



# Bay Pines Volunteer News

Volume 1, Issue 1

Spring 2004

## 58th Annual Volunteer Awards and Recognition Ceremony Harborview Center, Clearwater, Florida • March 31, 2004



The Bay Pines VA Medical Center is special not only because of the care that is provided to those who served our country, but also because of the over 1,700 volunteers who graciously give of their time to help our veterans and their families. Our volunteers are an inspiration to all of us, and I commend them for their compassion and support.

**Thank you for a job well done!**

*Congressman Bill Young*



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Throughout the past year you have made the commitment to help our staff meet the diverse needs of our veterans who seek their health care from our facility. For these efforts we are eternally grateful, for only with your support can we together provide for the needs of our nations greatest heroes.



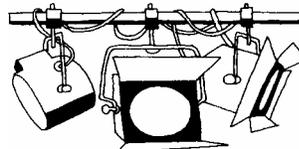
As health care continues to evolve and as we seek new ways to improve our services we are constantly reminded that without the daily presence of you, our volunteers, not one of the high technologies that we employ, nor the skill of the surgeon would have the same positive impact if it were it not for you. You bring a special life to our medical center... one that we cannot purchase. For you alone come with only the sole desire of helping those who have gallantly served their country. You epitomize all of the good things that our veterans fought so courageously to protect.

*Smith Jenkins, Jr.  
Medical Center Director*

## Volunteer Spotlight

**Mrs. Barbara Pfohl**, American Legion Auxiliary, VAVS Rep, has been a Bay Pines VA Medical Center volunteer since September of 1947 and has contributed over 25,700 volunteers hours. Barbara has been instrumental in running the "Poppy Program" here at Bay Pines since October 1979. She has processed 6 million poppies or an average of 250,000 per year.

The National Poppy Program was placed under the leadership of the American Legion Auxiliary in 1924. The paper poppy was originally chosen so that hospitalized disabled veterans who received little or no compensation had some means of profitable employment by shaping these little red flowers. Funds collected from the poppy distribution may only be used for specific veteran programs. Today, our local Poppy Program is the only program in the State of Florida.



Next time you see American Legion Auxiliary volunteers with poppies, remember that our American Veterans are in need today just as they were at the end of World War I. By wearing that red crepe paper poppy you are not only honoring deceased veterans, you are helping the living.

**Wear that poppy with pride!**

A special **"thanks"** is extended to Barbara as our **Spotlight Volunteer!!**

## From the Voluntary Service Office

The Bay Pines VA Voluntary Service has one of the largest and most comprehensive programs in the national VA health care system and is responsible for over 1,700 volunteers. There are a total of six employees in Voluntary Service, five at Bay Pines and at Ft. Meyers. It is totally impossible to run a comprehensive program of this scope and magnitude without the many talented and dedicated volunteers.

The Voluntary Service Program provides supplemental support to the medical center staff in both direct and indirect patient care areas. This program has responsibility for the Bay Pines Medical Center, the VA Regional Office, Ft Meyers Clinic and seven Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOC's) in a nine county service area. We also facilitate all donations (monetary and non-monetary) for the medical center.

This program is under the direct supervision of the Chief of Voluntary Service.

The volunteer program provides the following basic services to veteran patients:

- Coordinates the volunteer efforts of veteran, civic, fraternal, community and social service organizations.
- Works with medical center staff to design needed volunteer assignments to support veterans through the involvement of veteran, civic and community organizations at the medical center.
- Provides volunteers to supplement and support various patient services and activities.
- Works with state service organizations to improve the quality of life for veteran patients.



- Provides van transportation for approved Geriatric Day Care Program for veteran patients.
- Provides patient transportation service (escort and campus parking lot shuttle system).
- Provides educational learning and service opportunities for middle school, high school and college students.
- Supports various supervised community service volunteer programs.
- The mission of Voluntary Service is to enhance the quality of life for our veteran patients and their families through volunteerism.

Gary Harrell  
Chief of Voluntary Services  
x4685

## The VAVS Executive Committee

- Your **Executive Committee** has accomplished much this past year thanks to your input, service, and dedication. However, many do not know what the functions of the committee are so I will share a few of them with you:
- To coordinate and strive to fulfill the desires of the VAVS Committee.
- Establish "Working Committees" such as the Nomination, Finance, Fundraising, Summer Students, and others so that these desires are fulfilled.

