



## 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. 3

# Run for Freedom breaks multiple records

Hundreds of volunteers flocked to the Missouri Veterans Home to support the Veterans who live there in the 13th annual Run for Freedom 5K, 10K and Poker Walk on Sept. 26. The event was sponsored by the West Central Missouri Veterans Assistance League. With the assistance of these volunteers, between 80 and 100 Veterans were wheeled out of the home in search of a winning poker hand.

They were joined by more than 150 runners and walkers who came from all over West Central Missouri to participate.

Runner Doug Dodson, a Desert Storm veteran from Olathe, Kan., had a special request. He wanted to push a veteran in the 5K. He was paired up with one of the youngest veterans at the home, Jay Sheeks, an Air Force Veteran.

Sheeks was the very first Veteran to cross the finish line with a time of 38:03. Dodson and Sheeks won their age category and placed 31st overall.

"I hope Jay enjoyed the run as much as I enjoyed pushing him through the 5K course," Dodson said. "I'm impressed with your facility and hope to help with any future fundraisers as well. It's not just the clean, updated building, but it's the compassion and positive attitudes of everyone that I met that was most impressive. As a member of Team Red, White and Blue in Kansas

City, I am always looking for great veterans' charities like this one to support and have passed the word to the local leaders to support this race in future years."

State Sen. David Pearce welcomed guests and served as the starting line race official. The 2014 Run for Freedom kicked off a fundraising campaign to purchase a new handicapped accessible kneeling bus that will cost more than \$120,000. Twenty-two thousand dollars was raised at that event. This year, a record amount of \$32,980 was made for the bus fund. Over the past year, a total of \$80,000 has been raised for this cause.

Due to 80-degree weather, a record number of Veterans participated in the walk with the assistance of volunteers from Whiteman Air Force Base, the Kansas City VA and the Warrensburg VA Outpatient Clinic. The neighborhood near the home was filled with a train of wheelchairs.

Meanwhile, the 5K and 10K routes were lined up with 200 students from the University of Central Missouri cheering them onto victory.

"This year's event was absolutely phenomenal and the most successful in our Home's history," said Eric Endsley, administrator of the Missouri Veterans Home.



**Pictured on top, Veteran Mary Brabant leads a train of Veterans into the local neighborhood so they could participate in the 2015 poker walk.**

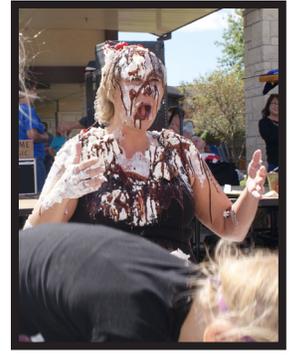
**Pictured below, Veteran Bob Clawson waves farewell as his volunteer leads him on a quest to draw the winning poker hand.**

MORE PHOTOS MAY BE FOUND ON PAGE 15

# Family Day 2015 - Good Times



Veteran Hank Stucker pets a goose that is held by Sherry Swope, recreation therapist in Pleasant Valley.



From left, Christine Hood, Admissions Coordinator, Chris Holtzen of the Warrensburg Elks Lodge and Chrissy Brown, a charge nurse at MVH, were three of four volunteers to participate in the human sundae contest. Brown was the overall contest winner.



Bob Jacquess, and his wife, Jean, stop by to see the mules at the Family Day celebration.



Veterans Alex Vedros and Harold Arensmeier enjoy the musical entertainment of the Almost Famous Bluegrass Band.



Above, Veteran Al Rueb enjoys a quick bite to eat with his son, Steve. Six hundred barbecue beef sandwiches were served at this year's event.



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

In healthcare we have the rare opportunity to serve those who are often at their most vulnerable, frail, and frightened. In this holiday season I am taking pause to reflect on those things for which I'm thankful. I am thankful for the opportunity we have to provide highly competent, compassionate care to our Veterans through the loving hands and actions of our many incredible employees and volunteers.

