

KANSAS VFW AUXILIARY

2024-2025 HOSPITAL PROGRAM

Kelle Brewer-Brown, Chairman – October 2024

Send a Donation to the Hospital General Fund....REPORT

(Our Hospitalized Veterans are counting on your donations to help them sustain a good quality of life while in hospital. Support Hospitalized Veterans.)

a HOSPITAL project prior to **October 31, 2024....**Send**

Birthday, Halloween or other occasion cards for the October Card Shower ...

**** The facilities list on the Dept website has at least one facility listed for every city/town that has a VFW Auxiliary. Use this list to send a card to hospitalized veterans in those facilities.**

About 1 in 5 people worldwide suffer from apathy, depression, anxiety, loneliness, frustration, aggression, hallucinations or dementia. To improve the quality of life for people with health problems, it is essential for them to stay emotionally attached and socially engaged. While live animals can serve this role, that is not a safe or practical choice for everyone. Consider purchasing and donating a **robotic companion pet** for the Dementia/Alzheimer wards at a VA, Veterans Home or a medical facility near you. These little cuties are a good alternative for people with dementia who are scared of animals or live in a facility where real animals are not allowed. Pets like these are either interactive and can respond to motion and touch or voice commands, or just sleep peacefully and emit cute little snores. People with Alzheimer's can get unlimited comfort and hugs without the misbehavior and responsibility of a real dog or cat. Perfect Petzz \$15-\$40 avg. or Joy For all robotic pets \$80+



Pick a day, any day, to spread some **SUNFLOWER SUNSHINE** and share Small Joys and Blessings with our Hospitalized Veterans !!!

A few ideas to get you started.....(use last years observances calendar as a guideline for celebrations this year.)

October:

- 04th Cinnamon Roll day
- 11th Sausage Pizza Day
- 13 US Navy formed
- 21st -25th Health Education Wk
- 26th Make A Difference Day
- 31st Halloween
- Natl Knock Knock Joke Day



(Everybody's smilin')

Sunshine day

(Everybody's laughin')

Sunshine day

(Everybody seems so happy today)

It's a sunshine day

(Can you guess where these lyrics come from?)

November:

- 02nd Deviled Egg Day
- 10th Marine Corps formed
- Forget Me Not Day
- 11th Veterans Day
- 18th Mickey Mouse B'day
- 19th Play Monopoly Day
- 30th National Day of Giving

Small Joys and Everyday Blessings

- 1) **Ice cream on a hot day.** Next time you're out melting in the heat, grab an ice cream and experience immediate happiness. Whatever flavor you go for, you'll be left feeling happy and full of pleasure – and a lot cooler!
- 2) **A favorite movie on a lazy afternoon.** Curling up after a busy morning and winding down with a favorite movie is one of the best feelings in the world. Grab the popcorn and a blanket and prepare to become ridiculously happy.
- 3) **Walking through autumn leaves.** Crunching through a path of crispy amber and yellow leaves is so satisfying. Autumn walks help you reset and really appreciate the nature around you.
- 4) **Have a morning tea or coffee klatch.** That first taste of tea or coffee in the morning deserves a lot more credit for how well the day will go! Whether herbal or highly caffeinated, it gets a person ready for their daily routine.

VA EASTERN KANSAS HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

The Dwight D. Eisenhower Veterans Affairs Medical Center had its beginning in 1884. The City of Leavenworth was notified that the Board of Managers for the National Home accepted its offer of 640 acres of land and \$50,000 for use in developing the site for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers. The first member to be admitted to the Western Branch of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers was a Union Army soldier in July 1885. By 1886, 17 buildings had been completed by Mr. James McGonigle, a Leavenworth contractor. The 13-barracks housed over 1,000 men and the mess hall could feed them all at one sitting. The VA began placing more emphasis on hospital facilities, so construction of a new hospital was started in 1930 and completed in 1933.

The VA hospital in Kansas City, Missouri was officially closed and all veterans in the area were to be treated at the Leavenworth VA Hospital. Immediately following WWII, the medical center had an excess of 1,000 beds in general medical and psychiatry with an average of 814 in the Domiciliary care. In 1985, the Leavenworth VA operated a 447-bed hospital, a 45-bed nursing home, and a 650-bed domiciliary. All but the most complicated medical and surgical specialties were covered in-house, with the rest of the specialties within easy reach of Kansas City.

On March 15, 1989, the Veterans Administration was elevated to cabinet status, becoming the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The Colmery-O'Neil VA hospital was once known as the Winter VA hospital. The Winter VA hospital, along with the Menninger Clinic, set up the largest psychiatric training center in the country after World War II. Karl A. Menninger was the Director of the Topeka VA Medical Center from 1945 to 1948. Harry W. Colmery is credited with writing the draft of what became the Serviceman's Readjustment Act of 1944, more popularly known as the G. I. Bill of Rights. Dr. Robert O'Neil was born June 25, 1920 in Topeka, Kansas. He attended Topeka High School and The University of Kansas prior to attending The University of Kansas Medical School. Dr. O'Neil graduated from the University of Kansas in 1942. He then attended the University of Kansas School of Medicine where he earned his medical degree in 1945. Dr. O'Neil interned at the U.S. Naval Hospital in Corpus Christi, TX, followed by residency training at the VA Hospital in Excelsior Springs, MO and the Winter General VA Hospital in here in Topeka.

