In conjunction with its annual Flag Day commemoration the PA Soldiers’ & Sailors’ Home (PSSH) inducted two new members into their Hall of Fame. U.S. Army veteran Corporal Jarrid King and Air Force veteran Senior Airman Brian Bell were both inducted posthumously for their service and ultimate sacrifice in Afghanistan.

Jarrid King enlisted into the U.S. Army in March of 2009. She served in the 7th Engineer Battalion, 10th Sustainment Brigade, 10th Mountain Division, 693rd Sapper Company from Fort Drum, NY. Cpl. King was deployed to active duty on April 1, 2009 to Afghanistan. On Wednesday, January 12, 2011, Cpl. King was killed in action in Ghelan, Afghanistan, from wounds sustained when enemy forces attacked his unit with an IED. Cpl. King received numerous military awards and decorations that included the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart, the Combat Action Ribbon, Global War on Terrorism Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, and the NATO Medal.

Senior Airman Bryan Bell served in the U.S. Air Force, 2nd Civil Engineer Squadron, Delta Company, 466th Explosive Ordnance Disposal. Sr. Airman Bell was deployed to Iraq on his first tour of duty “Operation Iraqi Freedom”, where he cleared 430 undetonated explosive devices. In October 2011 in support of “Operation Enduring Freedom”, Sr. Airman Bell was deployed to Afghanistan, where he successfully cleared 209 undetonated explosive devices. On January 5, 2012 in Shir Ghazi, Afghanistan’s southern Helmand Province, Sr. Airman Bell was killed in action when his vehicle was struck by an IED. Sr. Airman Bell was the recipient of multiple awards to include the Bronze Star Medal with Valor, the Purple Heart, Iraq Campaign Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Air Force Combat Action Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Meritorious Unit Award and the NATO Medal.

The Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Hall of Fame was established in 1998 to recognize individuals who have made unique and exemplary contributions to the department’s programs and the PA National Guard. Members of the Hall of Fame are selected from both military and civilian ranks.

Election to the Hall of Fame is the highest honor that can be conferred on an individual for contributions to the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, the Pennsylvania National Guard and the veterans of the Commonwealth.
Happy summer! The June solstice arrived Tuesday, June 21st marking the first day of summer, though the weather hasn’t been much to rave about.

Fun was in full swing at PSSH for the month of June. Our State Veterans’ Home week was June 12th-June 18th and it was a huge success. From tie-dye shirts and campfires, to the SVHW Carnival Day that included the Kona Ice truck, a cotton candy machine, games, and music by “Loose Change Band”, fun was had by all. We are already looking forward to next year. On June 12th we held our quarterly Advisory Council Meeting followed by a very special Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony and Flag Day Ceremony. Let us not forget “FAB4EVER” that performed on June 17th. Happy Father’s Day to our Dad’s out there, and in honor of all our Dad’s, we celebrated with a Father’s Day Bros and Tattoos social on June 19th. June 21st – June 24th we celebrated Certified Nursing Assistant week.

June was a busy month here at PSSH and I want to take a moment to say “Thank you” to all the staff that helped plan/execute the events that took place throughout the month. Without you, none of this would have been possible. Thank you!

PSSH will host a COVID 19 vaccination clinic on July 12th for any resident and employee eligible for any part of the vaccination series.

Campus construction continues and projects remain on track for completion dates. Please continue to use caution when driving or walking around the grounds. Unit D and Unit E flooring project dates remain TBD pending supply availability.

Safety reminder…With temperatures rising and the sun shining more, I can’t express it enough to hydrate, apply sunscreen and limit your time in the sun. the heat and humidity can have a negative impact on all of us, but especially on our elderly population.

Our “Caught You Caring” employee of the month of May is Meghan Jenkins! You can find Meghan working in our activity department. Meghan does an outstanding job interacting with all of the residents and is a great asset to our PSSH team. Thank you for everything you do for our resident’s and their families! Congratulations Meghan!

One last thought…

“Everything you’ve ever wanted is sitting on the other side of fear”.
### July Birthdays

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<th>Name</th>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Day</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Boyle</td>
<td>July</td>
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<td>Ron Kedzierski</td>
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<td>James Kelly</td>
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<td>John Barger</td>
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<td>Angela Cherubino</td>
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<td>Robert Holler</td>
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<td>Richard Speer</td>
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<td>Joyce Hellenschmidt</td>
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### Gary Barron: Personal Care Unit (PCU) Resident of the Month

Gary Barron is originally from Erie, PA. Mr. Barron was a Radioman in the US Navy. He has been married for 51 years and has two children. Mr. Barron raised Jack Russell dogs for 25 years. He also coached Little League, American Legion, and High School baseball. Mr. Barron enjoys Western Movies and John Wayne is his favorite actor. He listens to Country and Western music. Mr. Barron’s favorite singers are Dolly Parton and Kenny Rodgers.

The next time you see Gary Barron be sure to congratulate him on being nominated PCU resident of the month!

### Thomas Holmes: Nursing Care Unit (NCU) Resident of the Month

Thomas Holmes was born in Anchorage, Alaska. He served as a Navy Seabee and spent three years in the Navy Reserves. Mr. Holmes is married with three daughters and studied structural engineering. He enjoys golfing and fishing as well as camping in backwater woods. Mr. Holmes listens to rock and roll music from the 1960’s. His favorite group is The Who, live in concert and his favorite movie is Lonesome Dove with Robert Duval and Danny Glover.

The next time you see Thomas Holmes be sure to congratulate him on being nominated NCU resident of the month!
Preview of July’s Activities

NCU Activities:

Tuesday, 7/5, 2:00pm, Word Games
Wednesday, 7/6, 1:30pm, Gazebo Concert: Acoustic Ear Candy
Wednesday, 7/13, 9:45am, Titusville VFW Fish Fry
Wednesday, 7/20, 1:30pm, Gazebo Concert: Steppin’ Pappy
Wednesday, 7/27, 10:30am, Elks Picnic

PCU Activities:

Friday, 7/8, 2:00pm, Poker (PCU Dining Room)
Wednesday, 7/13, 7:00pm, BINGO (PCU Dining Room)
Wednesday, 7/20, 7:00pm, BINGO (PCU Dining Room)
Wednesday, 7/27, 7:00pm, Erie Heights Brass Ensemble (Gazebo)

TAPS
John Dombrowiak
Joseph Allessie

Newsletter Info

If you have an idea or would like to contribute to the next newsletter, please contact:

Ken Vybiral
Volunteer Coordinator
(814) 878-4961
kvybiral@pa.gov
New Residents
The PA Soldiers’ & Sailors’ Home would like to welcome our new residents:
Robert Rose
Leo Brown

Want to keep updated on DMVA?
Follow us on these social media platforms!

Search “Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs” on any of those sites to connect with us and see the latest news, pictures and videos from DMVA.