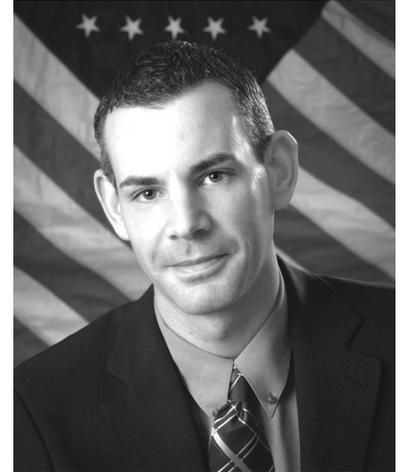
I am thankful that our Veterans select Missouri Veterans Home-Warrensburg as the premier provider of their care and support, often for the rest of their lives. I am thankful that our employees, the best of the best in healthcare, consider MVH-W as an employer of choice. I am thankful that our scores of volunteers consider our Home as the best place to give their time, talents, and energy.

I am inspired by the extensive

history and present day strength, courage, and optimism of the Veterans who call MVH-W Home. I am also inspired by the great acts of service performed by our employees and volunteers--countless times a day, every single day.

I am grateful that I am surrounded by such exceptional individuals; every one of them helps me to keep my focus on what is truly important to ensure we never waiver from our Mission to Honor and Serve... Our inner spirit is fueled when we give the gift of service to others; every day I am fortunate to be alongside those who, without fail, make our Mission a reality.

Finally, I am thankful for my incredible family. They are the ones who encourage me, support me, and love me unconditionally. It is a blessing to have a life well-lived and filled with love -- I have that with my family. My family provides me with the foundation and



compass I need to make a difference every day. I indeed have a lot for which I am thankful! I hope during this holiday season, you are able to take a moment to reflect on your blessings with a sense of gratitude and optimism.

## Holiday happenings

### American Legion Auxiliary Christmas Store

The American Legion Ladies Auxiliary will host a Christmas Store in the Chapel on Dec. 3 and 4.

Veterans will be able to choose two free Christmas presents to give to loved ones.

### Home for the Holidays reception

Come join us at 6 p.m. Dec. 8 for a holiday lighting ceremony, coffee, hot chocolate, refreshments, Christmas caroling and a visit from Santa Claus.

### Heroes Holiday Parties

On Dec. 18, our Veterans

will receive their Tree of Stars gift at these parties.

**Sleepy Hollow:** 9 a.m., Chapel.

**Pleasant Valley:** 10:30 a.m. on Pleasant Valley,

**Whispering Hills:** 1 p.m. in the Chapel.

**Highland Park:** 2:30 p.m. in the Chapel.

## *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**  
Emily Hart, **Staff Development**  
Latisha Koetting, **Volunteer Services**

# Birthdays



## AUGUST

Lloyd Brecht  
William Whitehead  
Prince Revelle  
Will Theilmann  
Lawrence Soendker  
Alfred Rueb  
Alvin Wombles  
Henry Gower  
Dean Waltmire  
Merlin Pettigrew  
Thomas Ford  
Ernest May  
Kenneth Gatley  
Oda Meredith  
Kenneth Hale

Rollin Wilson  
Robert Clawson  
Charles Dodson  
Kenneth Kreisel  
Raymond Bass  
Mary Lou Collette  
George Rea  
Harold Jones  
Robert Cunningham  
Edward Parker  
Carl Pragman  
Jason Sheeks  
John Lillis III  
William Burke  
Robert Tubbs  
Grover Morton  
Francis Westfall  
Roy James  
Donald Burriss

Kenneth Enloe  
William Miller  
Wilbert Hilgedick  
Clyde McCubbin

Dale McCormack  
Jodie Schlepffhorst  
Dannie Wulff  
Harold Woodall  
Donald Smarr

## OCTOBER

Frank Kandlbinder  
Gerald Shook  
Dorothy Brownfield  
John Naple  
Jerry Rodgers  
Martin Phillips  
Gerald Dawson  
Estel Long  
Vincent Hugunin  
Donald Harding  
Darrel Robertson  
Emerson Smith  
Maurice Connell

## NOVEMBER

Billy Zumalt  
Alice Moore  
Charlie McGaugh  
Richard Homan  
James Casey  
LeRoy Cornwell  
Ronald Perry  
Floyd Ison  
Gary Hurd

## SEPTEMBER

John Simmons

**More Birthdays may be found on Page 10**



## 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,  
Dec. 9, Jan. 13 and  
Feb. 10.

#### Quarterly Family Council

2:30 p.m. Jan. 20.

