



2023 Special Holiday Edition
Volume 1, Issue 1

Western North Carolina Military Officers Association of America

2023 Special Holiday Edition

MAKING SPIRITS BRIGHT

If you're thinking, this "Special Holiday Edition" of our newsletter is a first, you're right! There was so much more information to be shared in our 2023 Fall newsletter that was still developing that it seemed a good idea to wait and create a "special edition" just in time for the upcoming holidays.

Recalling holiday seasons away from home, in war zones and other places, the connections made with colleagues, neighbors, and chapel took the edge of my homesickness, and together, everyone's spirits became much brighter. That's what a little spark of holiday spirit does. It catches on, and before you know it, you're sitting at a *new* friend's table passing the potatoes.

One never knows what simple act of kindness may make the biggest difference in someone's life, or even our own.

Take a look at what's available to get involved in and support, up close or remotely. Be inspired! You just never know what will brighten your day or someone else's.

Thank you for your service, and NEVER STOP SERVING!



Donna Culp, Capt , USAF (Fmr)
President, WNC MOAA

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Supporting Charles George VA Medical Center..... 2
- Specific Items Welcomed Year Around at CGVAMC..... 2
- Organization Sponsored Meals for Hospitalized Veterans and CLC Residents 3
- Holiday Gifts & Cheer 3
- Wreaths Across America 4
- WNC WAA Events..... 4
- JROTC Cadets Will Be Laying Wreaths at Black Mountain Cemetery..... 5

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Cutoff for ordering wreaths from-Bullington Gardens—November 23rd
- Cutoff for ordering wreaths from Wreaths Across America —November 28th
- Deadline for purchasing gifts for hospitalized veterans at CGVAMC— Noon, November 25th

SUPPORTING CHARLES GEORGE VA MEDICAL CENTER

Over the years WNC MOAA has been a proven advocate and support for Charles George VA Medical center. In spite of limitations imposed by the pandemic, WNC MOAA adapted to the situation and, using creative approaches, kept the ball rolling. From collecting specific items that benefit hospitalized veterans to monetary donations. In keeping with the guidelines established by CVAMC, our chapter and individual members have been able to donate their time and talent. Maybe volunteering at the medical center doesn't look like it did before the pandemic, but I

think we would all agree that patient safety has always been the priority.

Volunteer services continues to welcome donations of specific items, monetary donations, and individual time and talent. The welcome mat is always out and questions can be directed to the **Center for Development and Civic Engagement at (828) 299-2514.**



SPECIFIC ITEMS WELCOMED YEAR AROUND

FOR ONCOLOGY

HOSPICE

DAY SURGERY

OUTPATIENT
CLINICS

MENTAL HEALTH
PROGRAMS:

STRESS REDUC-
TION BALLS

UNSIGNED
SYMPATHY CARDS
(FOR ONCOLOGY &
HOSPICE)

CONTINUED

Snacks

Chewy Granola Bars
Crackers (peanut butter, cheese, etc.)
Trail Mix
Chips
Individual Juice cans/ box
Peanuts, Little Debbie Cakes
Individual cookies - Fig Newton's, Oreos, Chips Ahoy, etc.
Coffee—ground, w/ caffeine!
Bottled Water
A&W Root Beer
Sodas—2 liter bottles, cans
Diet Soda

Fun Stuff:

Puzzles—500 to 750 pieces
Board Games
Art Supplies— Acrylic and Water Paints, sketch pads (no wire binding), colored markers, colored pencils, crayons, models (cars & ships), paint by number or sticker, 3-D puzzle kits
Activity Books—word search, sudoku, crossword, adult coloring books
Calendars, Journals, (no wire

binding)

Headphones (over the ear, no ear buds)

Personal Care Items

Women's Items—hairbrushes, nail clippers, emery boards, cuticle sticks

Men's Items— travel-size shave cream, triple-blade razors, lip balm, (petroleum free)

Dental— denture adhesive and cleaning tabs

Clothing Items:

Sweatshirts & sweatpants (Large—2XX), slippers, t-shirts, and ?????

