



## August Accolades at HVH

The month of August at the Hollidaysburg Veterans' Home (HVH) brought several opportunities to recognize the important contributions of our residents to our nation through both their military service and their civilian roles in their own local communities.

On August 7th, five of our veterans received special recognition pins from our leadership team to recognize them as recipients of the Purple Heart medal. The Purple Heart, "the medal that nobody wants", honors the strength and sacrifices of our military personnel who were wounded or killed in combat or by acts of terrorism.

HVH residents and staff enjoyed a program for National Volunteer Firefighters Recognition Day, in which firefighters from our local communities visited HVH to share in a special ceremony with our residents, bringing all participants together in camaraderie and fellowship over their shared experiences.

One resident, a Marine Corps veteran, was visited by members of his hometown's American Legion post to present him with special gifts in recognition of his many years coaching softball in their community. See page 12 to find out who!

And of course, fun and light-hearted Activities programs such as baseball games, car shows, and petting zoos bring levity and joy to our residents, whom we are honored to care for on a daily basis.

Please enjoy highlights from these and other activities throughout this August 2025 issue of *Front Lines*.



## HVH Leadership

### Commandant

Christina Dambeck

### Deputy Commandant

Kelly Smith

### Director of Nursing

Desiree Kearney

Have an idea or  
suggestion for the  
newsletter?

Contact:

Emily McDowell

Volunteer Resources  
Coordinator

(814) 696-5371

emmcdowell@pa.gov

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## Taps

Every month we honor and remember the HVH residents who  
have recently departed our ranks.

Malcolm Lehman

Patricia Ward

Linda Stacey

Jane Koury

Kirk Shay

Regis Marshall

Richard Dively



"Day is done, gone the sun,  
From the lake, from the hills, from the sky;  
All is well, safely rest, God is nigh."



# Welcome Wagon - *July 2025*



## New Residents

Hollidaysburg Veterans' Home staff, volunteers, and residents would like to extend a special welcome to new residents who joined us over the past month.

**William Wojcik**

**Cecilia Ebner**

## Charles Stickel

**Susan Miller**

**Norman Musser**

## Gerald Snook

**Marie Johnson**



# New Employees Welcome to the HVH Team!

None this month.

New employees starting September 15th ... stay tuned!



## Retirements

*Please join us in thanking these HVH employees for their years of service, and congratulate them on their much-deserved retirements!*



## Mark Wharton - Housekeeping

Mark Wharton - Part-time Custodial Worker 1 - retired on August 1, 2025, with five years of service at HVH. Thank you, Mark, for your service to our residents!

## National Purple Heart Day

**National Purple Heart Day** – August 7 – commemorates the creation of the Purple Heart medal. As stated by the Military Order of the Purple Heart, it is “awarded to members of the armed forces of the U.S. who are wounded by an instrument of war in the hands of the enemy and posthumously to the next of kin in the name of those killed in action or die of wounds received in action. It is specifically a combat decoration.”

This highly respected, albeit unsought, military accolade is the oldest award still presented to American service members today. Its origins date back to the waning days of the American Revolutionary War. On August 7, 1782, General George Washington established the “Badge of Military Merit” to honor merit among enlisted soldiers, as he was forbidden by the Continental Congress to grant commissions and promotions due to lack of funds. The award recognized soldiers who exhibited “not only instances of unusual gallantry in battle, but also extraordinary fidelity and essential service in any way”.

The Badge of Military Merit was one of the first awards that could be given to lower-ranking, enlisted soldiers or non-commissioned officers for their outstanding service. It was truly a military medal “by the people, of the people.”

Most historians believe that only three people received the original Badge of Military Merit, all non-commissioned officers who received the award from General Washington himself.

Although Washington intended for the award to be permanent, it fell into disuse after the Revolutionary War until the 20th century, when General Douglas MacArthur urged its revival. The re-designed medal featuring the bust and profile of George Washington was issued on the bicentennial of Washington's birth - February 22, 1932. The first revived Purple Heart was awarded to General MacArthur himself.

The criteria for receiving the Purple Heart have continually evolved since its revival in 1942. Up through the United States' early involvement in War War II, the Purple Heart was awarded both for wounds received in action against the enemy and for meritorious performance of duty. The creation of the Legion of Merit in 1942 rendered the awarding for merit no longer necessary, and the Purple Heart became designated exclusively for wounds or deaths in combat.



