



## 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](http://www.valwb.org)  
2015 Vol. 2

# Scramble for Freedom brings in \$12,000

The West Central Missouri Veterans Assistance League (VAL) raised more than \$12,000 for the bus fund at the 12th annual Scramble for Freedom Golf Tournament on June 7 at Royal Oaks Golf Course at Whiteman Air Force Base.

For the first time, one of the Home's Veterans sounded off the air horn for the shot-gun start. One hundred and 28 golfers from West Central Missouri, Eastern Kansas and Southern Iowa attended this year's event.

Team Ringer from Odessa won the A Flight with a score of 56. Team Bi-Lo from Warrensburg won Flight B with a score of 66. Dustin Gray's team won Flight C with a score of 70. Team Bi-Lo added an unexpected twist by donating their winnings back to the Missouri Veterans Home.

Brad Haggard won the putting contest. Mindy Coyle and John Ingram won the closest to the pin and Shawn Graham had the longest putt. David Henderson won the Kansas City Chiefs football and Joe Eccleton was the winner of the golf raffle.

One of the highlights of this year's tournament was the golf cart sponsorship. Latisha Koetting, Director of Volunteer Services, invited people to sponsor a cart in honor or in memory of their favorite Veteran and submit their service photo. A record 82 golf carts were sponsored by

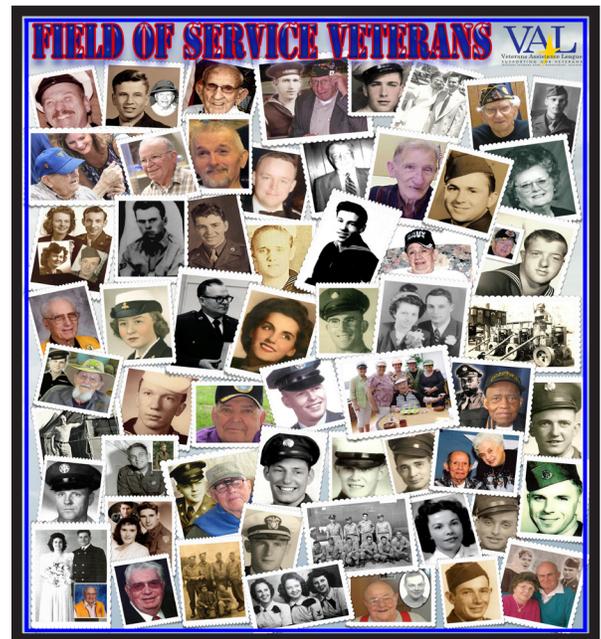
individuals, organizations and businesses from all over Missouri.

University of Central Missouri President Chuck Ambrose drove a golf cart with a photo of World War II Navy Veteran Arthur Barnett on it. Barnett lives at the Missouri Veterans Home and was sponsored by the VFW Ladies Auxiliary in his hometown of Holden. Midway through the tournament, Barnett surprised Ambrose by attending the tournament with his daughter and granddaughter.

When Barnett was asked how it felt to be on the president's golf cart, he replied with a smile, "I wasn't on the president's cart, he was on mine!"

The support of corporate sponsors also played a key factor in the event's success. They included Blue Demon, LammTech and McCarthy Toyota, all out of Sedalia, along with the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5925 in Lincoln.

"I was really speechless with this year's results. I did not realize we could do this well," said VAL President Marvin Neal. "We've been blessed. We had the turnout of our good friends, some who have been with us since the tournament first began. We had a beautiful day and our golf committee did a tremendous job."



**Pictured on top is a collage of service photos collected through golf cart sponsorships. Pictured below is World War II Navy Veteran Arthur Barnett surprising Chuck Ambrose, president of the University of Central Missouri, with a visit to the golf course to see his cart.**

MORE PHOTOS MAY BE FOUND ON PAGE 15

# Volunteers honored at banquet



The Veterans Assistance League hosted the annual volunteer recognition banquet on April 18 at American Legion Post 131 in Warrensburg. This year, four different awards were presented. Allen “Doc” Sapp received the Veteran Volunteer of the Year Award. He passed away May 14 at the age of 82.



Allen Cline, of Odessa, received the first-year Volunteer of the Year Award. Derald Albertson, of Chilhowee, received the Volunteer of the Year Award and the Warrensburg Elks were named the Volunteer Group of the Year.



To see more photos and read more information about the banquet, visit page 11.