Winter Wear— coats, hats, gloves

Miscellaneous

\$25 VISA gift Cards

New Start / Welcome Home Household Items:

Buddy Baskets—household cleaning supplies, broom, laundry basket, paper towels, toilet paper



ORGANIZATION SPONSORED MEALS FOR HOSPITALIZED VETERANS AND CLC RESIDENTS

Organization Sponsored meals are for our Hospitalized Veterans and residents of our CLC. The \$800 donation to this program will help fund nearly 220 meals! Sponsoring organizations are acknowledged by listing their organization logo on a card on each Veteran's tray.

Nutrition and Food Service surveys our Veterans to make sure they are preparing favorite meals. Our Nutrition and Food service have a list of 'approved' items they are able to serve through the VA budget. Through donations, CDCE is able to purchase special meals for our Veterans. Hands-down meal favorites are prime rib, crab cakes, baby back ribs, and chicken alfredo. These are meals they do not regularly receive and are served at lunch by our nutrition and food staff.



The dietitians are totally shocked at how well-received these meals are, at least 85% of our Veterans are eating 75% or more of these meals! That says a lot for 'hospital food'.....These meals are a success!!

This is an ongoing need, without a donation deadline. We are seeking donations to support monthly meals in FY24. We have sponsors for October, January and February. The VA provides special meals for Thanksgiving (November) and Christmas (December).

Vicki Eatmon
Assistant Chief
Center for Development and Civic Engagement
1100 Tunnel Road
Asheville, NC 28805
828-299-2514

HOLIDAY GIFTS & CHEER

Yes, 'Tis the Season' for gifts for our CLC Residents and our Hospitalized Veterans. **The cost of a gift for each one is \$40.00.** Organizations can sponsor as many gifts as feasible, and, of course, every donation is so very much appreciated! This year, we will include a booklet in each gift bag recognizing all donors, whether groups or Individuals. **To be included in this book, donations must be received by Noon, on Friday, November 25, 2023.** Unfortunately, organizations will not be able to distribute gifts this year due to continued health and safety restrictions. But Voluntary Service is committed to upholding our most cherished traditions, so we will hand-deliver all gifts to Veterans' bedsides at Christmas this year.

Make sponsorship checks payable to "VAVS Christmas Fund" and mail to:
Voluntary Service
#135 Charles George VA
Medical Center
1100 Tunnel Road Asheville,
NC 28805



**DECEMBER
16TH
2023**

Mission—

Remember

Honor

Teach

Remember the fallen.

Honor those who
serve.

Teach the next
generation the value
of freedom.

To learn more go to:

[https://
www.wreathscrossa
merica.org/](https://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/)

Or Call
1-877-385-9504

**Cut off for
ordering
wreaths from
WAA:
Nov 28th,
2023**

WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA

DECEMBER 16TH, 2023

**Highlands Cemetery
Ceremony**

POC: Phil Potts (828) 200-9753

Muster at Highlands Rec. Park 600 North 4th St.

Ceremony: 1200 Noon

After the ceremony, volunteers will be shuttled to the cemetery for wreath laying.

To order: <https://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/pages/42674/Overview/?relatedId=0> Call WAA: 1 (877) 385-9504

**Black Mountain Veterans Cemetery
962 Old US Hwy 70
Black Mountain, NC 28711**

Grave Specific: Accepting

Muster at the Chapel

Park along main roads in the cemetery

POCs: Rod Honeycutt (828) 275-6848 will be in front of the chapel.

Instructions for laying of grave specific wreaths: 1030hrs

Lay wreaths for all graves: 1100

Ceremony: 1200

Order wreaths *NLT Nov 23rd* from Bullington Gardens [https://
www.bullingtongardens.org/store/p/veterans-wreaths1](https://www.bullingtongardens.org/store/p/veterans-wreaths1)

828-698 6104

Greenhill Cemetery

129 Legion Dr.
Waynesville, NC 28786

Muster at the Flag Poles

POC: Lonnie Pizza

Arrive: 0930

Ceremony/ Wreath Laying: 1000 hrs

To order: [https://
www.wreathscrossamerica.org/
pages/16687/Overview/?relatedId=0](https://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/pages/16687/Overview/?relatedId=0)

Call WAA: 1 (877) 385-9504

Fundraising Code: NC0081

POC: Lonnie Pizza 321-262-8915

Forest Lawn Cemetery

538 Tracy Grove Rd.
Hendersonville, NC 28792

Muster at the chapel 1030

Lay wreaths following the
ceremony.