Pictured right: the original Badge of Military Merit consisted of “the figure of a heart in purple cloth, or silk, edged with narrow lace or binding”



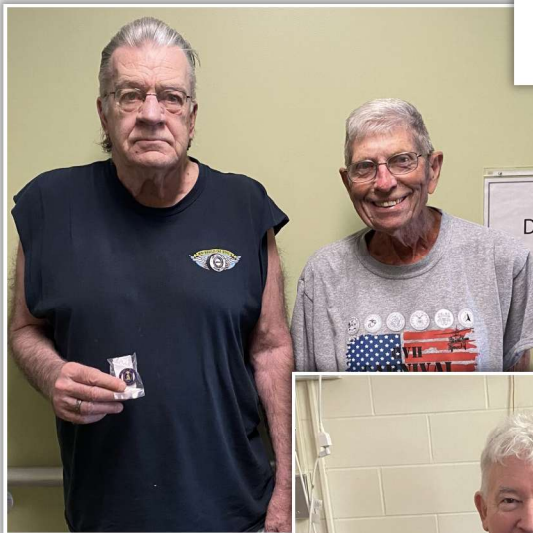


## Purple Heart Veterans Recognized

On August 7, 2025, Hollidaysburg Veterans' Home staff presented a "Purple Heart Combat Veteran" pin to five HVH residents who were recipients of the Purple Heart medal for wounds received in combat during their military service.

Purple Heart recipients pictured here (clockwise from top right) are Joseph Dzurenko, David Dishong, Everett Craig Sr., Warren Dinan, and George Radovich.

Thank you to these Veterans for their service and sacrifice. It is an honor to care for you here at HVH.





## Volunteer Firefighters Recognition Day

On August 13th, HVH held an event to recognize firefighters amongst our HVH residents and staff, and to thank our local volunteer fire companies for their service in our communities.

Residents gathered outside of Arnold Hall to meet and greet local firefighters and learn about the trucks and equipment, and afterwards gathered in Veterans Hall for a ceremony and reception. Smokey the Bear even made an appearance!

Local fire companies represented at the event were Station 15 (Lakemont), Station 20 (Duncansville), Station 50 (Allegheny Township), Dauntless Fire Co. (Ebensburg & Cambria Township), Station 51 (Carrolltown), and DCNR Bureau of Forestry.



On July 27, 1984, President Ronald Reagan signed a Proclamation designating August 18th as National Volunteer Firefighter's Recognition Day:

*"Our Nation's Volunteer Firefighters carry on this truly American tradition of citizen response for the common good. Like the Minutemen of our early years, these volunteers are ready to respond on short notice to help fellow citizens in need. Volunteer Firefighters protect our lives, our families, and our communities from the threat of destructive fires, often at great sacrifice. But these men and woman are more than firefighters, and it is fitting and proper that a grateful nation should recognize the vital contributions of the millions of men and woman who serve in our nation's volunteer fire and rescue companies and departments".*



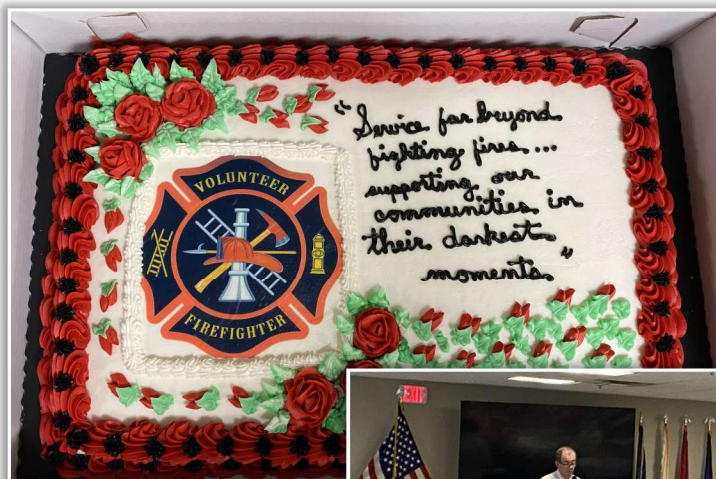


## Volunteer Firefighters Recognition Day

Resident and guests enjoyed remarks by guest speaker Charlie Moyer of Dauntless Fire Company.