Pictured top is Allen Cline and pictured below is Chris Holtzen with the Warrensburg Elks.



Pictured top are Latisha Koetting, Director of Volunteer Services, Allen “Doc” Sapp and Melissa Wilson, Director of Recreational Therapy. Pictured below is Derald Albertson receiving the Veterans Volunteer Service Award from Lt. Gov. Peter Kinder on March 11 at the Capitol.



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
- Ross Chambers, Veterans of Foreign Wars
- Dr. Julie Clawson, UCM Nursing
- Robin Allen, Mayor of Warrensburg
- Bill Gabel, County Commissioner

# From the Office of the Administrator, Eric Endsley

Sometimes when we talk about volunteering, serving the community, giving our time to help others, it is perceived as an “extra” thing we do. Not a necessary part of life, but more like a little insurance policy that may benefit us in the future or serve as something to fill our time. I challenge you to look at volunteerism and community service in a different way; to see through the eyes of a business leader the importance of volunteerism. Consider for a moment what our world might be like, given the following:

Pretend that all the volunteers simply disappeared, and there was no one left on earth but the non-volunteers and individuals who depend on others for assistance. In this scenario, 65 million people who volunteered last year in the U.S. would be gone; one-third of those would be 45 and older, another third would be between the ages of 35 and 44 and the final third of those would be teenagers.

We would obviously be missing our uncompensated elected officials, community leaders, boards of directors/trustees who lead not-for-profit organizations of all sizes, National Service Volunteers, the AmeriCorps members who meet critical needs in education, the environment, public safety, homeland security and other human services, and countless others.

If all our volunteers were to disappear, it would be up to the 20-year-olds to start volunteering, because 80% of them would be left behind to nurture a “volunteer-less” world. I wonder what this

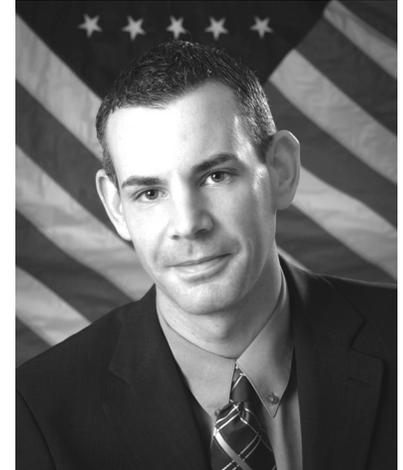
kind of world would be like; how well we have equipped our youth to recognize and take up worthwhile causes and make a difference.

In a volunteer-less world, the cost of education would be higher as schools struggled to fill gaps left by tutors, mentors and coaches. Literacy rates would drop. There would scarcely be any youth sporting events, bake sales, or field trips to the symphony. The hungry would be at greater risk for starvation; the elderly, just like those men and women in our Veterans Home, would have even more time alone. Blood banks would dry up. Hospitalized children would have no books, puzzles or toys, and there would be no money raised for researching and fighting cancer, stroke or muscular dystrophy.

Church services would all but cease because there would be no one to sing in the choir or to teach Sunday school and approximately four out of five charities would lose their entire workforce.

As one can see, a world without volunteers would be a dismal one. We are blessed to have a thriving culture of volunteerism in America, which is abundantly evident at the Missouri Veterans Home-Warrensburg.

Volunteers are integral to the success of the not-for-profit business model, they a component of—or the entire—labor force, they serve as ambassadors of the organization to the community and stakeholders, they generate untold donations; in short, they make the difference in Mission-driven organizations. In ex-



change for their time and efforts, volunteers reap the rewards of service above self.

Volunteering has been proven to have multiple positive effects on the emotional and physical health and professional development of the volunteer, is good for business and the community.

Volunteers are the difference-makers, we must treasure our difference-makers, demonstrate to them how they are making a difference, and develop the difference-makers of tomorrow.

Thank you, each and every volunteer—and we are fortunate to have many of you— at our Veterans Home.

Your service improves the quality of life of each Veteran in our care and enhances the working environment for our many care-giving professionals.

