

VETERANS UPDATE

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SAME-DAY EMERGENCY MENTAL HEALTH CARE



As part of its effort to provide the best access to mental health care possible, VA is reminding Veterans that it offers same-day access to emergency mental health services at VA medical facilities across the country.

“Providing same-day 24/7 access to mental health crisis intervention and support for Veterans,

service members and their families is our top clinical priority,” said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie.

Veterans can call their local VA medical facility or visit a VA emergency department. Veterans in crisis can call the Veterans Crisis Line at 800-273-8255 and press 1, send a text to 838255, or chat at www.VeteransCrisisLine.net.

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 11, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m., Hyannis VA Clinic Open House, 233 Stevens Street, Hyannis, Mass.

May 11, 2 - 3:30 p.m., Veteran Town Hall, Cape Cod Vet Center, 474 West Main Street, Hyannis.

May 15, 1 - 3 p.m., Suicide Prevention Research Discussion Panel, 5th floor auditorium, main hospital, 830 Chalkstone Ave., Providence.

May 15, 5 - 6:30 p.m., Veteran Town Hall, 5th floor auditorium, main hospital, 830 Chalkstone Ave.

May 16, 1 - 2:30 p.m., Preventing Veteran Suicide and Instilling Hope, Dr. Jennifer Primack, 5th floor auditorium, main hospital, 830 Chalkstone Ave., Providence.

May 17, 3:30 - 4:30 p.m., Magic Show for Veterans and Families, with Jason Morel and Bill Schmeelk, 5th floor auditorium, main hospital, 830 Chalkstone Ave., Providence.

MAKE SURE VA HAS YOUR CURRENT ADDRESS

Keep your mailing address updated with VA Providence!

If you're enrolled in VA Health Care, visit your profile at <https://www.va.gov/profile/> to verify your mailing address.

If you don't have a profile, you can visit www.va.gov, click "sign in" and create an account.

You can also update your address at your next appointment through the check-in kiosk, with a clerk upon checking in, or by calling VA at 877-222-8387.

If you have a MyHealthVet account, you can update your address there, as well.



VIETNAM WAR ANNIVERSARY EVENT



Father Phil Salois, a Vietnam Veteran, Silver Star recipient and former VA chaplain, provides the invocation for the Vietnam Veterans Anniversary ceremony at the Rhode Island Veterans Home in Bristol, March 29, 2019. Among others participating in the event were U.S. Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse, Maj. Gen. Christopher Callahan, the adjutant general of the Rhode Island National Guard, Dr. Susan MacKenzie, director of the Providence VA Medical Center, E.J. McQuade, director of the Providence VBA Regional Office, Kasim Yarn, director of the Rhode Island Office of Veterans Affairs, retired Command Sgt. Maj. David Smith, president of the Vietnam Veterans of America State Council, and Vietnam Veteran keynote speakers Wayne Smith, U.S. Army, and Bob Kerr, U.S. Marine Corps. (Photo courtesy of the R.I. Office of Veterans Affairs)

Thank you to the Rhode Island chapter of the Vietnam Veterans of America and the R.I. Office of Veterans Affairs for inviting us to honor Vietnam-era Veterans during the Vietnam War Anniversary ceremony at the R.I. Veterans Home in Bristol March 29.

More than six million Vietnam-era Veterans are alive today — the largest group of Veterans VA serves — including more than 13,000 of our 36,000 patients at the Providence VAMC.

Tragically, most Vietnam War Veterans did not receive the recognition they deserved upon returning home, and many did not have a positive first experience with VA, either.

Today's VA is very different from the VA of decades past. Providing timely access to care is a top priority, and the Providence VA Medical Center is completing an average of more than 96 percent of appoint-

ments within 30 days of the Veteran's preferred date. When you compare the quality of our care with the commercial sector, Medicare and Medicaid, Providence VAMC care continues to score as good or better in most areas. You can see this for yourself by visiting the VA Access and Quality Website at www.accesstocare.va.gov.

There are still many Veterans who have not given VA health care a chance. Help us reach out to them and provide the care they have earned through service and sacrifice. Veterans who served in Vietnam are eligible for VA health care, and many other Vietnam-era Veterans may also be eligible, especially if they have service-connected medical conditions or are retired and on a fixed income.

Anyone interested in learning more can call us at 401-273-7100 and ask to speak to an enrollment specialist, or visit www.va.gov.

On behalf of the more than 1,500 employees of the Providence VA



Providence VA Medical Center

830 Chalkstone Ave
Providence, RI 02908
401-273-7100

Veteran's Crisis Line:
800-273-8255 press 1

Patient Call Center (PCC):
401-457-3336

Pharmacy Call Center:
866-400-1241

Office of Community Care:
401-273-7100 ext. 3015

Account Balances:
401-457-3344

Website:
www.providence.va.gov

Facebook:
[facebook.com/
VAProvidence](https://facebook.com/VAProvidence)

Twitter:
twitter.com/VAProvidence

Medical Center, thank you to all of our Vietnam-era Veterans for your service, and welcome home. It is truly an honor to serve you.