A ceremony known as "Striking the Four Fives" was performed to pay tribute to the fallen 9/11 Firefighters and honor ALL firefighters that have fallen in the line of duty.

The cake inscription read: "Service far beyond fighting fires ... supporting our communities in their darkest moments."



## John's Joke Corner

### Greetings from Florida!

Fun fact: you are 1,184 miles from where I live!  
Time for a joke or two (or three!):

---



A man cheats on his girlfriend, Lorraine, with a girl named Clearly. Suddenly Lorraine dies. At the funeral, the man stands up and signs loudly, "I can see Clearly now, Lorraine is gone."

---

A boss shows one of his employees his new sports car.  
"That is amazing!" the employee responds.  
"Isn't it?" replies the boss. "And if you set your goals higher and work even harder this year, I can get an even better car next year!"

---

A new man is brought into the prison cell with a cellmate who is already 100 years old. The new cellmate ask the old man his story.

The old man says, "You look at me, I'm old and worn out, but if you can believe it, I used to the live the life of RILEY. I wintered on the Riviera, had a boat and four luxury cars, dated the most beautiful women, and I ate in all the best restaurants around the world."

The new man asks, "What happened?"

"Riley finally realized his credit cards were missing".

Hope all is well at the Home !!!

So long for now,

*John Serwinsky*





## Commandant's Corner

Greetings all,

As the vibrant colors of autumn begin to paint our trees and a cool breeze replaces the summer heat, we welcome a new season filled with warmth, reflection, and celebration here at the Hollidaysburg Veterans' Home.

Fall is always a special time as it brings opportunities for connection—whether it's cheering on our favorite football teams, honoring heroes on Patriot Day, or enjoying festive treats during our annual Oktoberfest celebration.

On Patriot's Day, we will take time to quietly reflect and honor the lives lost and the bravery shown on 9/11. A small memorial service will be held, giving residents and staff a chance to gather, remember, and show appreciation for our nation's resilience and unity.

Whether you're a die-hard fan or just in it for the snacks and company, football season always adds excitement to our weekends. Expect a few friendly rivalries, game-day socials, and plenty of team spirit in the air!

Oktoberfest is scheduled for Wednesday, September 24th and we're bringing the flavors and traditions of Oktoberfest right here to our community. Expect traditional foods, festive music, and a lively afternoon of celebration with friends and family. Prost!

Lastly, I am proud to announce that the Hollidaysburg Veterans' Home made it to top 5 list of the Altoona Mirror's Hometown Favorite Nursing Home. The final voting round will take place September 14th through September 21st. Please be sure to vote for us!

Happy fall y'all!

*Chrissy*

### Something New is Cooking!

We're thrilled to announce that a new menu will be launching at the State Veterans Homes on **October 15th, 2025!** Our entire Food and Nutrition Team has been working diligently to prepare a fresh selection of delicious new options alongside our classic staple dishes.

We hope you enjoy exploring the new flavors and choices we've carefully selected for you. Thank you for your continued support and patience as we roll out these exciting changes. We look forward to serving you nourishing, flavorful, and visually appealing meals!

~ Your Food and Nutrition Department Team





## Activities in Action

Residents from all three buildings have been attending Altoona Curve baseball games throughout the summer. Arnold Hall resident Mike McEndree loved getting out to enjoy food and socialize with peers. Even staff had fun at the game!



Arnold Hall residents enjoyed visiting Bella Donna from Victory Therapeutic Horsemanship and learning about her care.

**Did you know that Bella Donna in Italian means "Beautiful Woman"? Isn't she a beauty?**



## Activities in Action



Mac Hall residents enjoyed going to Pine Grove Mills Car Show. They had a picnic and spent time with Pine Grove American Legion members. **What is your favorite classic car?**



Eisenhower Hall residents welcomed a few furry visitors from Green Roof Acres Petting Zoo. They enjoyed petting goats, cow, llama, lamb, pig, and alpaca. A wonderful way to spend the morning touching soft noses and fur.

