



MISSOURI VETERANS HOME - WARRENSBURG

1300 Veterans Road
Warrensburg, MO 64093
(660) 543-5064

VAL

Veterans Assistance League
SUPPORTING OUR VETERANS
MISSOURI VETERANS HOME - WARRENSBURG, MISSOURI

www.valwb.org

2014 Vol. 1

Holiday lighting kicks off Christmas season

On Nov. 25, Missouri Veterans Home-Warrensburg hosted its very first Home for the Holidays lighting extravaganza. The Veterans Assistance League purchased new patriotic red, white and blue holiday lights that were on display throughout the holidays and will be turned on for other events at the home.

Veterans, staff and people from the community gathered at an outdoor ceremony and counted down as Aaron and Marlowe Snyder flicked the candy cane switch. Lauren Smith sang Christmas carols as everyone looked at the display. Then the crowd made their way inside and

enjoyed tasty treats and a hot chocolate bar. Children headed to the chapel where they could visit with Santa Claus and make holiday crafts to take home. Even some veterans took the opportunity to sit on Santa's lap. This will be an annual event.

During the holidays, more than \$19,000 was raised for the Tree of Stars. Each veteran received a Christmas present of their choice.

They celebrated with Christmas parties, cookies and Christmas carols. None of this would have been possible without the generous donations of organizations, businesses and individuals.



Aaron and Marlowe Snyder flicked the candy cane switch to kick off the first Home for the Holidays lighting ceremony at the Missouri Veterans Home-Warrensburg.



Veteran Charlie McGaugh tells Santa Claus what he wants for Christmas.



Children of all ages stopped by the Missouri Veterans Home for the lighting ceremony and made a lot of crafts that they could take home.

MORE CHRISTMAS PHOTOS MAY BE FOUND ON PAGE 11

Veterans receive opportunity to relive childhood memories

Harold Arensmeier strolled out of the Missouri Veterans Home-Warrensburg with a big smile on his face. He was the first veteran at the home to take a ride on the newly purchased Go Anywhere tandem bicycle in September. As staff strapped his helmet on and secured him in the front seat, he gave a “thumbs up” and off they went on a ride around the parking lot.

Since then, more than 65 veterans have taken a ride on the bicycle. While the back is an ordinary bike, the front part is designed so a veteran in a wheelchair can take a spin. No matter what age the veteran is a reaction is nearly guaranteed. Proceeds from the Run for Freedom in September allowed the Veterans Assistance League to purchase a second bicycle.

This spring bicycle rides will be a popular outing. The staff in the recreation and restorative departments will train any family member or volunteer how to ride it so they can participate in the fun. For more information, call Melissa Wilson at 660-429-4648.



Jacque Berschauer, director of restorative services, prepares Harold Arensmeier for his first tandem bicycle ride in September.



Sandra Self takes her husband, Riley Self, out for a bike ride.



Administrator Eric Endsley takes veteran Lester Parker for a spin inside Missouri Veterans Home-Warrensburg.



www.valwbg.org
(660) 429-4661

Thank you to our Veterans Assistance League board members:

Marvin Neal, **President**
Nancy Anderson, **Treasurer**
Alex Slocum, **American Legion**
Bryan Lee, **Veterans of Foreign Wars**
Dr. Julie Clawson, **UCM Nursing**
Charlie Rutt, **Mayor of Warrensburg**
Bill Gabel, **County Commissioner**

From the Office of the Administrator, Eric Endsley



Over my seven years as Administrator at Missouri Veterans Home, the one thing that has remained constant is change. This past year has been no different. Over the last year we have lost many of our incredible Veteran residents who became part of our extended family. We have had several of our long-term employees who either helped open the doors of MVH for the first time or who started at MVH in the early years take advantage of the state retirement package and open a new chapter in their lives. Several of our selfless volunteers passed in the year gone by, some of whom lobbied for the Veterans Home to be located in Warrensburg.

With all the losses we've experienced over the year, we have remained positive and looking ahead. With each loss, whether it's from passing, retirement, or relocation, we are given opportunities for new and wonderful experiences. It remains a privilege for us to know, honor, and serve every single Veteran who lives at our Home. It is a joy to work alongside every

employee who shares our Home's passion for serving Veterans and for us to grow and learn together, and it is humbling to continue to have existing and new donors and volunteers continue to support our mission and find new and heart-warming ideas to bring our mission to life each and every day.