During the winter,  
the front doors will  
be locked at 7 p.m.

#### Emmett Altis

Aug. 28, 1925, to April 8, 2015



#### Alva Holland

July 7, 1927, to April 14, 2015



#### Vance Gover

Aug. 7, 1928, to April 21, 2015



#### James Gertz

Dec. 28, 1926, to April 22, 2015



#### Chester Jones

Feb. 22, 1948, to April 22, 2015



#### James Kuhns

May 21, 1932, to April 25, 2015



#### John Reeder

Aug. 25, 1925, to May 1, 2015



#### Allen Sapp

Oct. 9, 1933, to May 14, 2015



#### Ernest Fluty

Oct. 12, 1924, to May 18, 2015



#### Floyd Self

Sept. 11, 1944, to May 20, 2015



#### Fred Brinkman

Feb. 28, 1923, to May 20, 2015



#### George Hart

Oct. 22, 1915, to May 20, 2015



#### Thomas Cockrill

April 19, 1925, to May 22, 2015



#### Jeffrey Duffy

Sept. 5, 1974, to May 23, 2015



#### Hazel Carpenter

Dec. 5, 1933, to May 28, 2015



#### James Minnick

Jan. 12, 1932, to June 2, 2015



#### William "Bill" Eckinger

May 12, 1925, to June 11, 2015



#### Nelson Miller

June 14, 1932, to June 25, 2015



#### Ray Morgan

Oct. 8, 1938, to June 29, 2015



Members from the Administration Department accepted a challenge from Social Services to make a meal for our Veterans. They chose to bring a taste of Italy to the Home. Team members who made this possible, from left, were Latisha Koetting, Jamie McCannon, Dana Williams, Sharon McMurray, Emily Hart, Eric Endsley and students from an IBE business class at UCM.

### Current Census

Army	90
Army Women	3
Navy	43
Navy Women	2
Air Force	43
Air Force Women	1
Marines	14
Coast Guard	1

### SAVE THE DATE

The 2016 Runway Show will be at 2 p.m. Feb. 19. This is a time when families can get dressed up with their Veterans, take a stroll down the runway and enjoy happy hour drinks and appetizers with the Chamber of Commerce afterwards. Family photos will be taken. Come join the fun!

## 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 **April through June 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**