## *Proud to care for America's Heroes!*

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

### **Department Heads**

Eric Endsley, **Administrator**  
Jamie McCannon, **Assistant Administrator**  
Carla Burlingame, **Accounting**  
Christine Hood, **Admissions**  
Randy Bright, **Computer Services**

Bethany Coleman, **Dietary**  
Nancy Profer, **Environmental Services**  
Jeannie Peterson, **Health Information Management**  
Tim Hoyer, **Maintenance**  
Dr. Syed Hasan, **Medical Director**  
Debbie Woirhaye, **Director of Nursing Services**  
Rachel Brown, **Personnel**  
Stacey McCune, **Purchasing**  
Melissa Wilson, **Recreation Therapy**  
Glenda Wilcox, **Social Services**  
Julie Pare, **Staff Development**  
Latisha Koetting, **Volunteer Services**

# Birthdays



## APRIL

Lilburn Snow  
Gordon Rauber  
Kenneth Cunningham  
Diamond Prichard  
Fred Busker  
B.B. Henley  
George York  
Eric Statler

Thomas Birdwell  
Louis Smethers  
Lorin Davis  
B.E. Carr  
Jimmie Williams  
Dewell Bryant  
Leland Mueller  
Donald Tilman  
William Reed  
Ray Talbott

Frank Probst  
Harold Mills  
Gerald Dwyer  
Charles Mueller  
Sonny Morris  
Shirley Ballew  
Charles Gant  
Robert Jacques

## MAY

Irvin Brabant  
King Roberson  
Robert Wilson  
Lawrence Shier  
John Mitchel  
Wayne Lefler  
Wayne Bradshaw

## JUNE

Richard Crews  
David Childs  
Leroy Braum  
Dennis Mamer  
Bobby Law  
Russell Westerhold  
Robert Morehead

## JULY

George Powers  
Jackie Eiserer  
Steven Sellon  
Van Wright  
Cecil Bondurant  
Robeson Moise  
Dean Anderson  
Andrew Readore  
Henry Stucker



**Medena Draffen, Registered Nurse Unit Manager for the Missouri Veterans Home – Warrensburg, was selected as the Missouri Veterans Commission Employee of the Month for March. She was honored at a ceremony on March 20 at the Home with family, staff and Veterans.**



## 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 Road, Warrensburg, MO 64093  
Or donate online at [www.valwbg.org](http://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



### Mark Your Calendars

#### Alzheimer's Support Group

10 a.m. Wednesday,  
Aug. 12, Sept. 9 and  
Oct. 14.

#### Quarterly Family Council

2:30 p.m. Oct. 21 and  
Jan. 20.

#### Edwin Wilkinson

Dec. 30, 1920, to Jan. 1, 2015



#### Andy Smith

Feb. 28, 1928, to March 9, 2015



#### Rex Holzhauser

Feb. 19, 1922, to Jan. 2, 2015



#### Billy Anson

Feb. 14, 1928, to March 16, 2015



#### Nicholas Mikus

Aug. 6, 1921, to Jan. 3, 2015



#### Harvey Moore

Oct. 13, 1931, to March 21, 2015



#### Harrell Nicholson

Nov. 24, 1936, to Jan. 4, 2015



#### Bernard Kleoppel

Oct. 10, 1932, to March 23, 2015



#### Robert Dennis

Dec. 17, 1914, to Jan. 10, 2015



#### Donald Proctor

Jan. 13, 1924, to Jan. 15, 2015



#### Roscoe Burkhart

Sept. 3, 1921, to Jan. 24, 2015



#### William Krebeck

Jan. 13, 1919, to Jan. 26, 2015



#### Lloyd Rogers

Aug. 24, 1928, to Jan. 27, 2015



#### Patrick Simpson

Dec. 15, 1926, to Jan. 28, 2015



#### Dale Hartley

Aug. 31, 1926, to Feb. 3, 2015



#### Riley Self

July 2, 1941, to Feb. 8, 2015



#### Elmer Miesner

Feb. 19, 1937, to Feb. 12, 2015



#### Ted Ditty

Jan. 21, 1926, to Feb. 26, 2015



#### Francis Hensley

March 1, 1929, to Feb. 28, 2015



Veterans of Foreign Wars Men's Auxiliary 5675 from Odessa raised \$5,500 at their annual poker walk and presented it to Marvin Neal, president of the Veterans Assistance League, and Latisha Koetting, Director of Volunteer Services, at the Scramble for Freedom.