Yes, change is constant at the Missouri Veterans Home. Sometimes that change brings great sadness, other times change signals a milestone event. No matter what, the changes we experience shape us and our Home. We must make the best of each change we encounter and know that each time we do, our Home grows stronger. I'm sad for the losses we've experienced this (and every) year, but I'm optimistic about the opportunities that lie ahead of us this new year and the new relationships that will be formed. I'm excited to have my wonderful MVH family alongside me to share in all the new experiences we'll have this year and I'm blessed to lead and serve this organization.

Proud to care for America's Heroes!

**Missouri Veterans Home - Warrensburg
(660) 543-5064**

Department Heads

Eric Endsley, **Administrator**

Kameron Wilson, **Assistant Administrator**

Carla Burlingame, **Accounting**

Christine Hood, **Admissions**

Randy Bright, **Computer Services**

Bethany Coleman, **Dietary**

Aaron Roots, **Environmental Services**

Jeannie Peterson, **Health Information Management**

Tim Hoyer, **Maintenance**

Dr. Syed Hasan, **Medical Director**

Debbie Woirhaye, **Nursing Services**

Rachel Brown, **Personnel**

Stacey McCune, **Purchasing**

Melissa Wilson, **Recreation Therapy**

Glenda Wilcox, **Social Services**

Regina Owens, **Staff Development**

Latisha Koetting, **Volunteer Services**



When Will Theilmann came to the Missouri Veterans Home in August, he found there one thing he truly missed -- a good game of bridge. Members of the Tuesday Night Bridge Club in Springfield wanted to make his wish come true. In October, they made the two-hour trip to the home. They spent the entire afternoon with Will playing cards. They remained in contact over the holidays and now make regular trips to see him.

Cookbook proceeds help veterans attend outings

Allen “Doc” Sapp, an Air Force veteran who lives at Missouri Veterans Home-Warrensburg, wanted to do something to help more veterans be able to attend recreational outings. While some veterans have the money to go on day trips to restaurants, ball games and other places, a lot do not.

In September, he began working on a cookbook filled with 300 recipes from staff, family members and veterans.

They include recipes for appetizers, soups, side dishes, main dishes and desserts.

The book costs \$15 and all proceeds will return to the recreation therapy department for future outings.

Sapp noted the book wouldn’t be possible without the support of the **Veterans Assistance League** and **Melissa Wilson, Megan Fidler, Christine Hood, Rylene Gard, John Lillis** and **Erin Blackwell**.



Pictured above, Veteran George York buys a few cookbooks at a reception held Jan. 13 in the chapel. Books are still available for purchase by calling Melissa Wilson at 660-429-4648.



Memorial and Honor Gifts



Please complete this form to make Memorial and Honor Gifts for the benefit of Veterans at Missouri Veterans Home-Warrensburg. You may designate a specific fund for your contribution below. Your donation helps ensure that our Nation’s Heroes continue to benefit from popular quality of life programs and services.

Enclosed is a gift of \$ _____ to the General Fund.

Enclosed is a gift of \$ _____ to the Employee Appreciation Fund.

Make checks payable to and mail to: Veterans Assistance League, 1300 Veterans Drive, Warrensburg, MO 64093
Or donate online at www.valwbg.org

In Memory of: _____ In Honor of: _____

Occasion for Honor Gift (optional): _____

* Occasion will be noted in recipient’s acknowledgement card

Please let us know who we can inform of your generous gift:

Please provide your information below so we can send you a record of your gift.

Name: _____

Donor’s Name: _____

Address: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

Final Salute

Remembering Our Fallen Heroes



Harry Heimsoth

Nov. 16, 1914 to Oct. 9, 2013



Clyde Schwach

April 6, 1923 to Dec. 7, 2013



Jack Ivey

Aug. 31, 1921 to Oct. 24, 2013



Curtis Quinn

June 1, 1951 to Dec. 9, 2013



Ned Rhoades

April 9, 1931 to Nov. 5, 2013



Bill King

July 21, 1926 to Dec. 12, 2013



James Moore Jr.