POC: John Knapp

(828) 702-3317

To order: [https://
www.wreathscrossamerica
.org/pages/169509/
Overview/?relatedId=0](https://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/pages/169509/Overview/?relatedId=0)

Call WAA: 1 (877) 385-9504

**JROTC CADETS WILL BE LAYING WREATHS AT
BLACK MOUNTAIN CEMETERY**



Charles D. Owen High
Warhorse Battalion

WHAT IS JROTC?

JROTC focuses on citizenship and leadership development, not recruitment for the military. Participation in JROTC incurs no military service obligation.

To learn more and how to contribute to the growth and development of JROTC programs throughout WNC, contact WNC MOAA JROTC Liaison, Jeff Snyder (757) 570-1472
jsnyder243@aol.com

OTHER NEWS FROM CHARLES GEORGE VA MEDICAL CENTER

Mountain News 4th Quarter 2022-23

[file:///C:/Users/Owner/Downloads/4th%20Qtr%202022-23%20FINAL%20REV%20\(2\).pdf](file:///C:/Users/Owner/Downloads/4th%20Qtr%202022-23%20FINAL%20REV%20(2).pdf)

Bonkers for Bingo!

CGVAMC is happy to announce!

Yes, it's official... BINGO is coming back to the CLC. Yes, it's always a draw for our Veterans because there's always a winner or three! If you or your organization would like to host a Bingo event, please contact Beverly Bradigan at 828-298-7911, ext. 5346.

FLU SHOT DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 30, 2023

It's that time of year again. And YOU MUST GET YOUR FLU SHOT TO CONTINUE VOLUNTEERING!

You may receive your vaccination from a VHA medical facility, or other facility, as long as you provide documentation from the doctor or pharmacy that provided your vaccine.

After your shot, complete and sign VA Form 10-9050 (Appendix B), attach your documentation and deliver or mail these to our office. For your convenience, this form is available in Escort.

If you need a medical or religious exemption, you must still complete and sign this form. And please be sure your doctor completes and signs his/her section on the form, including his/her NPI number.

VOLUNTEERS WITH A VALIDATED EXEMPTION ARE REQUIRED TO WEAR A FACE MASK AT ALL TIMES IN OUR FACILITY DURING THE ENTIRE FLU SEASON.



CURRENT MASKING POLICIES

The Western North Carolina VA Health Care System has implemented these safeguards: All Staff, Patients, and Visitors are required to mask when entering Acute Care patient rooms or when engaging in direct care. Emergency and our CLC have strict masking requirements, so check before you enter either of these areas, please!

HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

VOLUNTEERS, DO NOT REPORT:

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 10
VETERANS' DAY OBSERVED

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 23
THANKSGIVING MONDAY

DECEMBER 25 CHRISTMAS
MONDAY

JANUARY 1 NEW YEAR'S DAY

A NOTE FROM THE OFFICE

Looking through the rearview mirror at Fiscal Year 2023, here's what we see in our reflection... Patient Escort walked our Veterans to and from our service areas more than 20,792 times this fiscal year. Twenty-three Transportation Volunteers traveled 95,412 accident-free miles, transporting 727 Veterans who had no other means to get to appointments. Yes, YOU VOLS helped improve lab wait times, expanded our coffee cart to five days a week, and helped us implement brand new services: a Caregiver Peer Support Group, Animal Therapy, Heroes' Welcomes for new patients, Prosthetic Assistants and Hospital Bedside Visits. Since July, 719 Veterans were visited, at bedsides, by YOU, our dedicated Volunteers! All told, you logged 60,820 volunteer hours. With Independent Sectors valuing your time at \$31.80/hour, you saved us \$1,934,076 this year. In addition to your time, monetary and material donations of \$494,805, the year's total of goods, services, and salary saved came to nearly two and a half million dollars. No small change! But we're not done. Buckle your seat belts and hang on for dear life as we roll into FY24. With folks like you on board, there's surely nothing we can't do and many more good things to come!



VICKI EATMON
Assistant Chief
Center for Development
and Civic Engagement