### Current Census

Army	98
Army Women	3
Navy	46
Navy Women	2
Air Force	36
Air Force Women	1
Marines	11
Coast Guard	1

### Special events

**SAVE THE DATE!!!**

**Family Day is coming  
Saturday, Sept. 12.  
Plan to spend the day  
at our annual fall  
festival with your  
Veteran!**

# 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 **January through March 2015. 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**

American Legion Ladies  
Auxiliary 305 – Cole  
Camp  
American Legion Post  
566 - Calhoun  
Annie Albright  
Anonymous  
Beatrice Jewell  
Benevity Community  
Impact Fund  
Betty Hall  
Blake Turner  
Blanche Sadler  
Bob and Aileen Moise  
Bob Ramey  
Bonita Townsend  
Brenda Blevins  
Caroline Arensmeier  
Charles Lowe  
Cheryl Pardoe  
Concordia School District  
Connie Occhipinto  
C.R. Broyles  
Crystal Mittelhauser  
Dale and Patty Jasper  
Daniel and Beverly  
Bryson  
David and Linda Johnson  
David Sisk  
Deidre Esquivel  
Dell's Powersports Inc.  
Delores Waclawik  
Donald and Elizabeth  
Norwat  
Donald and Dorothy  
Purtle  
Dudley Gillapsy  
Edward Kowalczk  
Elaine West  
Elmer Eilers  
Faith Preschool  
F & C Bank  
Floyd Self

Fox Funeral Home  
Gene and Janet Rhodes  
Glen Felde  
Greater Horizons  
Herbert and Coleene  
Mittelhauser  
James and Monica Brant  
James Kammeyer  
James Holloway  
James Voletti  
James and Elizabeth  
Webb  
James and Martha Webb  
Jennifer Corey  
Jerome Bartles  
Jerry and Mary Alice  
Shull  
Joe Knobbe  
Joe Spellerberg  
John and Patricia Gamble  
John Jr. and Karen Kittell  
Joyce Voletti  
Julia Dove  
Karan Dennis  
Keith Kellogg  
Keith Rowland  
Keith Scheel  
Kenneth and Terri Combs  
Kent Jewett  
Kerry Rowland  
Kevin and Loletta Combs  
Lafayette-Lexington  
DAR Chapter  
Landon and Leticia Hall  
Linda Delaney  
Linda Dennis  
Linda North  
Linda Pulse  
Loren Prange  
Marie Thompson  
Marilyn Scherer  
Marion Hall  
Martin Phillips  
Mary Spellerberg

Mary Stevens  
Mary Ann Reyburn  
Mary Ruth Bateman  
Melvin Stewart  
Nancy St. Cyre  
Odessa Automotive  
Repair  
Pamela Williams  
Pete Phillips  
Raffaele Monetti  
Ramey Construction Co.  
Inc.  
Robert Hopkins  
Robert and Virginia  
Hoskins  
Robert and Phyllis May  
Robin and Linda Dennis  
Roger and Jolene  
Adkisson  
Rosalee Northway and  
Tanya Nicholson  
Rose Marie Sprague  
Ruby Williams  
Russell Bradbury  
Sacred Heart Church  
Sandra Parkhurst  
Sandra Wagoner  
Shirley Hurst  
St. Paul's United Church  
of Christ  
Stephanie Ricard  
Stephen and Bonnie Hills  
Susan Devries  
Susan and Melvin Phillips  
Sue Sterling  
Thomas Independent  
Plumbing LLC  
VFW Ladies Auxiliary  
2591 - Sedalia  
VFW Ladies Auxiliary  
8828 - Troy  
Virginia Templeton  
Walter Loeber  
Wayne and Delores

Ebeling  
Wayne and Patsy Groom  
W.R. Dudte

## **\$51 to \$199**

Allen Sapp  
American Legion Post 42  
– Harrisonville  
American Legion Post  
286 – Odessa  
Andrew West  
Anne and Steven King  
Anonymous  
Auto Color and  
Equipment  
Belton Lions Club  
Carole Culbertson  
Cecil and Linda Gerke  
Clinton Elks Lodge 1034  
Dee Zook  
Dodie Maurer  
Donald and Lupe  
Ostrolencki  
Doug Crews  
Gregg Smith Ford  
Lincoln Inc.  
Harrisonville Honor  
Guard  
James Wikstrom  
Janice, Jim and Linda  
Reed  
Jeffrey and Cynthia  
Sullivan  
Jerry and Dana Dwyer  
John and Susan Newsam  
Joyce Voletti  
Justin and Michelle May  
Little Blue River Chapter  
of DAR  
Mary Kirchhoff  
Prairie Ridge Chapter of  
DAR

**Continued on page 10**

# ELKS STEP UP AND HELP WITH BUS FUND



Sedalia Elks Lodge 125 donated \$750 to the bus fund at the volunteer banquet. Pictured from left are Doug Tilman, past exalted ruler, trustee and member of the Veteran Services Committee; Eric Endsley, Administrator of the Missouri Veterans Home; Latisha Koetting, Director of Volunteer Services; Virgil Kurtz, past exalted ruler and member of the Veteran Services Committee and Kathy Baron, past exalted ruler and leading knight.