Oct. 15, 1932 to Nov. 6, 2013



Hayden Limbocker

Oct. 27, 1924 to Dec. 12, 2013



Jerald Cromer

Jan. 27, 1930 to Nov. 14, 2013



Howard Hensel

Dec. 18, 1937 to Dec. 14, 2013



William Rosser

Jan. 27, 1924 to Nov. 19, 2013



David Pearson

Aug. 22, 1929 to Dec. 18, 2013



Ernest Bishop

Nov. 28, 1929 to Dec. 3, 2013



Robert Carr

July 7, 1925 to Dec. 19, 2013



Harvey Winter

May 12, 1926 to Dec. 3, 2013



Jimmie Weber

April 20, 1923 to Dec. 21, 2013



Oliver Moles

March 24, 1920 to Dec. 7, 2013



Welcome our neighbors

(October to Dec. 31, 2013)



Highland Park

William Sexson
Van Wright
Charles Dilthey

Sleepy Hollow

Albert "Gene" Lionberger
Vance Gover
B.E. Carr

Whispering Hills

Vincent Hugunin
Theodore Ditty
Fred Busker
Tom Smith
Merle Gray
Joe Anderson
Jackie Eiserer

Pleasant Valley

Charles Hanson
Robert Bozeman
Harold Waltmire
George Rea
Elmer Miesner

Mark Your Calendars

Alzheimer's Support Group

10 a.m. Wednesday,
Feb. 12, March 12,
April 19 and May 14

Quarterly Special Care Family Council

9 a.m. March 12 and
June 11

Quarterly Family Council

2:30 p.m. April 16 and
July 16

February

1:15 p.m., Feb. 13,
Chocolate Covered
Strawberries

9:15 a.m. Feb. 14,
Holiday Jackpot
Bingo

11 a.m. Feb. 14,
Homewide carry-in

March

9:15 a.m., March 17,
Holiday Jackpot bingo



Veteran Jay Sheeks, center, puts on his scariest mask while he is surrounded by staff who dressed up for Halloween.

Honor Roll of Donors: Monetary Donations

On behalf of the West Central Veterans Assistance League and the Heroes we serve, we would like to express our heartfelt appreciation for all of the donations we receive. The following list (alphabetic) includes donations received **October through December 2013**. All donations go directly to Veteran programs.

Please accept our apology if you and/or your organization have unintentionally been left off this list.

Up to \$50

Advanced Animal Diagnostics
Alice Moore
American Legion Auxiliary 305
Betty L. Ross
Bob Moise
Cass County Memorial Post 4409
Diane Klossen
Harold Steinbach
Janice Shelby
Jim Bilbruck
Joan Motzel
Jolie Blystone
Lois Gieseke
Order of the Eastern Star, Osage Valley Chapter 502
Paul Magruder
Peggy Brown
Prairie Chapter of DAR 6-093
Rebecca A. Brown
Richard Bruns
Ruth Schwieterman
Sarah E. Trainer
Shan's Inc.
Sharon Wisner
Single Promenaders Square Dance
The Look Hairstyles
Wendell Williams

\$50 to \$199

American Legion Auxiliary 520
American Legion Post 42
American Legion Post 379
Basin Knob Community Club
Betty Akers
Betty Sue Viterna
Bob Carter
Calhoun American Legion Post 566
Cass County Elks Lodge 2791
Cass County Memorial Post 4409
Charlene Wisner
Cindy Terwilliger
Claire L. Deke
Clifford Stock
Clinton Elks Lodge 1034
Corder Memorial Post 4288
Curtis Niemeier
Daughters of the American Revolution, Osage Chapter
David Sisk
David Street

