the butter and sugar. Gradually beat in the egg cream, and vanilla. Beat until light and fluffy. Beat in nuts. Taking a tablespoon of dough at a time, roll into cylinders the diameter of a pencil. Slightly flatten the ends and place on a baking sheet. Bake at 350°F for 12 minutes. While they are still hot they can be sprinkled with a mixture of cinnamon and powdered sugar.