- Act as the liaison between the Medical Center Staff and Administration and the VAVS Committee.
- Act as the resource or liaison for all volunteers that do not have organizational Representatives and Deputies.
- To recommend further program involvement or suggestions for discussion and adoption at the VAVS Quarterly meeting.
- Receive and address any complaints, problems, or suggestions made by the Volunteers.



- Lastly, to encourage further involvement in volunteerism and committee services beyond the minimal Rep or Dep responsibilities of our members.
- It is our goal to involve as many volunteers as possible in the day to day activities and create a "family atmosphere" that makes us proud to be of a service to our most deserving Veterans.
- The Executive Committee meets at 11:00 a.m. the first Friday of each month in the VAVS Conference Room. All volunteers are welcome to attend.

Charles L. "Chuck" Wisner  
VAVS Executive Committee President

## Newsletter Committee

This is the first issue of the **Bay Pines Volunteer News** dedicated to you, the Bay Pines Volunteer. As Chairman, I want to thank our Newsletter Committee members and volunteers, the VAVS Committee, the VAVS Executive Committee and Administration for their cooperation in making this Newsletter possible.

Bay Pines volunteers are a dedicated group who give generously of their time to honor freedom's gift --- our Veterans. Our mission in creating this Newsletter is to provide continuous recognition, offer encouragement, gratitude and improve communication.

The **Bay Pines Volunteer News** will be published in the Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter. It will contain columns such as the "Volunteer Spotlight," articles about volunteer place-



ment opportunities, and news from VAVS, Staff and Administration. We even intend to include a few jokes, crossword puzzles, fix-it information, recipes, and other fun topics. Please HELP! What would you like to see in your Newsletter? Send your suggestions and comments, articles and photos to the Newsletter Committee today.

Pam Hinds  
Chairman / Editor

If you would like to join our committee or for more information please contact:

Pam Hinds, Chairman / Editor

Bay Pines Volunteer News

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Jim E. Hink, Reporter

Shirley Hunt, Reporter

Lois Stearns, Reporter

Joan Cook, Project Assistant

## History of Bay Pines Medical Center Part I

- It all began with a movement by United States Senator, Duncan H. Fletcher, on January 5, 1929, when a bill was introduced in the US Senate providing for the construction of a new branch of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers. Immediately following the introduction of the 1929 bill, St. Petersburg's local government, private citizens and civic organizations began rallying to attract the new home to the area. Aided by the leadership and political influence of National Republican Committee member, Clara M. Grace and the Mayor of St. Petersburg, The Honorable J.D. Pearce, land was acquired and offered to the United States for use as a site for the new home. The site was approved on May 26, 1931, by President Hoover.
- On June 10, 1931, the Administrator of Veterans Affairs, Frank T. Hines, accepted approximately 750 acres of land in a part

of Pinellas County (known as Seminole) and a strip of land having 500-foot frontage on the Gulf of Mexico at Madeira Beach.

- The Manager's Quarters and four Officers Quarters were completed in 1932, across the lagoon, west of Building 1. Plans were made and approved to move the Regional Office from Jacksonville to the Home and discussions were held with the Seaboard Air Line Railroad regarding the location of a new Seminole Station within a quarter of a mile of the main gate of the home. Arrangements had been made for a spur of the railroad to be provided from the main line to the warehouse, primarily for the delivery of fuel oil. The Seaboard Air Line proposed construction of a new station one-fourth mile from the main gate but the Veterans Administration was reluctant because a new road would be needed from the Home to the station requiring additional funds for construction. The City of St. Petersburg agreed

to provide bus transportation from the existing station one mile from the main gate and the VA was satisfied since a road was already available between the Home and the existing Seminole Station. However, the VA accepted the Seaboard's proposal to build a new Seminole Station closer to the Home when the county agreed to assume responsibility for the construction of a new road.

- On January 15, 1933, with construction of the new facility near completion, the Regional Office officially moved from Jacksonville, Florida, to the Veterans Home. Colonel Mizell Bryson was named Manager, a few remaining openings for nurses were announced at a salary of \$1,800 per year and the last position of Dietetic Officer was filled. The new Home, Building 1, (housing the hospital, clinical and administrative offices, kitchen, dining hall and power plant); Building 2 (Male Domiciliary Barracks); and Building 5 (the Nurses Quarters), were officially opened, without cere-

## Student Volunteer Program

Spring has sprung and summer is just around the corner!! Voluntary Service is preparing for another great group of Student Volunteers from the local community. Students ranging from ages 12 through 18 will be working here at Bay Pines this summer, some new, some returning! We will be hosting two orientations: June 3<sup>rd</sup> and June 4<sup>th</sup>.