Disabled American Veterans Chapter 67
Elmer Wischmeier
Fleet Reserve, Show Me Branch 32
Fort Osage, Daughters of the American Revolution
4th Infantry Division
Fran Trainer
Frances C. Mann
Geneva L. Grundon
G.L. Noland
Hannah Cole Chapter DAR
Harrisonville Honor Guard
Holden Memorial Ladies Auxiliary 5844
Irene O. Jones
James R. Gregory
Jess Young
John L. Bluma
John E. Culp
Joyce Slocum
Julie Newton
Liberty/Tambo Apartments
Linda E. Delaney
Louise Bassett
Mary Ann Keyser
Missouri Good Sam Military Chapter
Nathaline Z. George
Pamela Williams
Pat Moore
Paula D. Smith
Preferred Futures Inc.
Robert Dotson
Robert and Janice Simpson
Shirley Moore
Shirley White
Stephen Del Vecchio
Terry B. Vogel
Tiemann-Blackburn Auxiliary
VFW Auxiliary 1738
VFW Auxiliary 4195
VFW Auxiliary 5675
VFW Auxiliary 5923
VFW Post 3600
VFW Post 4195
VFW Post 5923
Wayne Maxwell
W.R. Dudte

\$200 to \$499

American Legion Auxiliary 82
American Legion Auxiliary 223
American Legion Auxiliary 286
American Legion Post 491

Christine M. Gail
Donna Gardner
Elizabeth Heidler
Gaila Shaffer
Henry Struchtemeyer
Quentin Henley
Sadie Mapes
Spirit Givers
St. Clair County Republican Women
Sueann Carter
VFW Auxiliary 2591
VFW Auxiliary 3118
VFW Auxiliary 5923
VFW Post 5923
Warrensburg Nagna Leadership Team
Woods Supermarket

\$500 to \$999

American Legion Post 82
Anneliese Schaller
James Camden
Michael J. Moore
Queen City Chapter 10, Disabled American Veterans
Santa Fe Trailers Square Dance Club
South Central Six State Rally Association, Family Motor Coach Association
Vaughn-Hudnall VFW Auxiliary 6603
Walmart Foundation

\$1,000 to \$4,999

Central Missouri Sedalia Harley Owners Group
Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association, MO Chapter 4-5
Community Christian Center- Wellington 40 and 8, Voiture 333
Matthews-Crawford American Legion Post 131
Military Order of the Purple Heart, Chapter 115
St. Peter Grade School Fund
VFW Auxiliary 1894
VFW Post 4195

\$5,000

Schreiber Foods

More than \$100,000

American Legion Post 16

Thank You for your support of Veterans!



Veteran Calvin Southard, right, plays the mandolin while Lloyd “Bud” Matthews plays the banjo during a jam session in October.

Still playing with the band

Calvin Southard may be 88 years old, but he still loves to jam with his band. “We formed the band in 1984 . . . we think,” Southard said with a smile. “Who keeps records, you know?”

Bud Matthews, Don Kendrick, Alvin Cooper and Southard played together for the very first time at the old Baptist Church in the 1980s, opening up for the Lesters. Three of the four original Pickin’ Friends members are still alive.

“We all just like to play music. To some people it may not sound all right, but it sounds all right to us,” Southard said.

They particularly enjoy playing old fiddle tunes like the “Eighth of January” and “Coming Down from Denver.”

Though Southard learned how to play the guitar by ear when he was young, he decided he wanted to play something different. That’s when he spotted a mandolin and fell in love with it.

“I didn’t have any lessons,”

he said. “Now whether or not I play it right or not, I don’t know. I make music with it anyhow.”

Southard noted they are all ear musicians. They don’t read sheet music and never practiced before a gig.

They used to play about seven gigs a month at the Warrensburg Senior Center, local nursing homes, Mazzio’s Pizza once a month and New Hope Baptist Church.

Though the band has retired from playing around town, the members still find time to visit Southard at the Missouri Veterans Home to play music. The band members range in age from the mid-70s to late 80s.

“We are such a diverse group yet we’ve never ever had a cross word between any of us. Nobody has ever said ‘you didn’t play that right,’” said Southard. “We have a good time. We always did.”

He is looking forward to the band returning to the home in February.