**Did you grow up on a farm? What kind of animals did you have?**



## Resident Recognition

Mr. Stephen Truax, U.S. Marine Corps veteran and Eisenhower Hall resident, was a member of the McConnellsburg American Legion (AL) Post #561, where he coached softball for many years and his jersey meant a lot to him. Regrettably, over the years, his coaching jersey was lost; and members from the McConnellsburg American Legion (AL) Riders Post #561 and the Hollidaysburg AL Riders Post # 516 visited him to present him a new jersey. The AL also presented Mr. Truax with a USMC jersey, hat, pin, lanyard, and USMC sticker. Mr. Truax's family and several HVH staff members participated in this special event.





## Caught You *Caring!*



**Caught You Caring** is an exceptional service program to recognize staff members that exceed expectations. HVH employees and residents who wish to nominate an outstanding employee complete a "Caught You Caring" postcard for that employee. The employees' names are entered into a prize drawing at the end of the month.

These HVH employees were nominated for "Caught You Caring" in the month of July.

Todd Mickel  
 Jess Mosey  
 Sean Lytle  
 Quintin Hamilton  
 Kathryn Ross  
 Harlee Espigh  
 Joe Zeak  
 Jen Andrykovitch  
 William Brodie  
 John Stewart  
 Karrie Hale  
 Josh Konwinski  
 Scott Shipley  
 Leanne Zedack  
 Heather Petit  
 Kim Rush  
 Brian Benning  
 Chrissy Weathersbee  
 Sherry Grant  
 Lisa Gallice  
 Stacey Snyder  
 Hub Schad  
 Audrey Bonneau  
 Barb Foreman

Josephine Colopy  
 Lynne Yetsko  
 Colleen Thomas  
 Mike Kinser  
 Carl Glacken  
 Dylan Risban  
 Ron Rose  
 Dave Haller  
 Lyle Lawson  
 Kevin Kerr  
 Tyler Daughtery  
 James Mejia  
 Robert Gibson  
 Eric Lonsinger  
 Sam McCready  
 Dave Abrino  
 Tom Bowman  
 Adam Hughes  
 Wayne Gwizdak  
 Grace Macaluso  
 Tony Lardieri  
 Greg Patz  
 Amy Harshbarger  
 Hope McGraw

Amanda Bowser  
 Patti Brodie  
 Stephanie Dell  
 Linda Kinnan  
 Donna Ball  
 Tina McCall  
 Cathy Rupp  
 Sharon Baker  
 Nicole Simmons  
 Donna Lee  
 Tina Mc Quire  
 Melinda Summers  
 Kim Stevens  
 Cheryl Feathers  
 Renee Macari  
 Kasie Miller  
 Chase Hileman  
 Kris Heffner  
 Chris Martell  
 Mitchell Raynard  
 Phyllis Sapar  
 Sue Jarrett  
 Dollie Musselman

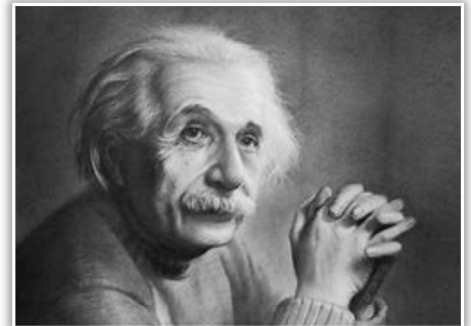
The winner for the July drawing was **Adam Hughes**! Congratulations!

*Any HVH employee or resident can nominate a staff member for this recognition. Please send your nominations each month to Dylan Nelson or Chrissy Dambeck.*

## This Month in History

Brought to you by Historyplace.com and History.com

**August 2, 1939** - Albert Einstein wrote a letter to President Franklin D. Roosevelt concerning the possibility of atomic weapons. "A single bomb of this type carried by boat and exploded in a port, might very well destroy the whole port together with some of the surrounding territory." Six years later, on August 6, 1945, the first Atomic Bomb, developed by the U.S., was dropped on the Japanese port of Hiroshima.



**August 4, 1962** - Apartheid opponent Nelson Mandela was arrested by security police in South Africa. He was then tried and sentenced to five years in prison. In 1964, he was placed on trial for sabotage, high treason and conspiracy to overthrow the government and was sentenced to life in prison. A worldwide campaign to free him began in the 1980s and resulted in his release on February 11, 1990, at age 71 after 27 years in prison. In 1993, Mandela shared the Nobel Peace Prize with South Africa's President F.W. de Klerk for their peaceful efforts to bring a nonracial democracy to South Africa. In April 1994, black South Africans voted for the first time in an election that brought Mandela the presidency of South Africa.