Dwight D. Eisenhower VAMC and the Colmery-O'Neil VAMC were integrated in 1998 forming the VA Eastern Kansas Health Care System.

Leavenworth – a total of 202 beds; Currently have 17 medical beds; 6 bed ICU/PCU; a 22 bed Community Living Center (CLC); 150 bed DOM and the ED currently has 17 beds

Topeka – a total of 160 beds; General Medical/Surgical unit with 17 beds; 4 bed ICU/PCU; 17 acute psychiatry unit; 22 bed Stress Disorder Treatment Program (SDTP); 17 bed Psychiatric Rehabilitation and Wellness Program (PRWP); 12 beds on Sunflower Memory Care unit (Dementia unit); 15 beds on Geriatric Care unit; ED currently has 18 beds, 17 beds on the Fresh Start unit and a 17 bed Community Living Center unit.

VA Eastern Kansas now sees over 460,000 outpatient visits a year, and operates two parent campuses and 9 community based outpatient clinics. The successful transition of care from inpatient to outpatient services is credited to new technology, more effective outpatient therapies, better medications and medication management, and the expansion of outpatient services that support the Veteran's progress outside the hospital. The shift from inpatient to outpatient care was the start towards an integrated healthcare model that reaches patient in the home and within the communities they live. VA Eastern Health Care System has always and continues to provide a wide range of health care services that includes Primary Care, Surgery, Occupational and Physical Therapies, Radiology, Diagnostic Care, Oncology, Pulmonary, Pharmacy, and a wide range of behavioral Health services, and long-term care. These services still exist and have expanded to the nine community outpatient clinics.



Shower thoughts:

I wonder what my dog named me.

If you live alone, there are probably many days when you don't say a single word all day.

When people make fun of you for being short, they're just saying the worst part about you is that there isn't more of you.

Most men will receive their first bunch of flowers at their funeral.



RESOURCES ON HOW THE VA CAN HELP YOU.....

TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF

WHAT IS YOUR GOAL?	WHAT CAN YOU DO?	WHAT SERVICES CAN VA PROVIDE?	VISIT US ONLINE	GIVE US A CALL	VISIT US IN PERSON
Recognize and address mental health needs	 Address mental health needs	Mental Health Care <i>Inpatient and outpatient mental health services</i>	https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/MENTALHEALTH/get-help/index.asp	Health Care Line: 877-222-8387 (press 0)	Your local VA Medical Center or Vet Center
	 Use counseling services	Vet Center <i>Counseling, outreach, and referral services to eligible Service members, Veterans and their families</i>	https://www.vetcenter.va.gov	Vet Center Line: 877-927-8387	Your local Vet Center
	 Maintain your health and well-being	Well-Being Services <i>Maintain your whole health and well-being by participating in self-care, peer-led groups and other well-being services, such as Yoga, Tai Chi, Mindfulness, Acupuncture</i>	https://www.va.gov/wholehealth	Health Care Line: 877-222-8387 (press 0)	Your local VA Medical Center
Manage primary care and chronic health issues	 Get regular medical care	VA Health Care <i>Inpatient and outpatient health services at VA Medical Centers, clinics and potentially in the community</i>	https://www.va.gov/health-care	Health Care Line: 877-222-8387 (press 0)	Your local VA Medical Center
	 Potentially visit a doctor in your community	Community Care <i>Access to non-VA health care when eligible</i>	https://www.va.gov/communitycare	Community Care National Contact Center: 877-881-7618	Your local VA Medical Center
Seek support for a severe health event	 Get help with an urgent medical need	Urgent Care <i>Urgent care at VA and potentially in the community for minor illnesses or injuries (examples: strep throat, pink eye, ankle pain)</i>	https://www.va.gov/COMMUNITYCARE/programs/veterans/Urgent_Care.asp	MyVA411 800-MyVA411 (800-698-2411)	Your local VA Medical Center with an Urgent Care
	 Get help in an emergency	Emergency Care <i>Emergency care at VA or in the community (examples: chest pain, stroke symptoms, severe burns)</i>	https://www.va.gov/COMMUNITYCARE/programs/veterans/Emergency_Care.asp	Health Care Line: 877-222-8387 (press 0)	Your local VA Medical Center
Maintain your health	 Get regular check-ups	Preventive Care <i>Services such as vaccinations and health screenings to help you stay healthy</i>	https://www.prevention.va.gov	Health Care Line: 877-222-8387 (press 0)	Your local VA Medical Center
	 Get woman specific care	Women Veterans Health Care <i>Women-specific health care</i>	https://www.womenshealth.va.gov	Women's Veterans Care Center: 855-829-6636	Your local VA Medical Center
	 Keep track of your health	My HealtheVet <i>Online tool to make health decisions and manage care</i>	https://www.myhealth.va.gov	My HealtheVet Help Desk: 877-327-0022	Your local VA Medical Center