Winter birthdays

JANUARY

Leslie Daugherty
Okal Embry
V.B. Eckhoff
Hubert Wilkens
Gene Thompson
James Miller
James Minnick
William Krebeck
Allan Thompson
Merle Gray
Theodore Ditty
Joseph Hebert
Ricky Pendarvis
Curtis Jenkins
James Wallace
Edwin Kleiman

Ralph Deke
William Dick
David Lesh
Odis Duncan
Harold Finley
Jesse Bagby
Bernard Dove
Fred Brinkman
Andrew Smith

MARCH

James Shannon
Samuel Briscoe
Virgil Todd
Henry Stanley
Tom Smith
Richard Jung
Robert Brockman
Lorenzo Williams
Don Justesen
Michael Boan
Calvin Southard
Robert Rhoads
Charles Burton
William Sexson
Dean Roberts
Robert Van Erp
Michael Foster

FEBRUARY

George Goldsmith
James Carroll
Frank Lyon
Lester Parker
Dorvin Green
Rex Holzhauser
Dean Peters
Van White
Elmer Miesner



To Send a Birthday Card:

Veteran’s Name
c/o Missouri Veterans Home
1300 Veterans Road
Warrensburg, MO 64093

Mark Your Calendars

March

11 a.m., March 29: Volunteer Banquet, American Legion Post 131, Warrensburg. For more information, call Latisha Koetting at 660-429-4661.

April

10 a.m., April 4: Casino Trip
10 a.m., April 19: Third annual Easter Egg Hunt
2:15 p.m. April 24: Special prize bingo

Veteran's Spotlight

Frank Probst Jr. enlisted in the service in July 1942 at the age of 17.

"My brother was drafted so I thought I'd get in there before they drafted me. I made a mistake," he said. "When I got in there, I thought they were going to keep me in the United States. They didn't."

After basic training with the Coast Guard, he was reassigned to a special forces group that assisted the 41st Infantry Division. He did 16 weeks of specialized training. The focus was on how to knock out communication systems so the enemy wouldn't know the Allies were coming. He then boarded a ship to Humboldt Bay, New Guinea. It took 21 days to get there. He did additional training learning the art of search and destroy.

"I was just frightened -- especially going off the landing boat onto the beach. All open space, all those guns firing at you - it wasn't easy," he said.

During his service time, he traveled 2,000 miles from New Guinea, up to Leyte and the Philippines. He was part of the battles in Saipan, Tinian, Biak Island and the Philippines.

He said the scariest part was all the bombs. Before he hit land, he witnessed four ships sink in the harbor after they were hit by torpedoes and land mines.

"That was a horrible thing. I used to have nightmares about that," he said.

He was always on the move. He carried a 60-pound backpack and a rifle was his weapon. He rarely slept, but when he did, it was on the ground.

"We went in three days before the main invasion," he said. "We got the area ready for MacArthur to return. He came in on a cruiser---the USS Nashville. He wouldn't travel by air."

Though Probst never met Gen. Douglas MacArthur in person, he was able to see him speak.



"It took six days before they finally got enough troops in there to stabilize the country," Probst said.

One of the things Probst is proud about is that he was instrumental in capturing seven Japanese soldiers. He credits the flame thrower for forcing the men to come out from their hiding spots with their hands in the air.

"What made it bad was we were up in an area that we had to hold the prisoners over night and wait for the Navy to come and pick them up," he said. "We told the interpreter, if any of them started leaving, we'd gun them down. That's what we did."

Though it was difficult to shoot the enemy, he knew if he didn't, he would be the one killed. During his time in service, he suffered numerous injuries including being hit by a mortar in his knee.

He eventually got to board a troop ship headed to Seattle. He was one of the first men on board. He decompressed in the mountain air, before he was able to go back home. He didn't tell his mother he was coming. He simply walked into the house with his backpack on and surprised her. She was very glad to see him.

"What made it so bad was when you came back, you had nightmares, night sweats, flashbacks. You just couldn't get away from all those nightmares. You'd be sleeping and the next thing you know, you'd wake up and be rolling down a hill trying to get away from the gunfire," he said.

After his time in the service, he attended St. Louis Community College and worked for Social Security for 25 years. He has two sons, two grandsons and several great-grandchildren.

Honor Roll of Donors: Material Donations

On behalf of the West Central Veterans Assistance League and the Heroes we serve, we would like to express our heartfelt appreciation for all of the donations received. The following list includes donations received **October thru December 2013**. For donations of material items, please call Latisha Koetting in Volunteer Services at (660) 429-4661 to ensure there is a current need for the item or to request a list of current items on the Veteran "Wish List".
Please accept our apology if you and/or your organization have unintentionally been left off this list.