**August 13, 1961** - The Berlin Wall came into existence after the East German government closed the border between east and west sectors of Berlin with barbed wire to discourage emigration to the West. The barbed wire was replaced by a 12 foot-high concrete wall eventually extending 103 miles (166 km) around the perimeter of West Berlin. The wall included electrified fences, fortifications, and guard posts. It became a notorious symbol of the Cold War. Presidents Kennedy and Reagan made notable appearances at the wall accompanied by speeches denouncing Communism. The wall was finally opened by an East German governmental decree in November 1989 and torn down by the end of 1990.

**August 15, 1969** - Woodstock began in a field near Yasgur's Farm at Bethel, New York. The three-day concert featured 24 rock bands and drew a crowd of more than 300,000 young people. The event came to symbolize the counter-culture movement of the 1960's.



**August 16, 1896** - Gold was discovered in Rabbit Creek, a tributary of the Klondike River in Alaska, resulting in the Great Klondike Gold Rush.





## Resident Birthdays

*HVH would like to wish a very **Happy Birthday** to all of our residents with birthdays in August and September.*

### August

David Roush	Denny Cutshall
Tex Dunbar	Harriet Davis
Ada McLaren	George Prestash
Valerie Brand	James Baker
Raymond Mission	Walter Bettler Jr.
Aaron Ager	Carol Tharaldson
Cecil Walk	Arlene Gordon
Gerald Snook	Tom Frampton
Richard Angellotti	Frank Davis
Clayton Pownell	Arthur Imler
Richard Zeigler	Milton Eagleson
Joseph Kuhar	William Myers
Regis Kingera	Michael Harvey
Hilary Schenk	

### September

Robert Marko	Raymond Harding
Robert Schaub	Robert Fink
Bernard Rockey	William Rightnour
Harry Henry	Michael Mateljan
Leona Neibauer	John Weaver
Betty Lawrence	
Donald Sell	
Robert Schweigart	
Delford Turner	
Martha Seymore	
Earl Doran Jr.	
Daniel Brenneman	

### ***Happy Birthday to the U.S. Coast Guard!***

The U.S. Coast Guard celebrated its 235th birthday on August 4th. Created by Congress as the Revenue-Marine in 1790, the Coast Guard is the oldest continuous seagoing service of the United States. The multi-mission service is unique among our military branches for having a maritime law enforcement mission with jurisdiction in both domestic and international waters. As one of the country's five armed services, the Coast Guard has been involved in every U.S. war from 1790 to the Iraq War and the War in Afghanistan. By the 1860s, the service was known as the U.S. Revenue Cutter Service. The Coast Guard maintains an extensive fleet of 243 coastal and ocean-going patrol ships, tenders, tugs and icebreakers called "cutters", and 1650 smaller boats, as well as an aviation division consisting of 201 helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft. While it is the smallest of the U.S. military service branches in terms of membership, with 40,992 men and women on active duty, by itself our Coast Guard has the world's 12th largest naval force.



*The Hollidaysburg Veterans Home is currently home to two (2) Coast Guard veterans.*



## Mac Hall - August Happenings

MacArthur Hall residents enjoyed a catered luncheon of Kentucky Fried Chicken and all the fixings, sponsored by the Tyrone Elks Club. Volunteers from the Elks and HVH staff helped to serve the meal, and a great time was had by all!



At the August resident council meeting, Mr. Jerry Mobley, Army veteran, was awarded a Certificate of Recognition for his beautiful work painting the military statues in front on MacArthur Hall. Great job, Jerry!



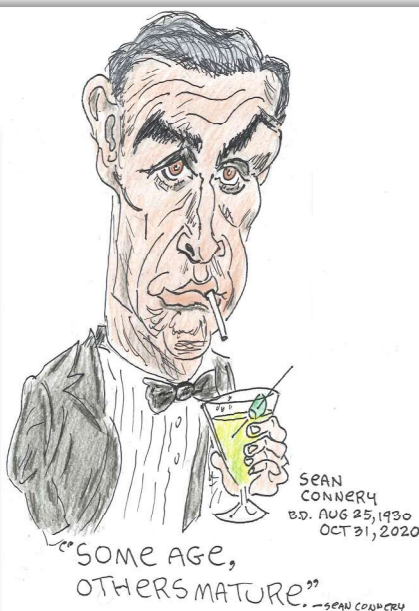
## Mac Hall Musings: August 2025 Edition

Please enjoy these clever drawings and quotes, courtesy of talented resident artist Mr. Bob Fink at MacArthur Hall. He calls this issue **"August Asteroids"** ... featuring cartoons of famous people born in August who have made a "big impact".