The Central Missouri Veterans Association recently presented a check for \$4,000 to the Veterans Assistance League to be used for activities, ice cream in the canteen and presents for Christmas. The money was raised at the annual fall cook-out held on the lawn of the Pettis County Courthouse in Sedalia. Pictured are cooks Charles Opfer and Gary Wulff, with Latisha Koetting, Director of Volunteer Services. Seated is Veteran Dannie Wulff.

The Cass County Elks Lodge 2791 in Harrisonville held a dance to raise money for the bus fund. On top are some of the band members who performed for the event. From right are Monty Tatom, Gary Milligan, Darren Chumley Vance Hammonds, Rob Milligan, Jess Richardson, Bubba Green, Marvin Cave and Jack Curtis. They will host another dance on Aug. 22.

Below, Cass County Elks Bill Thomas, right, and Harvey Knox, presented a check for \$1,500 to Latisha Koetting, Director of Volunteer services at the Missouri Veterans Home, and Chris Holtzen, member of the Warrensburg Elks Lodge who started the "Kneeling for our Veterans" bus campaign. Not pictured are Elks Earl Sanford and Sandy Riley.

# Navy medical technician fights for his life

By Latisha Koetting

Though the Japanese believed Alfred Rueb was dead, he dug in deep and held onto his life.

“I was 21 years old when the war broke out, so they said you’re going in. No drafting,” Rueb said. “They said would you like to go into the Army, the Navy or the Air Force?” He thought about this choice hard. He associated the Army with foxholes and dirt and wanted no part of that. He then thought about the Navy.

“I kind of liked the water, but I didn’t want to drown either. I couldn’t swim,” he said. Eventually, living a cleaner life won out and he chose the Navy.

## LEARNING TO SWIM

Rueb went to Great Lakes, Ill., for basic training. When the commanding office asked if he could swim, he confessed and said no. A Marine looked at him and said, “We have an Olympic-sized swimming pool here at Great Lakes. We’re going to teach you to swim.”

They lined up all the men who couldn’t swim on one side of the pool and the ones who could on the other. A Marine was told to stand behind each of the non-swimmers.

All of a sudden, the men heard a booming voice that said, “Jump in you (expletives) each and every one of you!” So, they jumped into the water. Rueb would have drowned had the Marine behind him not jumped in and saved him.

“We did that every day until we could swim the length of that Olympic-sized swimming pool. When we could swim the length of that, we were dismissed,” Rueb said.

He was trained to be a medical technician and learned how to treat and sew up wounds. He served a total of four and a half years and spent most of his time on the USS South Dakota, a big battleship.

## THE MISSION

His convoy was given the mission to stop by the islands in the South Pacific and make sure no Japanese were there. The first wave of men cleared the island, while the second wave served as back-up and tended to the wounded.



“On some of the islands, we were in heavy, hellish firefighting,” Rueb said. “Then we’d get back on the boat and island hopped gradually, day-by-day to head toward Japan.”

## IWO JIMA

The fight at Iwo Jima was different and far more intense. The Americans knew it was an island of big rocks. They had good intel that a lot of the Japanese had living quarters underneath the rocks. As the Americans began making their way onto the island, the Japanese started shooting.

“My God they had fire power. They had way more than we had so we had to retreat,” Rueb said. Because he was a medical technician, he was on foot and not in a vehicle. The Japanese saw this as an opportunity and ran over him with one of their big vehicles.

Rueb laid there for two days and two nights unconscious with a skull fracture, broken hip, pelvis, ankle, rib and shoulder.

“Our troops went in and took the island but 1,000 of our men were killed before we got control of it,” said Rueb. It was when the Japanese retreated that one American soldier noticed Rueb laying there breathing. They placed him in a vehicle and took him back to the ship. He was unconscious for a week, before he came to.