40 & 8, Voiture 333	Mittelhauser	Sullivan	Paul and Mary Rowland
Alice Miesner	Charles and Kathleen	Jimmie and Paul	Ray and Jill Sutherland
Allen and Marjorie	Pritchett	Cromwell	Robin and Jan Crouch
Spratley	Christine Gail	Joe and Lauren Sloan	Ron and Janice Warner
Alvin and Dorothy	Christine Jaskolka	John and Jeanette Pahlow	Ronnie Ditzfeld
Niederwimmer	Christine and M.L. Simon	Judith Blankenship	S-S Farms LLC
American Legion	Chuck and Pam Owings	Judith Brockman	Sandra Self
Auxiliary 305 –	Danny and Gwendolyn	Katy Park Baptist Church	Shirley Hurst
Cole Camp	Wright	Larry and Connie	Smith-Cotton JROTC
American Legion Post	Darlene Wright	Grotzinger	Booster Club
491 – Green Ridge	David Street	Laura Reilly	Stanley and El Dean
American Legion Post	David and Deborah	Leslie Buzan	Lohman
286 – Odessa	Totten	Linda North	Stanley and Kristeen Cox
American Legion Post	David and Rebecca	Madeline Shirley	Susan Devries
624 – Sunrise Beach	Boughton	Marge Lumpe	The Missouri Bank II
Anonymous	Dean Constance	Marie Thompson	Three Rivers Pup Tent 9
Audrey Self	Dee Ann Poole	Marilyn Gertz	Third National Bank –
Barbara Keele	Derald Albertson	Mary Munroe	Sedalia
Beacon Hill Research	Dianne Powledge	Mary Ramm	Thomas Drysdale and
Institute Inc.	Don Munroe	Mary Lou Anson	Sally Hodgdon
Beatrice Jewell	Donna Heimsoth	Maxine Shernaman	Thomas and Joyce Zach
Betty McDaniel	Dutch Kountry Market	Medena Draffen and	Todd and Angela
Bill and Berniece	Eagle Eye Consulting	Marilyn Meyer	Kollbaum
Ketcherside	Elaine Miesner	Michael and Bethany	Tuesday Night Bridge
Bill and Carolyn Wheat	Elizabeth Ackerman	Coleman	Club - Springfield
Bill and Margaret	Ellen Holland	Michael and Rebecca	Turley's Dependable
Schlomer	Estes Enterprises	Reilly	Trucking
Bill and Marilyn	Faith Baptist Church	Michial and Carolyn	VFW Ladies Auxiliary
Davenport	Fox Funeral Home	Hutchko	1894 – Clinton
Bill and Shirley Bird	G.D. and M. M. Jennings	Mike and Lucille	Violet Schonberner
Bob Carr	Gilead Rupe Chapter of	Bollinger	Wakata Harber
Bonnie Dotson	DAR	Mike and Rhonda	Wanda McKinnis
Brenda Blevins	Hubert and Norma Altis	Schlesselman	Warrensburg Wheels
Byron and Maris Weycker	J.C. Ranch	Military Order of the	Warsaw Leathernecks,
C & C Mechanical LLC	J.L. and J.C. Frerking	Cooties, Auxiliary 9	Detachment 1254
C & M Automotive	James and Anita Hunt	Ness Family	William and Patricia
Carl and Crystal	Jeff Bales	Ollie Whitt	Owens
	Jeffrey and Cynthia	Otten Small Engine LLC	

**Continued on page 7**

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

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

Alex and Joyce Slocum  
American Legion Auxiliary 58 –  
Smithville  
American Legion Auxiliary 131 –  
Warrensburg  
American Legion Post 58 –  
Smithville  
Bob Polson  
Bradley Haggard  
Bryan Hunt  
Charlie and Vicki Jamis  
Chris Koetting  
Claire Boissonneault  
Cliff Wick  
Clinton Elks Lodge 1034  
Community Coffee Co.  
David Sisk  
Donald Plattner  
Donald and Shirley Kiefer  
Eddy Scott  
G.L. Noland  
Gerry Heimsoth  
Greg Hutinger  
Harvey Meyer  
Jeff Koetting  
Jimmy Elliott  
June Lueckert  
Larry Womble  
Lee's Summit Crowley Furniture  
Store  
Lifetime Animal Center  
Marion Lucas  
O.C. and P.A. Repper  
Preferred Futures Inc.  
Quarry City Savings and Loan  
Raymond and Louise Bassett  
Robert Harpster  
Robeson and Aileen Moise  
Scott Boyce  
Sedalia Lions Club  
Sons of the American Legion  
Squadron 58 – Smithville  
Sue Boland  
Thomas Baldwin  
Tim Shaffer and David Hobson

VFW Ladies Auxiliary 2591 –  
Sedalia  
VFW Ladies Auxiliary 4195 –  
Knob Noster  
VFW Ladies Auxiliary 5789 –  
Lee's Summit  
VFW Ladies Auxiliary 5844 –  
Holden  
VFW Ladies Auxiliary 6603 –  
Blue Springs  
VFW Post 4288 – Corder  
Warrensburg Elks Lodge 673  
Wayne Maxwell  
Westport DAR  
William Brame  
William and Mary Lou Ketner