MARTIN SHEEN  
B. AUG 3, 1940

"Life is short, but it's long enough to ruin any man who wants to be ruined."  
—MARTIN SHEEN



SEAN CONNERY  
B.D. AUG 25, 1930  
OCT 31, 2020

"Some age, others mature."  
—SEAN CONNERY

### "August Asteroids"



"HULK HOGAN"  
B. AUG 11, 1953  
(TERRY GENE BOLLEA)

"WATCHA GONNA DO WHEN THE HULKSTER RUNS WILD ON YA?!!"  
—H.H.



WHITNEY HOUSTON  
B.D. AUG 9, 1963  
Feb 11, 2012

"I BROKE MY HEART FOR EVERY GAIN, TO TASTE THE SWEET, I FACED THE PAIN."  
—WHITNEY HOUSTON



ALFRED HITCHCOCK  
B.D. AUG 13, 1899  
APR 23, 1980

"REVENGE IS SWEET AND NOT FATTENING."  
—HITCHCOCK



# Donations



The Hollidaysburg Veterans' Home would like to acknowledge all of the organizations and individuals who donated money or items to the home throughout the month of **July 2025**. Your generosity helps our residents to enjoy life-enriching activities and the comforts of home here at HVH. **Thank you!**

## Individuals

Debra Glenny Petersburg, PA  
Robert & Jo Anne Shaffer, Wendy Senior  
Windber, PA  
Kevin Dick Johnstown, PA  
Larry & Judith McCullen Buffalo Mills, PA  
Donald Steigerwald & Donna Riccio  
Bellefonte, PA  
Daniel P Jones & Family Cresson, PA

## Organizations

258 Combat Airfield Operation Squadron  
Johnstown, PA  
American Legion Auxiliary Unit # 628  
Lilly, PA  
American Legion Auxiliary Unit # 238  
Cresson, PA  
American Legion Auxiliary Unit # 573  
Salix, PA  
American Legion Post # 520  
Alexandria, PA  
American Legion Auxiliary St. Michael  
Unit # 551 South Fork, PA  
American Legion Post # 505  
Curwensville, PA  
American Legion Auxiliary Unit # 516  
Hollidaysburg, PA  
American Legion Post # 506  
Carrolltown, PA  
American Legion Auxiliary  
Department of Pennsylvania  
Bedford County Historical Society  
Bedford, PA