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His friends told him that the Japanese would shoot the Americans through the cracks in the rocks. The Americans asked the Japanese to surrender and they refused.

The Americans stuffed all of the cracks with insulation material and took the big vehicles and put their exhaust inside the holes. When all was silent, they opened the door and discovered 2,000 dead Japanese soldiers in there who didn't want to be taken hostage.

Rueb was sent to Honolulu, where he got a steel hip. His shoulder injury was agonizing and bothered him for the rest of his life.

"The worst part is here I am talking about my hardest part but what about all those poor guys that were killed? Those are the ones that you really have to feel sorry for," he said.

Because he was injured so badly, he could not work for two years. He later went to dental school and became a dentist. Despite the heartache he experienced during the war, Rueb is incredibly proud of his service.







**The Veterans Assistance League  
will host its 13th annual**

# RUN FOR FREEDOM 5K, 10K AND POKER WALK

**on Saturday, Sept. 26, 2015 at the  
Missouri Veterans Home in Warrensburg.**

**Registration begins at 8 a.m. Race begins at 9 a.m.  
Professional Timing services and USATF certified.**

<p><u>Entry fees</u></p> <p><b>5K Run, \$20</b></p> <p><b>10K Run, \$25</b></p> <p><b>Poker Walk, \$15</b></p> <p><i>First- through third-place awards in 12 age and gender groups.</i></p>	<p><u>Online registration at</u> <b>2015valrun.eventbrite.com.</b> Forms are available at Warrensburg Chamber of Commerce, 100 S. Holden, or the Missouri Veterans Home, 1300 Veterans Road. For more information, call Latisha Koetting at 660-429-4661 or email <b>Latisha.Koetting@MVC.dps.mo.gov.</b></p>
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**All proceeds will be used by VAL to benefit the lives of the 200 veterans who live at the Missouri Veterans Home-Warrensburg.**

## Participants and sponsors needed for Run for Freedom

The 13th annual Run for Freedom will be Sept. 26 at the Missouri Veterans Home.

This is the Veterans Assistance League's biggest fundraiser of the year. All proceeds will go to the bus fund.

This is a great opportunity for families and friends to partici-

pate in this event with our Veterans.

Last year, a record 50 Veterans were part of the poker walk. Registration will begin at 8 a.m. and the race will start at 9 a.m. The cost is \$20 for the 5K, \$25 for the 10K and \$15 for the poker walk.

To register online,

visit **2015valrun.eventbrite.com.**

To receive a shirt, participants must be registered by Sept. 17.

Organizations and businesses interested in being a sponsor should call Latisha Koetting, Director of Volunteer Services, at 660-429-4661.

**Welcome  
our new  
Neighbors**  
(January to  
March)

**Highland Park**

Dannie Wulff  
Kenneth Gatley  
Gary Hurd  
Dennis Garber

**Whispering Hills**

Edwin Crawford  
Herbert Ring  
Gerald Dawson  
Kenneth Wilfong  
Frank Kandlbinder  
Johnny Gess

**Sleepy Hollow**

Howard Norwat  
Ronald Vaughn  
John Naple  
Rollin Wilson  
Alfred Rueb  
Sonny "Bill" Morris  
Dewell Bryant

**Pleasant Valley**

Donald Tilman  
Nolan Barb  
Charles Gant  
Dean Anderson



**Monetary donations**  
*continued from page 6*

**\$51 to \$199**

Quarry City Savings and Loan  
Rebecca and David Kaiser  
Robert and Helen Penfield  
Robert and Janice Simpson  
Robin Amick  
Salem United Church of Christ  
Sandra Self  
Shirley White  
St. Sabina Church  
Stephen Del Vecchio  
Stephen and Theresa Penn  
Sueann Carter  
Ted and Glenna Sanlis  
Thomas Jones  
VFW Ladies Auxiliary 4409 – Harrisonville  
VFW Ladies Auxiliary 5844 - Holden  
VFW Post 4242 - Raytown  
VFW Post 4409 – Harrisonville

Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 393  
William Bennett

**\$200 to \$499**

Alice Miesner  
American Legion Ladies Auxiliary 189 – Lee’s Summit  
American Legion Post 82 - Windsor  
American Legion Post 208 – Manchester  
American Legion Post 604 – Lowry City  
Bobby and Jean Salmon  
Dawn Anderson  
Disabled American Veterans Chapter 67  
Freedom of Road Riders, Local 35  
Henry Struchtemeyer  
Mark Bettes  
VFW Ladies Auxiliary 5789 - Lee’s Summit  
VFW Ladies Auxiliary 5923 - Camdenton  
VFW Post 2591 - Sedalia

