

VETERANS UPDATE

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 11 DECEMBER, 2018

STUDY FINDS VA HOSPITALS OUTPERFORM



According to a recent Dartmouth study, Department of Veterans Affairs hospitals outperform private hospitals in most health care markets.

“This is proof that the hard work

and dedication of our VA employees is making a real difference in the lives of our nation’s Veterans,” said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie.

Dartmouth researchers assessed 121 regional markets with at least

UPCOMING EVENTS

Jan. 10, 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., VAe Info Session, T-35, PVAMC campus. For Veterans interested in a career in electro-mechanics.

Jan. 14, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Veteran Legal Clinic, 5th floor auditorium, main hospital, PVAMC. Get help with R.I. legal matters.

Feb. 15, 2 - 3:30 p.m., VBA & VAMC Joint Veteran Town Hall, 5th floor auditorium, main hospital, PVAMC. Get updates and ask questions.

one VA and one non-VA facility. Learn more at <http://annals.org/aim/fullarticle/2718687/veterans-health-administration-hospitals-outperform-non-veterans-health-administration-hospitals>.

2,500TH VETERAN ENROLLS IN MVP AT PROVIDENCE VAMC

Paul Jennings became the 2,500th Veteran at the Providence VAMC to enroll in the Million Veteran Program Nov. 14.

MVP is a national program to study how genes affect health by safely collecting samples and health information from Veterans.

The program now has more than 715,000 participants nationwide, making it the largest genetic database of its kind. Program data is already being used to research issues such as mental illness and heart disease. Learn more at <http://www.research.va.gov/MVP> or call 866-441-6075.



HAND-MADE HATS FOR HOMELESS VETS



Andree H. Cobb, knitted and crocheted 55 hats and 66 scarves for homeless Veterans in 2018. Her son Paul A. Cobb, is a registered nurse with the Mental Health Service, and works out of the VA Clinic in New Bedford, Mass. (Photo courtesy of Paul A. Cobb)

Andree H. Cobb, went all out this year, knitting and crocheting 55 hats and 66 scarves for homeless Veterans.

Andree's husband, William J. Cobb, was a Navy Veteran, who in 1951 had taken leave from the aircraft carrier USS Tarawa in the Mediterranean Sea and travelled to Belgium to visit the gravesite of his older brother, Russell C. Cobb, who was killed in the Battle of the Bulge, the last major German offensive on the Western Front during World War II.

The pair met by chance in Luxembourg while William was touring the tiny country on his way back from Belgium. He spotted then Andree Felicie Hammer on a train, and wrangled up the courage to ask her if she spoke English, to which she responded, "A *leetle*." They spent the next several days touring Luxembourg together. By the end of his stay, and with her parents' approval, William proposed and Andree accepted.

Andree and William were married for 64 years, raising four children together. When William passed away in 2016, Andree found herself without many of the roles that had played central parts in her life, such as wife, best friend and caregiver.

"It's been difficult for her, but she is very resilient," said her son, Paul A. Cobb, a registered nurse with the Mental Health Service, who works out of the VA Clinic in New Bedford, Mass. "After all, she was quite young during World War II when Luxembourg was occupied by the Germans."

Now 88 years old, Andree cannot do many of the things she used to, but Paul said she's proud to be able to help Veterans. Making and donating the hats and scarves for the second year now has become a very important role for her.

"I'm very proud of her, but I guess that's fairly obvious," said Paul. "I just want to thank her for caring about our Veterans, and wish everyone a happy and thoughtful holiday season."



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

Community Care /
Veteran's Choice Office
401-273-7100 ext. 3015

Account Balances:
401-457-3344

Providence VBA Regional Office
401-273-7100 ext. 3107

Website:
www.providence.va.gov

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