- The purpose of this worthwhile program is to enable students to gain work-related experience, instill upon them valuable work ethics, and provide them with career explorations. This program allows students to strengthen their leadership skills, managing skills, and also teaches them to become a team player in one of the nation's largest health care systems.
- At our Annual Awards Program (July 30<sup>th</sup>), ten student volunteers will receive Honorable Mention awards complete with plaques and \$100 US



Savings Bonds. One student volunteer will be named Outstanding Student Volunteer of the Year and will be awarded a \$1,500 US Savings Bond, a plaque, and will be nominated for the National James H. Park Memorial Youth Scholarship Award. The winner of this prestigious award will receive a college scholarship to the college of their choice, which is currently valued at approximately \$10,000.00 and an all expense-paid trip to the VAVS National Convention to accept this award.



- Please call me if you have any questions regarding the Student Volunteer Program.

*Maureen M. Flynn  
Student Volunteer Coordinator  
x5466.*

## Welcome Jim Schaller - New Transportation Assistant

Jim Schaller has over 20 year of transportation experience as an EMS Coordinator for Pinellas County. He had two and one half years of federal service prior to working in Voluntary Service. Jim came on board on March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2004 and has been diligently learning the duties and responsibilities as Transportation Assistant.

Transportation to and from our Medical Center has become a very important facet of health treatment for the approved

patients in the Gero-Psych Day Care Treatment Program. These approved veterans would not be able to receive their health care without this volunteer transportation program. This program is vital in improving the health and well being of our veterans who have no other means of transportation.

The transportation program also includes the campus shuttle system. Volunteers drive six-passenger golf carts to pick up and

return veterans to their vehicles to and from the various parking lot areas around the facility.

**Welcome Jim,** we look forward to working with you!



# Calendar of Events

## May 2004

### May 2004

- 7 Executive Committee Meeting  
11:00 a.m., Voluntary Services,  
Conference Room
- 12 VAVS Quarterly Meeting  
9:30 a.m. , Cobb Activity Room
- 21 Student Support Meeting  
10:00 a.m. Auditorium, B 20
- 31 Memorial Day Services,  
Bay Pines Cemetery, 9:00 a.m.  
Guest Speaker, Rep Bill Young

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7 Exec. Com Meeting	8
9 Mother's Day	10	11	12 VAVS Quarterly Meeting	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21 Student Support Meeting	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31 Memorial Day Services					

## June 2004

### June 2004

- 3 Student Volunteer Orientation  
8:00 a.m., Auditorium B 20
- 4 Student Volunteer Orientation  
8:00 a.m., Auditorium B 20
- 4 Executive Committee Meeting  
11:00 a.m., Voluntary Services,  
Conference Room
- 9 - 12 National Advisory Committee Meeting,  
Orlando, Florida
- 11 Reps & Student Social  
8:00 a.m., Cobb Activity Room

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3 Student Volunteer Orientation	4 Student Volunteer Orientation Exec. Com. Meeting	5
6	7	8	9 National Advisory Com Meeting Orlando 9-12	10	11 Reps & Students Social	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 Father's Day	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

## July 2004

### July 2004

- 2 Executive Committee Meeting  
11:00 a.m., Voluntary Services,  
Conference Room
- 4 Independence Day
- 5 Independence Day Observed
- 16 Students Fun Day  
8:00 a.m., TBA
- 30 Student Volunteers Awards  
9:00 a.m., Cobb Activity Room

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 Exec. Com. Meeting	3
4 Independence Day	5 Independence Day Observed	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16 Students Fun Day	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30 Student Volunteer Awards	31

# Memorial Day

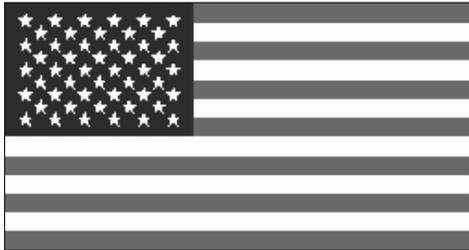
Memorial Day was originally known as Decoration Day because it was a time set aside to honor the nation's Civil War dead by decorating their graves. It was first widely observed on May 30, 1868, to commemorate the sacrifices of Civil War soldiers, by proclamation of General John A. Logan of the Grand Army of the Republic, an organization of former sailors and soldiers.