**\$500 to \$999**

Carl and Mary Arnett  
Dee Bowers  
Estate of Lewis Norris  
James Camden  
Janet Proctor  
Mark Shanks  
Missouri State Society of DAR  
Ozark Community Elks Lodge 2705  
Samuel and Ruth Russell  
Santa Fe Trailers Square Dance Club

**\$1,000 and more**

Carl and Mary Arnett  
Dee Bowers  
Estate of Lewis Norris  
James Camden  
Janet Proctor  
Mark Shanks  
Missouri State Society of DAR  
Ozark Community Elks Lodge 2705  
Samuel and Ruth Russell  
Santa Fe Trailers Square Dance Club



**Veteran Dean Peters enjoys a visit with his family in Pleasant Valley.**

*Continued from page 2*

The West Central Missouri Veterans Assistance League hosted its annual community support banquet to honor volunteers and donors of the Missouri Veterans Home-Warrensburg on April 18 at American Legion Post 131. Around 200 people attended the banquet.

**Jim Whitfield**, a 70-year member of the American Legion and a commissioner of the U.S. World War I Commission, and **Marvin Neal**, president of the West Central Missouri Veterans Assistance League, teamed up to share the history of how the Missouri Veterans Home came to Warrensburg.

**Derald Albertson**, of Chilhowee, was named the Volunteer of the Year. He began volunteering at the home in 2011. He spends the bulk of his time working in the canteen. This is a spot the Veterans love to gather at and enjoy free ice cream. In 2014, he worked 516 hours. Albertson received Lt. Gov. Peter Kinder's Veterans Service Award at a banquet held at the Capitol in March.

**Warrensburg Elks**

**Lodge 673** was named the Volunteer Group of the Year. The Elks host monthly luncheons for the Veterans of the home and cook what the Veterans are craving. They also apply for a grant each year to help with different programs in the recreation department.

"This group thinks out of the box about what our Veterans really want and need. They find reasons to hang out with our Veterans all day and host unique events like a Kentucky Derby Party," said Koetting. "They also

pull other lodges in their district together. Right now, they have teamed up to help raise money for a new bus by starting the Kneeling for our Veterans campaign. All proceeds will help the Veterans Assistance League purchase a new handicapped-accessible kneeling bus. They are always willing to answer the call."

Two new awards were presented this year. The first went first-year volunteer **Allen Cline**, of Odessa. Cline started volunteering in 2014 and donated 436 hours of his time. One of his greatest assets is helping the recreation department take Veterans on outings all over West Central Missouri. He also assists with happy hour on Fridays.

The final award was for the Veteran Volunteer of the Year. **Dr. Allen "Doc" Sapp** volunteered 970 hours in 2014.

"This Air Force Veteran proves you can live in a nursing home and still make a difference in the lives of others. He serves voluntarily as the president of our Neighborhood Council and advocates for Veterans rights," Koetting said.

Other volunteers who donated more than 500 in 2014 were **Sara Lee** with 559, **Toni Jones** with 592, **Violet Schonberner** with 814 and **Elaine Powers** with 1,684 hours.

**Doris Grigsby, Sadie Mapes, Vada Neal, Geraldine Roberts, John Roberts, Violet Schonberner and David Street** were recognized for being 14-year volunteers. They have served at the Home since it opened in 2000. Donors were thanked for all of their support for programs they donated to in 2014.



**Members of American Legion Ladies Auxiliary 131, along with Alberta Grandestaff, Ann Berry and Joe and Fran DeBacker enjoy visiting at the volunteer banquet.**



**From left, Volunteers Elaine Powers and Violet Schonberner received special awards for volunteering the most hours in 2014. Elaine worked 1684 hours, while Violet worked 814 hours.**



**Members of 40 & 8, Voiture 333 in Sedalia and American Legion Post 520 in La Monte catch up.**

# Veteran's Spotlight



**Left, Veteran Nolan Barb enjoys a visit from the Smith-Cotton JROTC Cadets.**



**Right: Veteran Emerson Smith shows Re-Creation USA a few dance moves.**



**Left: Veteran Jay Sheeks holds up a 4 pound catfish he caught with the help of Camp Valor founder John Schwent.**



**Right: Lady Veterans Mary Brabant, Dorothy Brownfield and Alice Moore enjoy a visit with Nancy Jefford, the national president of the American Legion Ladies Auxiliary.**