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| 442nd Medical Squadron, Air Force Reserve | Show Me Branch 32 | Mary Butsch |
| American Legion Auxiliary 131 | Fort Osage, DAR | Mary A. McKinney |
| American Legion Auxiliary 189 | Gary Uttech | Mell Thornburg |
| American Legion Auxiliary 223 | Gerald D. Allen and Driver families | Midwest Chapter, 4th Infantry Division Association |
| American Legion Auxiliary 258 | Guardsman Security | Mike Acres |
| American Legion Auxiliary 305 | Hannah Cole Chapter | Nicholas White |
| American Legion Auxiliary 498 | Henry County Cattleman's Association | Pam Poland |
| American Legion Auxiliary 596 | Hickman Mills Memorial Post 598 | Pettis County R-XII School |
| American Legion Auxiliary 642 | Immaculate Conception School, O'Fallon | R. D. Wilson |
| American Legion Post 520 | Independence Pioneers Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution | Reylene Gard |
| American Legion Post 596 | James D. Rudy | Riverbend School, Pacific, MO |
| Bill Carey, Marine Corps League | Jane Luper | Ron Haas |
| Bill Ketcherside | Jean Pearson | Rose M. Smith |
| Brenda Campbell | Jerry Ferguson | Russell L. Perkins |
| Carl and Vera Allman | Jim Bilbruck | Shelby Seelinger |
| Carol Headley | John Hinz | Shirley Flaharty |
| Carol A. Loveall | John Skajcar | Steven Hayes |
| Carolyn Worthley | Johnson County | Tela Gough, Harrisonville Elementary School |
| Catherine Miller | Karen Black Republican Women's Club | The Cellular Connection "Verizon" |
| Charles L. Scott | Kathy Jadlow | Tim Murphy |
| Christine M. Gail | Ken O'Dell | Todd Dale |
| Chris Hile | Kim Stone | Vaughn-Hudnall VFW Auxiliary 6603 |
| Cole Camp Elementary | Larry Hardison | VFW Ladies Auxiliary 2591 |
| Danial Burford | Linda Empson | VFW Ladies Auxiliary 3118 |
| Daniel Coleman | Lis Marr | VFW Ladies Auxiliary 3600 |
| Dara Yeager | Louise Bassett | VFW Ladies Auxiliary 5789 |
| DAR-Clinton | Madonna M. Olson | VFW Ladies Auxiliary 5844 |
| Davis XII School | Maretta White | VFW Adrian Post 1935 |
| Debbie Ware | Margie Davis | VFW Post 3600 |
| Debra Johnson | Marie Benz | Virgie Jackson |
| Ellie Carter | Marlene Williams | Warrensburg Elks Lodge 673 |
| Eloise Rutledge | | |
| Faith & Hope Extension Mt. Zion | | |
| First Baptist Church Women on Missions | | |
| Fleet Reserve Association, | | |

96	Army	2	Navy Women	1	Coast Guard
2	Army Women	46	Air Force		Women
9	Marines	1	AF Women		
39	Navy	2	Coast Guard		

Current Census

STAFF CORNER

Employee of the Month



Eric Endsley, left, administrator of MVH-Warrensburg, and Larry Kay, right, executive director of the Missouri Veterans Commission, honor Cynthia Mullins for her excellent work.

Cynthia Mullins, Food Service Helper I for Missouri Veterans Home-Warrensburg, was selected as the September 2013 Missouri Veterans Commission Employee of the Month.

Cynthia was nominated by her peers and selected not only because of her excellent work in the Missouri Veterans Home dietary department, but also for her efforts to work efficiently and responsibly with the veterans on a daily basis.

In addition to her regular duties, Cynthia is very knowledgeable of the veterans recommended diets and has been proactive in presenting new ideas to her supervisors, being instrumental in searching out best practices in performing tasks in the dietary department.

In an outstanding example of going above her normal duties, a veteran began choking while at breakfast and Cynthia reacted swiftly to his distress, helping clear his airway quickly requiring no additional intervention by the house supervisor. Cynthia's willingness to aid a veteran in need shows her commitment to residents at the Warrensburg Veterans Home.

