



Hudson Valley View



A newsletter for and by employees of the VA Hudson Valley Health Care System

VOLUME IV



Director's Note

Lots of surveys come our way—and I know that you all ask yourselves why should I take time away from my day's work to fill out another survey? I ask myself the same question. However, there are some surveys where the results provide good information

that lets us to know where we are at a given time and in which direction to move.

The VA National All Employee Survey (AES) that was administered this spring is one of those surveys. The AES results truly give us a snapshot of how we are doing in a variety of areas and it also gives us excellent information about things we could be doing better.

Since 2006 the survey has been administered every year. On a good note for us - in a 4 year review of our facility scores (2006 through 2009) - we have improved in EVERY category. In our most recent 2009 results, VA Hudson Valley leads all of the other VISN 3 hospitals. Hudson Valley also leads all VA facilities across the country in 37 out of 38 elements. **What a wonderful testimony to the dedication and hard work of each employee.**

Our highest scores this year were in customer satisfaction, work quality and work type. These three elements are under the major category of Job Satisfaction.

In addition to giving us some clues where we are doing ok—the real value of the survey is to show us where we can do better. For example, some of the areas that many of you said we need to work on are promotion opportunities, job control and conflict resolution. These are just a few of the areas that we will focus on in the coming year.

Your Service Chiefs, Care Line Managers and supervisors have received individual service/care line results. These results speak specifically to your service areas and they will be discussing the results with you and getting your good ideas for action plans.

I want to thank you for taking this survey seriously and for all you do every day for our veterans. Working hard to make this a nice place to work only helps in our continuing efforts to make it a great place for veterans to get the care they have earned. These two goals go hand in hand.

Gerald Culliton
Director

Welcome Home Sherlon Pressley and Robert J. Milmore



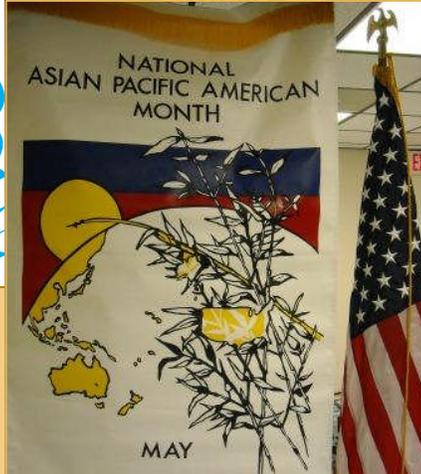
Sherlon Pressley served as a Captain in the Army Nurse Corp and was activated from May 28, 2008 to May 21, 2009 at Brooks Army Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas. During Sherlon's activation she worked as a Recovery/ Same Day Nurse.



In February 2008, the paths of a Cornwall-on-Hudson father, LTC Robert J. Milmore (left), and his son, 1st Lt. Robert G. Milmore (right), crossed in Iraq. Robert J. is a veteran of the Gulf War, is retired from the NYC Fire Department and

had served his third tour in Iraq. Robert J. is a Police Officer at VA HVHCS.

Asian American/Pacific Island Heritage Month



May was Asian American/Pacific Island Heritage Month. In recognition, VA Hudson Valley held ceremonies on May 18th at Montrose and on the 29th at Castle Point through the display of literature, art, fashion, dance and food. There were also trivial quizzes with prizes and video presentations on the Philippines while some of the audience got to participate in the Dandiya Indian Stick Dance.

This year marked an historic milestone for both the Asian/Pacific Island community and the VA. Retired Army General Eric Ken Shinseki, a Japanese American from Hawaii and combat veteran of the Vietnam War, was sworn in on January 21 to become the first Asian American to serve as the United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs.



Be ACTIVE Your Way VA!

2009 CHAMPIONS CHALLENGE



Fitness Room review, a routine workout and Kickboxing.



Women's History Month Celebration



L to R: Ellie Schaffer, Elaine Cottle,

On Friday, March 27th, VA Hudson Valley Health Care System proudly joined the Nation in celebrating Women's History Month. The program, **"Women Taking the Lead – Going Green"** was sponsored by the EEO Federal Women's Program. Staff, veterans and volunteers who attended advanced their common well-being, and enhanced the environment by assisting the Psycho Social Rehabilitation Program (PSR) with their planting therapy initiatives for patients.

Rosemarie Rogers, Creative Arts Therapist, Recreation Therapy Service, and Elaine Cottle, Recreation Therapist, Mental Health Care Line presented a very informative and fun program about the Recovery Center

Garden. In recognition of their efforts they were given a Certificate of Appreciation for making a significant contribution to advancing the awareness of

Hey...Tell Your Neighbor!

Is your neighbor/friend or family member a Veteran?
Do they use VA Hudson Valley for their care?

VA has opened enrollment again. Please tell them to come in and see if they are eligible. They will need their

DD-214 or military separation papers and form 10-10EZ. A Veteran can also apply on-line or in person at any Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) or at the two main campuses.

If they have questions, a local contact is vhahvhcontact.va.gov.



Secretary's Awards for Excellence in Nursing



Linda Spadaro, APN



Bernice Stranahan, RN



Charlene Eve, LPN



Frances Walsh, NA



Information Protection Awareness Week Booth

April 12— 18 Joan Tubbs and Heidi Herouart were available to answer questions. Lawrence Blair and Ariana Anderson stopped by the booth to learn about Information Protection. Storyboards and handouts were present at the display.

L to R: Joan Tubbs, Lawrence Blair, Heidi Herouart and Ariana Anderson

GRAND OPENING!

New Montrose Patient Education Resource Center (PERC)

The PERC had a Grand Opening celebration this spring. The Possibilities protégés were responsible for making this a success.



Possibilities students: Melvin Woods, Sharon Tinsley, Robin Miket and Heather Scarpelli

Mark Ruzer, Sheldon Rector and Rafael Cruz



WELCOME HOME EVENT @ DUTCHESS STADIUM—7/25/09

Renegades vs. Aberdeen IronBirds

Our OEF/OIF Team is welcoming Veterans and their families.



VA Hudson Valley's Very Own Career Ladder of Success!



An Army veteran, Ron Van Dorn entered as a part time Food Service Worker in 1992. He quickly advanced to a housekeeping aide in 1993, was promoted to a work leader in 1995, advanced in 2000 to head Supervisor and in 2002 promoted to

General Foreman and presently is an Environmental Care Specialist. Ron's advice to anyone wanting to move up: "Come to work, never say no to any assignment, have a positive attitude and be nice."

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