**Left: Veteran Birl Ewing visits with family and the Easter bunny at the annual Easter Egg Hunt.**



**Right: Veteran Leland Mueller doesn't want to share the newly hatched baby chicks with any of his neighbors.**



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# SCRAMBLE FOR FREEDOM

ROYAL OAKS GOLF COURSE, WHITEMAN AFB, JUNE 7, 2015

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 Pete Zwally and C & M Automotive  
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 Shirley Kiefer  
 Smith-Cotton JROTC Booster Club  
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 VFW Ladies Auxiliary 4409 – Harrisonville  
 VFW Ladies Auxiliary 5675 - Odessa  
 VFW Ladies Auxiliary 5789 – Lee's Summit  
 VFW Ladies Auxiliary 5844 – Holden  
 VFW Ladies Auxiliary 6603 – Blue Springs  
 VFW Men's Auxiliary 5675 - Odessa  
 VFW Post 2591 – Sedalia  
 VFW Post 5675 - Odessa  
 VFW Post 6603 – Blue Springs  
 Violet Schonberner  
 Warrensburg Elks Lodge 673  
 Warsaw Leathernecks Detachment 1252  
 Wayne Maxwell

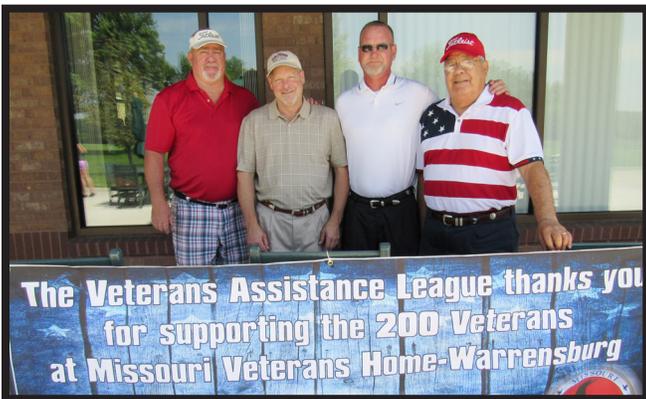




**Team Ringer, consisting of Eddy Scott, Ron Cumberford, Corkey Nickerson and Dan Billings won A Flight with a score of 56.**



**Volunteers play a vital role in the tournament's success. Pictured are Brian Woirhaye, Sandy Wick and Sharon McMurray, administrative assistant.**



**From left, are Team Bi-Lo members Richard Schnakenberg, Lou Sharp, Tommy Fatka and Bob Martinez. They won Flight B donated their winnings back to the Home.**



**MVH Veterans Charlie McGaugh and Ed Gauntt give the thumbs up for the shot-gun start.**



**A team of long-time college buddies Dustin Gray, Andy Hart, Mark Sheppard and Nic Sanders won Flight C with a score of 70. Gray came all the way from Ames, Iowa, to play.**



**Golfers enjoyed their first rain-free Sunday in five weeks at the Scramble for Freedom.**



Four of our Veterans went on Show-Me Honor Flight out of Sedalia on April 14 to visit the war memorials in Washington, D.C. Pictured from left are Roy Talbott, Harold Jones, Lester Parker and John Mitchel. Deb Brumble, MDS Coordinator, and Jacque Berschauer, Director of Restorative Therapy, served as escorts.

*How can I make a difference? Send a donation for one of these programs. Make checks payable to Veterans Assistance League, 1300 Veterans Road, Warrensburg, MO 64093.*

***Your support is appreciated!***

**Bingo:** \$25 worth of prizes is awarded at every bingo game played. This is something our veterans love to do.

**Bus Fund:** The Veterans Assistance League is raising money to purchase a new handicapped-accessible bus to take our veterans on outings. It will be custom made to fit the needs of our veterans. It will cost more than \$100,000.

**Canteen:** Money donated here is used to provide free soft-serve ice cream to our Veterans daily and free stamps so Veterans can mail letters to loved ones.

**Restorative Therapy:** Money donated to this department is used to purchase Broda chairs, motorized wheelchairs, cushions and other equipment to keep our veterans moving and comfortable.



*Return Service Requested*

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



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