***\$200 to \$499***

American Legion 6th District  
American Legion Auxiliary 217 –  
Warsaw  
American Legion Post 131 –  
Warrensburg  
Anna Golightly  
Bi-Lo Country Mart  
Bobby and Jean Salmon  
Brandon Ream  
Brenda Kautz  
Brent Corbett  
Brian and Carmen Jobes  
Budget Heating and Cooling  
Carson-Mitchell Inc.  
Coldwell Banker  
Crossroads Hospice  
Dan Scott  
David and Kitty Sandberg  
Davis & Bell Auction Service LLC  
Dustin Gray  
F & C Bank  
Fox Heating & Cooling LLC  
Heartland Waste  
Jerry and Dana Dwyer  
Joe Good  
Mark Bettes  
Mark Taylor  
Mark and Joy Leslie  
McKesson  
Michael White

Michael Wilson  
NAHCA  
Rex A. Smarr  
Russell and Hazel Westerhold  
Russell and Mary Schuh  
Terry Watters  
UCM Social Work Senior Gift  
VFW Ladies Auxiliary 5675 –  
Odessa  
VFW Ladies Auxiliary 5923 –  
Camdenton  
VFW Ladies Auxiliary,  
Department of Missouri  
VFW Post 2513 – Warrensburg  
VFW Post 2591 – Sedalia  
VFW Post 5675 – Odessa  
VFW Post 5789 – Lee's Summit  
Williams Funeral Chapel  
William Gabel

***\$500 to \$999***

American Legion Riders 58 –  
Smithville  
Blue Demon Company Inc.  
Carla Mahaffey-Sapp  
LammTech  
McCarthy Toyota of Sedalia  
Phillip and Vicki Enloe  
Samuel and Ruth Russell  
Sedalia Elks Lodge 125  
VFW Post and Ladies Auxiliary  
6603 – Blue Springs  
VFW Post 5925 – Lincoln

***\$1,000 and more***

Anonymous  
Benton County Elks Lodge 2783 –  
Warsaw  
Cass County Elks Lodge 2791 –  
Harrisonville  
Central Missouri Veterans  
Association  
Combat Veterans Motorcycle  
Association, Chapter 4-5  
VFW Ladies Auxiliary 1828 –  
West Plains  
VFW Men's Auxiliary 5675 –  
Odessa  
VFW Post 4195 – Knob Noster

## MARVIN “COOKIE” BOYCE

**Karen Slater, of Arizona, came to the Missouri Veterans Home in August to present six Veterans with a Quilt of Valor. These are some of their stories.**

Marvin Boyce knows all about how to make the most out of very little. He was born and raised in Cushing, Texas, and received a bachelor’s degree from Southern Methodist University in Dallas. He joined the Air Force on Nov. 3, 1943, and became a B-17 pilot.

He was involved in several battles in Northern France and Rhineland, Germany, but on July 19, 1944, his plane was shot down over Munich during a bombing mission. An allied safety net had fired at his plane causing it to lose its tail, start a fire in the main compartment and cause engine No. 1 to smoke. Both Marvin’s waist gunner and tail gunner were killed and his co-pilot wounded, giving him reason to bail out.

Landing in a farm field, a German Army patrol took Marvin into custody. He was taken to Frankfurt, Germany, where he lived on bread and water. The Germans interrogated him for four days, threatening to use the information they had about his family against him. Though they told Marvin they would kill him, he refused to talk. They decided to send him to Stalag No. 1, a prison camp north of Berlin, Germany, on the Baltic Sea.

When he arrived, he was given a straw mattress, an over coat and a blanket and was assigned to a 16 x 24 foot room that housed 18 men. Seeing how Marvin was a baker out of high school, he was quickly appointed as the cook, which is where he received his nickname “Cookie.” Their food rations consisted of rutabagas, potatoes, thin barley soup, bread made of finely ground saw dust and sometimes even fried earthworms, when the other supplies became scarce.

Every morning and evening the men were counted, and in the evenings after the count, they were locked in their barracks and patrolled by guard dogs and powerful search lights. On the night of May 1, the men were locked in as usual, but they realized there were



**On top: 2nd Lt. Marvin Boyce is pictured on the front row, far left, with his flight crew. Three were killed in action and four were prisoners of war. On the right, he is pictured with his daughter, Sherri Moriarty, son, Roger Adkisson and daughter-in-law, Jody.**



no dogs or lights. Hearing on a radio that the Red Army was closing in on the Germans, Marvin and his men were able to follow the Russians west.