During the first celebration of Decoration Day, General James Garfield made a speech at Arlington National Cemetery, after which 5,000 participants helped to decorate the graves of the more than 20,000 Union and Confederate soldiers buried in the cemetery.

This 1868 celebration was inspired by local observances of the day in several towns throughout America that had taken place in the three years since the Civil War.

In 1966, the federal government, under the direction of President Lyndon Johnson, declared Waterloo, New York, the official birthplace of Memorial Day. They chose Waterloo—which had first celebrated the day on May 5, 1866—because the town had made Memorial Day an annual, community-wide event during which businesses closed and residents decorated the graves of soldiers with flowers and flags.

By the late 1800s, many communities across the country had begun to celebrate Memorial Day and, after World War I, observances also began to honor those who had died in all of America's wars. In 1971, Congress declared Memorial Day a national holiday to be celebrated the last Monday in May. (Veterans Day, a day set aside to honor all veterans, living and dead, is celebrated each year on November 11.)



Today, Memorial Day marks the unofficial beginning of the summer season in the United States. It is still a time to remember those who have passed on, whether in war or otherwise. It also is a time for families to get together for picnics, ball games, and other early summer activities.

I pledge Allegiance to the flag  
of the United States of America  
and to the Republic for which it stands,  
one nation under God, indivisible,  
with Liberty and Justice for all.



## Eulogy for a Veteran

Do not stand at my grave and weep.  
I am not there, I do not sleep.

I am a thousand winds that blow.  
I am the diamond glints on snow.

I am the sunlight on ripened grain.  
I am the gentle autumn rain.

When you awaken in the mornings hush,  
I am the swift uplifting rush  
of quiet birds in circled flight,  
I am the soft stars that shine at night.

Do not stand at my grave and cry,  
I am not there, I did not die.

*-Author Unknown*



More Pictures from the Awards Ceremony



This year's theme was "Broadway" and we were very fortunate to have as our entertainment, Lillette Jenkins-Wisner (singer-pianist), performing Broadway hits. This year's volunteers contributed over 244,000 hours of service to our veteran patients!



Congratulations to all of our STAR performers - our volunteers



Bay Pines Volunteer News

Photos by Luana Mahone

New Volunteers January 2004 - March 2004

Arnold, Gabriel T  
Bentley, Sandra C  
Bifano, Anthony J  
Bifano, Marguerite A  
Bohan, Edward L  
Bowie, Robert C  
Bradeen, Shaun R  
Bromley, Lillian  
Brunson, James W  
Bundy, John  
Caron, Randall R  
Cecere-Hawk, Pamela J  
Cochrane, Laurie A  
Conroy, Lawrence D  
Curwin, Allistar  
Deason, Cleo

Domzalski, Mary Ann  
Ford, Charley  
Gallagher, Michael  
Gilman, Michael  
Grein, Grant H  
Herman, James E  
Herman, Linda J  
Hill, Stephen H  
Hoener, Dolores  
Johnson, Phyllis  
Keily, William R  
Kerns, Robert  
King, Jeannette M  
Kristall, Peter  
Laskay, Clara

Lewis, Amanda V  
Martin, Lafayette L  
Martinez, Teresa  
Mazzone, Anthony  
McLaren, Dene F  
Morgan, Wayne  
O'Connor, Betty J  
O'Connor, Robert E  
O'Rourke, Alyce  
Pierson, Brian K  
Poulson, Donna J  
Rankine, Robert  
Reilly, Thomas P  
Rivera, Rosa  
Riveron, Sandra

Rodzak, William  
Roy, Norman  
Rumball, Brian N  
Rumball, Maureen S  
Sailer, George  
Shimko, Mary  
Sipes, Ruth E  
Sowinski, Marvin  
Stevensen, Charles  
Streczyk, Stanley  
Taylor, Jo Anne  
Taylor, Kenneth C  
Thatcher, Ellen T  
Thomas, Tim N  
Thompson, Alan

Thompson, Raymond W  
Thornton, Annie L  
Thornton, Franklin  
Trigger, Basil  
Turner, Timothy G  
Valenti, Nancy R  
Vecchioione, Jacqueline D  
Wadatz, William C  
Wallace, William  
Welch, Donald  
Welch, Wayne  
Whitmill, George E  
Wojak, Alicia

Rick Gillette,  
Assistant Chief, Voluntary Services