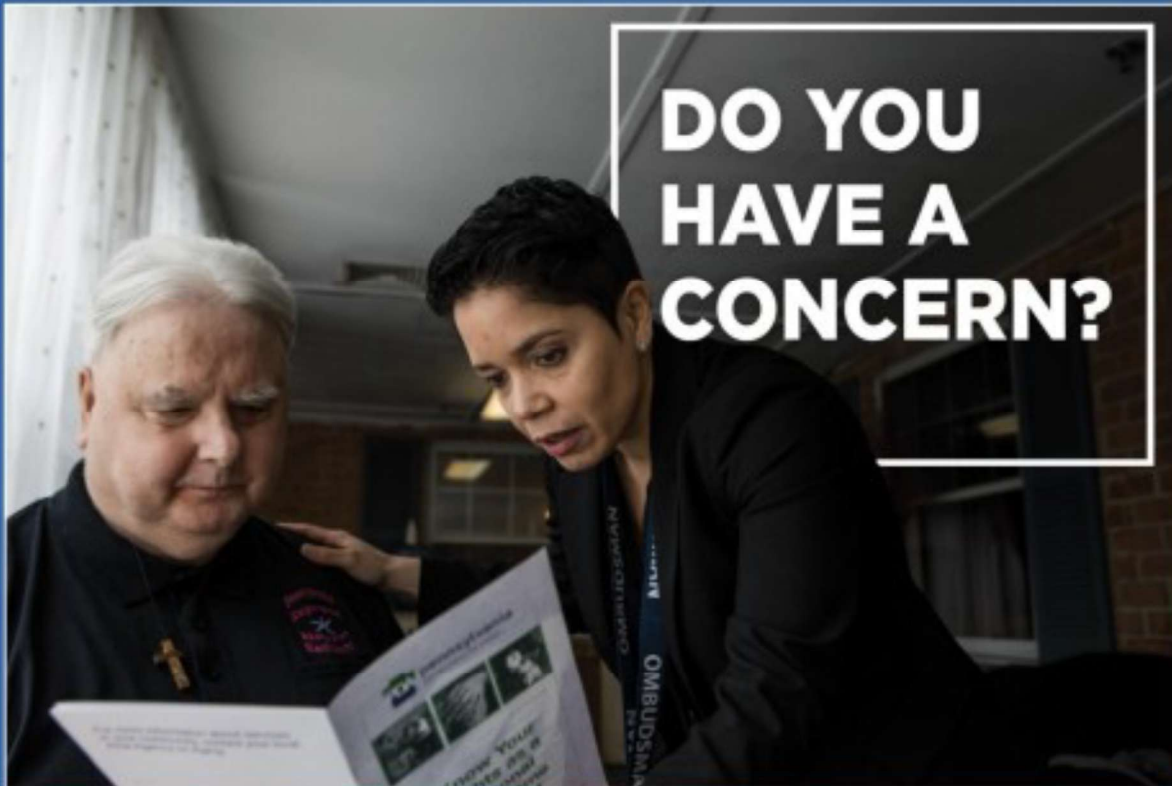
BPO Elks # 212 Tyrone, PA  
Blair Park & Recreation Center  
Altoona, PA  
Catholic Daughters Chapter # 1755  
Hollidaysburg, PA  
Conemaugh Valley Detachment # 287  
Johnstown, PA  
Friends of the Altoona Area Public  
Library Altoona, PA  
Hopewell Grace Church  
New Enterprise, PA  
Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic  
Isaac Rice Circle 233  
Hopewell, PA Confluence, PA  
Gibsonia, PA Gibsonville, NC  
Marlett Homes Lewistown, PA  
Niagara Water Bottling Team Match  
Howard, PA  
Operation: LTM Port Trevorton, PA  
SPC Chad A. Edmundson  
Memorial Foundation Bellwood, PA  
Sons of the American Legion # 36  
Jersey Shore, PA  
VFW Auxiliary Post # 7377 Sankertown  
Cresson, PA  
VFW Auxiliary Department of Pennsylvania  
VFW Post 1586 Hastings, PA  
VFW Post 7053 Northern Cambria, PA





# Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program

*Information for Residents and their loved ones:*



If you have a question or concern, Pennsylvania's Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program can help. Your local ombudsman is trained to advocate for your rights and will work to resolve your problems by:

- Listening to your concerns
- Respecting your choices
- Offering ideas and options to help meet your individual needs

Services are free and confidential.

## CONTACT YOUR LOCAL OMBUDSMAN



**Stacy Park**  
Blair County Ombudsman  
**Phone: 814-296-6336**

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF AGING | AGING.PA.GOV





## Hollidaysburg Veterans' Home

184 Veterans Boulevard  
Duncansville, PA 16835

Phone: 814-696-5201  
Fax: 814-696-5260  
E-mail: RA-MVVA-HOMES@pa.gov



Pennsylvania  
**Department of Military  
and Veterans Affairs**  
Hollidaysburg Veterans' Home

Keep up with us  
on Social Media!

Search "Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs" on any of the below sites to connect and keep up with the DMVA!



<https://www.dmva.pa.gov/paveteranshomes/HollidaysburgVeteransHome/Pages/default.aspx>

## Hollidaysburg Veterans' Home

**HVH's Mission:** Ensure the Veterans of the Hollidaysburg Veterans' Home (HVH) receive superior care and support while complying with State & Federal laws and policies for health care and veterans' programs.

### HVH's Goals

- Ensure the Veterans of HVH receive superior care and support.
- Ensure compliance with State & Federal laws and policies for health care and veterans' programs.
- Capture and implement best business practices and innovative concepts for support functions.
- Manage, train, develop and care for employees – foster a team environment.
- Oversee budget process and proper stewardship of funds.
- Strive for excellence.



**"We Care For Our Veterans!"**