They headed towards Brussels and met up with American troops. He was relieved of active duty on Dec. 17, 1945, and was shipped home.

He joined the Air Force again on May 1, 1951, as an air operations officer. He served during the Korean War and was honorably discharged on April 30, 1953, as a captain.

Marvin and 12 of his fellow prisoners were able to find each other after 50 years at a prisoners of war convention in Las Vegas. They enjoyed catching up and remembering how blessed they were to come through such an ordeal without a scratch. They continued meeting up for reunions for years.

After his time in the military, Marvin became a district manager for Braniff Airways, where he met Shirley, a flight attendant on one of his flights. They fell in love, got married and had two children, Sherri and Roger. He later owned and operated Sonotone Hearing Aids.

His adored his wife, but at the age of 49, she fell ill to Alzheimer’s. She was bedridden for over 10 years and Marvin cared for her, hired nurses to help when needed and refused to put her into a nursing home. She passed away in 2004.

**Continued on pages 9 and 10**

## VAN WHITE

Van White joined the National Guard after he graduated from Smith-Cotton High School in 1953. He later joined the Army and served from Feb. 11, 1954, to Feb. 10, 1956.

He then became active in the Army Missouri National Guard. He served a total of 27 years. He entered the Army as a private first class and promoted to corporal. He would later be promoted to master sergeant and then to sergeant major specializing as an intelligence sergeant.

While in the Army National Guard, he trained soldiers and several battalions artillery tactics. Several times his battalion received the Top Dog Unit recognition.

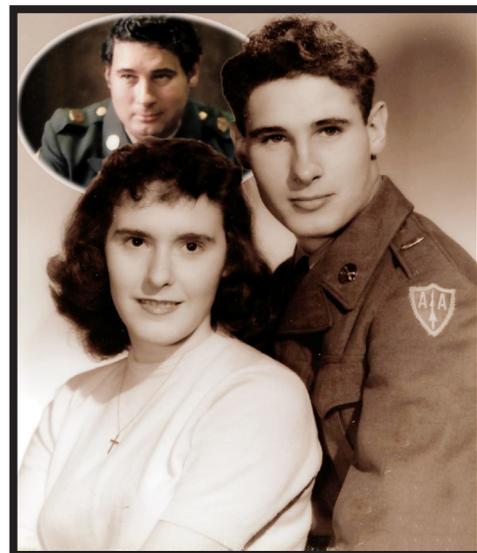
During his military service he was pre-commissioned

for special officer training at Ft. Benning, Ga., and also for War Officer School at Fort Benjamin Harrison, Ind.

At one point, he felt the calling to serve in the Vietnam War. However, Col. Meyer and Col. Blue requested that he not transfer to Vietnam and asked that he stay and train soldiers because of his expertise. Van enjoyed training these young men.

After serving 27 years in the military, he was a journey man electrician for IBEW 24. He retired in 1998.

Van married his wife, Shirley, on April 18, 1954. They have three children, Cynthia Lyon, Tonya Borland and Byron White; five grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.



**On top: Van White is pictured with his wife, Shirley, in his uniform. On the right he is pictured with his quilt.**



## MARTIN PHILLIPS

Martin Phillips joined the Air Force at the age of 17 in 1933. During World War II, he was a bombardier and navigator. He was responsible for the targeting of aerial bombs.

He served during three wars and received multiple medals during this time. This includes the Distinguished Flying Cross, which is given for heroism or extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight. He also received the Legion of Merit, ranking just below the Silver Star and ahead of the Distinguished Flying Cross.

He retired from Whiteman Air Force Base as lieutenant colonel on Feb. 28, 1977, after 33 years of service. His occupation at time was

missile operations staff officer and airlift navigator.

He also was a professor of finance at the University of Central Missouri, a stock broker for Meryl Lynch and worked the state of Missouri in agriculture.

He is a member of the Boy Scouts, Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion, Disabled Veterans and the Missionary Baptist Church. He enjoys fishing, hunting traps, working with horses and collecting coins.

He married his wife, Jeanene, on June 28, 1947, in Sims, Ill. They have three children, Missy, Mindy and Michael; two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.



