

# VETERANS UPDATE

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## FIVE MILLION NOW USE MY HEALTHEVET



The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has registered more than 5 million users on My HealtheVet as of Oct. 15, 2019.

The web-based portal helps Veterans proactively engage with their VA health care team and make informed decisions.

“My HealtheVet is a shining example of how Veterans can play a more active role in their health care journey,” said VA Secretary

Robert Wilkie. “VA is committed to providing the necessary technologies to ensure that Veterans receive care when and where they need it.”

The tool allows Veterans to refill prescriptions, view appointments, send secure messages to their VA health care team, and download their medical records.

Learn more or enroll at <https://www.myhealth.va.gov>.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Jan. 22, 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., Last Roll Call Ceremony of Remembrance**, 3rd floor chapel, main hospital. Honoring Veterans we have lost and supporting their loved ones.

**Feb. 14, 2 - 3:30 p.m., Joint Veteran Town Hall**, 5th floor auditorium, main hospital building. Get updates from VAMC, VBA and R.I. Veterans Services leadership, ask questions and get answers.

**March 12, 1 - 3 p.m., Women Veteran Celebration**, 5th floor auditorium, main hospital building. Guest Speaker: Dr. Mary Raum. Celebrating women Veterans of all eras for their courage and contributions across the generations.

## PVAMC WEBSITE ADDS COMPARISON TOOLS

The Providence VA Medical Center website now provides online links to compare wait times, quality of care and patient experience ratings with both VA and other health care providers.

“This information has previously been available from other VA sites, but now links to them are posted right on our website for easier access,” said Erin Clare Sears, acting director of the Providence VAMC.

To access the links, visit [www.providence.va.gov](http://www.providence.va.gov) and click “Compare Your VA Facility” on the left navigation sidebar.

The screenshot shows the website for the Providence VA Medical Center. The top navigation bar includes links for Health, Benefits, Burials & Memorials, About VA, Resources, Media Room, Locations, and Contact Us. The main content area features a 'Welcome' message and a 'HOURS OF OPERATION' section. The left navigation sidebar is visible, with 'Compare your VA Facility' highlighted in a red circle.

## GROUNDBREAKING FOR NEW FACILITY



From left to right, U.S. Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse; U.S. Sen. Jack Reed; Dr. Susan MacKenzie, director of the Providence VA Medical Center; Jessica Ramos-Tinney, project manager from Ironclad Services of Springfield, Mass.; and Erin Clare Sears, associate director for operations at the Providence VAMC, officially break ground Friday, Nov. 8, 2019, on the project to renovate the former Harwood U.S. Army Reserve Center at 385 Niagara Street in Providence for use by the Providence VAMC's Research Service. (Providence VAMC photo by Winfield Danielson).

The construction project to renovate the former Jonathan H. Harwood U.S. Army Reserve Center at 385 Niagara Street in Providence, R.I., officially broke ground Nov. 8, 2019.

Participating in the groundbreaking were U.S. Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse; U.S. Sen. Jack Reed; Dr. Susan MacKenzie, director of the Providence VA Medical Center, who has since retired; and Erin Clare Sears, associate director for operations, who is now acting director of the Providence VAMC.

The \$12 million contract was awarded Sept. 26, 2019, to Ironclad Services of Springfield, Mass. The project involves 7,200 square feet of new construction in addition to the renovation of 22,640 square feet of existing building spaces, as well as several site improvements, including resurfacing of the existing parking area, revised landscaping, better drainage and enhanced security.

Upon completion, scheduled for the fall of 2020, the new

facility will be dedicated to the Providence VAMC Research Service, which is experiencing a rapidly growing need for more space.

Collaborating with partners such as Brown University and Lifespan on more than 250 research projects, the Research Service had a demand for nearly 60,000 additional square feet of space as of 2016. Renovations to the Harwood Center will help close a significant part of this gap.

The Army Reserve facility was named for Jonathan Hartwell Harwood Jr., a Rhode Islander who enlisted in the Army and served during World War II, attaining the rank of captain. He served with the 293rd Signal Company of the 2nd Ranger Battalion.

Harwood was killed in action on June 7, 1944, on Omaha Beach in Normandy, France. His awards, medals and commendations include the Silver Star, Purple Heart, World War II Victory Medal, American Campaign Medal, Good Conduct Medal and the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal.



### 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

VA Benefits Information  
800-827-1000

Website:  
[www.providence.va.gov](http://www.providence.va.gov)

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

Twitter:  
[twitter.com/VAProvidence](https://twitter.com/VAProvidence)