She was honored at a ceremony on Sept. 23 at the home.

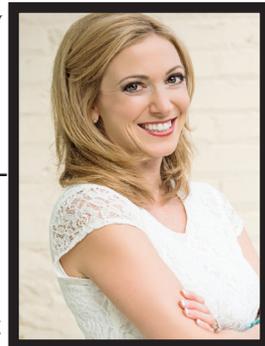
Eaton named Female Veteran of the Year

Jennifer Eaton, former communications coordinator at Missouri Veterans Home-Warrensburg, was named the 2013 Female Veteran of the Year by the Missouri Veterans Commission.

Eaton was selected for her prior accomplishments as an active duty Air Force officer and Air Force civil servant, as well as for recent work with the Veterans Assistance League (VAL) board of directors and Missouri Veterans Home~Warrensburg.

"I can think of no candidate more deserving than Jen," said Eric Endsley, Missouri Veterans Home-Warrensburg administrator. "For the past four years, Jen has used her public relations savvy to improve quality of life for our 200 veteran heroes. She has championed initiatives that require substantial community support in the form of donations, community awareness and volunteer participation."

Endsley noted that Eaton is also credited with bringing the nonprofit VAL



board into the 21st century

Through her vision and direction, VAL launched an official website, became online event registration capable, equipped itself with a long term strategic communication plan, and increased awareness about the importance of honoring the men and women who served our nation.

Eaton said the award is truly an honor. "It makes me happy to think that my grandpa, a decorated World War II veteran, and my hero, is looking down and smiling from above," she said.

She was honored during a ceremony in Jefferson City at the Capitol Building.

Koetting honored as Parade Grand Marshal



Latisha Koetting, director of volunteer services, was selected to be the grand marshal of the Veterans Day Parade in Sedalia by 40 & 8, Voiture 333. They chose her for this honor because of the work she has done for veterans the past 14 years.



Veteran Bill Dick tells Santa what is on his list.



Hank Stucker shows a stack of Christmas cards he received in one day. Thousands of cards were delivered over the holiday.



Carmen So, right, visits with Veteran Bill Watson at the Christmas party.



Veteran Shirley Ballew, right, wants Jacquie Berschauer, director of restorative therapy, to taste the sweet holiday cookies.



Veteran Charles Gillum holds a Christmas stocking he received filled with goodies as Deb Brumble, MDS coordinator, stops to visit him.



Veteran Frank Lyon lights up as Santa stops by Pleasant Valley for a visit.



Verizon - The Cellular Connection in Warrensburg donated a 16 GB iPad and Defender Otterbox to Missouri Veterans Home-Warrensburg on Dec. 17. This donation is valued at more than \$700. Cellular Connection employees served cookies and coffee to veterans and taught Missouri Veterans Home staff members how to use Skype. This will allow veterans to connect with family members who are out of town or out of state. Seated on the front row is Veteran Harold Jones, who frequently uses Skype to visit with his children.

Below are some items requested by the Veterans Assistance League. If donating, make checks payable to Veterans Assistance League, 1300 Veterans Road, Warrensburg, MO 64093.

Your support is appreciated!

General Fund:

- * Special needs and requests by Veterans.
- * Ongoing Veteran programs such as: free soft-serve ice cream (over \$5,000 yearly), postage stamps, local bus transportation, and special dinners.

Recreation & Activities Fund:

- * Special entertainment and outings.
- * Our veterans love Chester's flavored puffcorn for snacks at happy hour. All varieties are welcome.
- * Sponsor \$25 in prizes for an additional monthly Bingo.
- * Sponsor \$100 in prizes for monthly "Price is Right."

Employee Appreciation Fund:

- * Employee of the Month & Employee of the Year \$25 cash award.
- * Modest gifts for exceptional employee performance.
- * Inexpensive door prizes & snacks for monthly meetings.



Return Service Requested

West Central Missouri Veterans
Home Assistance League
Missouri Veterans Home
1300 Veterans Road
Warrensburg, MO 64093



NONPROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Warrensburg, MO
PERMIT #10