**Martin Phillips is pictured with the Quilt of Valor he received at a ceremony held in August.**

**Welcome  
our new  
Neighbors  
(April to June)**

**Highland Park**

Raymond Bass  
Fay Farnsworth  
Herbert Grasher  
Charles Sousley  
Earl Staley

**Whispering Hills**

LeRoy Cornwell  
Bernard Messier  
Dorothy Brownfield  
Wallace Johnson

**Sleepy Hollow**

Clyde McCubbin

**Pleasant Valley**

Billie Binkley  
James Casey  
John Pirotte



**Veteran John Lillis brings out his patriotism by dressing up like Uncle Sam on July 4.**

**LEROY "PUD" SMETHERS**

Louis Leroy "Pud" Smethers was born May 14, 1918, in Beaman, a son of Walter and Grace Smethers. He attended school in Sedalia through the eighth grade and then began cleaning up Mel Carl Tavern in Sedalia.

Due to the many hours he spent watching the bartenders make drinks, he eventually was hired as the bartender at this tavern.

He enjoyed the field of service but was also very involved with the Baptist church. He married the love of his life, Dovey, when he was 23 and she was 25.

Shortly after they got married, he enlisted in 1941 with the Army. He served in the 23rd Headquarters and received special training in Fort Knox to become a cook and baker. He began his duty in Camp Kimmel and was a cook at the training base. He later received the rank of first cook sergeant (T-4) while cooking in Luxembourg, Germany.

After his service, he worked at a shoe factory

in Sedalia but quickly discovered he was not a peddler. He asked for guidance from his father, who worked in scraping. Leroy became a scrap iron separator for the Missouri Pacific Railroad and did this for 18 years.

Due to the economy, he was let go which led him to inquire about employment with a new school named Heber Hunt in Sedalia. He was hired in 1962 as a custodian and loved working with the children. He left his job in 1985 to care for his wife who battled cancer for eight years.

Leroy died Sept. 5, 2015, at the age of 97. Staff can still hear him singing down the hallway and hear his sweet voice saying, "What's happening Toots?"

When anyone would stop and ask him how he was doing, they'd hear one of two responses.... "Not bad for a kid" or "I'm mean" which couldn't be further from the truth.

He is and always will be missed.



**Birthdays**

**DECEMBER**

Fay Farnsworth  
Karl Edmundson  
John Osborn  
Robert English

Wayne Sallee  
Jennie Doran  
Nolan Barb  
Alexander Vedros  
Billie Binkley

Victor Slana  
Arthur Hopfinger  
Mark Regits  
Retta Sandgren  
Willis Weber

Ronald Vaughn  
Birl Ewing  
Virgil Kempf  
Thomas Smith  
Charles Hipkins

# SUMMERTIME BRINGS OUT VISITORS



The American Legion Riders stopped by the Missouri Veterans Home in June as part of their Legacy Ride. On the right, one of their members enjoyed visiting with World War II Veteran Wilton Williams.



Several Veterans attended the Central Missouri Veterans Association picnic in September in Sedalia. U.S. Rep. Vicky Hartzler visited with Roy Talbott and Mary Brabant.



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## VETERANS LOVE VISITING WITH YOUNGER GENERATIONS



Numerous youth groups invested some of their time at the Missouri Veterans Home. Members of the Missouri Lions All-Star Football Team enjoyed visiting with Dewell Bryant, left, and Al Rueb, center, over ice cream. On the right, boys who attended the American Legion Boys State learn from World War II Veteran Harold Arensmeier about the heartache of war.

# Veteran's Spotlight



KC Wolf, the mascot for the Kansas City Chiefs, paid a visit to the Missouri Veterans Home in September. On the left, he takes a seat next to World War II Veteran Shirley Ballew. On the right, he snuggles up with Jennifer Hesse, unit manager for Sleepy Hollow, and Veteran Bill Whitehead.



Staff took 26 Veterans to the Missouri State Fair in Sedalia in August. On the left, Veteran Ed Parker, Assistant Administrator Jamie McCannon and Director of Volunteer Services Latisha Koetting blossom into beautiful flowers. On the right, Veterans Ed Parker, Charlie Mueller and Herb Grasher visit the Clydesdales.



Veteran Curt Jenkins spent a lot of his time this summer growing vegetables in a garden he created and tilled behind the Home.

Right: Social Worker Beth Hunt helped World War II Veteran John Mitchel participate in the Veterans Vision Project. John had his photo taken in the uniform he wore in WWII. This photo was part of a display at the University of Central Missouri. John is the very first WWII to be part of this program.



# TREE OF STARS MAKES HOLIDAYS BRIGHTER

The “Tree of Stars” is an opportunity for individuals and groups to partner with the Veterans Assistance League (VAL) to make the holidays a little brighter for the 200 Veterans who live at the Missouri Veterans Home in Warrensburg.

As donations are received, beautiful glass stars representing different support levels begin to transform a Christmas tree in the Home’s lobby into a beautiful focal point. Funds raised are then used to purchase a Christmas gift for each of the Home’s 200 Veterans.

Gifts are wrapped and hand delivered, along with a visit from Santa and songs by carolers. The gifts and merriment are especially important to the Veterans who might not receive anything at all otherwise. Veterans who are new to the Home and Veterans’ family members are especially appreciative of the holiday cheer.

Each color star represents a different level of giving. We hope you will consider giving back to those who have given so much to preserve our nation and its freedoms. **Our goal is \$10,000**, which will provide one present for each of the Home’s 200 Veterans.

**Please make your donation payable to: Veterans Assistance League “Tree of Stars”, and send to: 1300 Veterans Rd., Warrensburg, MO 64093.** Secure, online donations can now be accepted on the Veterans Assistance League website at [www.valwbg.org](http://www.valwbg.org).

For more information, call Latisha Koetting, Director of Volunteer Services, at (660) 429-4661.

**Carolers and groups interested in providing special activities** are always welcome at the Home. Please call Melissa Wilson, Director of Recreation Services, at (660) 429-4648 for scheduling.



## Levels of Sponsorship

**Purple Star**  
**\$200 or more**



**Gold Star**  
**\$100**



**Silver Star**  
**\$50**



**Blue Star**  
**\$25**



**Red Star**  
**\$10**





# Thank you to ALL of our sponsors!

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American Legion Post 58 - Smithville  
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 Bubba Green and KC's finest musicians and singers  
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 Starline Brass  
 Veterans United Foundation  
 VFW Men's Auxiliary 5675 - Odessa  
 VFW Missouri Riders  
 VFW Post 4195 and Ladies Auxiliary - Knob Noster  
 VFW Post 4242 - Raytown

.....  
 Also thank you David Sisk, David Street, Robeson and Aileen Moise, Ollie Whitt, VFW Ladies Auxiliary 4409 - Harrisonville; VFW Ladies Auxiliary 5789 - Lee's Summit; VFW Post 6270 - Higginsville.

## SILVER SPONSORS

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 VFW Ladies Auxiliary 1894 - Clinton  
 VFW Ladies Auxiliary 5675 - Odessa  
 VFW Post 2513 - Warrensburg  
 VFW Post 6649 - Oak Grove  
 Walmart Volunteerism  
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 Whiteman Spouses Club



Veterans, staff and volunteers cheered all of the runners onto victory at the finish line.



Veteran Russell Westerhold waves to UCM students during the poker walk.



Volunteer Laura Goff, right, of Liberty, and Veteran Dale McCormack had so much fun together, they plan to keep in touch.



Desert Storm Veteran Doug Dodson, of Olathe, Kan., pushed Veteran Jay Sheeks in the 5K. Jacquie Berschauer, director of restorative therapy, accompanied them.



Ryan Hodges, of Lee's Summit, is cheered on in the 5K by students from the University of Central Missouri.



Veterans Alice Moore and Clarence Hager were two of six Veterans who presented medals to the winning runners.





**In June, Veteran Charlie McGaugh enjoyed visiting with high school students from all over Missouri who attended the American Legion's Boy State held at the University of Central Missouri campus. The boys assisted our Veterans by hosting a wheelchair wash.**

***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*

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



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