The Advisory Council at the PA Soldiers’ & Sailors’ Home is currently reviewing the nomination of Technical Sergeant Robert G. Slade for induction into the Home’s Hall of Fame. Located on the mezzanine between the Personal Care and Nursing Care units the Hall of Fame currently has eleven members to include a former Governor, Congressional Medal of Honor recipients, and past advisory council members. Criteria for nominees are that they have completed honorable, active duty, military service and rendered extraordinary service to our Nation, the community and/or comrades while in military services.

Technical Sergeant Robert G. Slade, a World War II veteran from McKean County, PA served in the US Army’s 45th Division, 180th Infantry, Company C. Technical Sergeant Slade was awarded the Silver Star for gallantry in action on 15 October 1944 in France. While advancing on enemy soldiers toward the direction of the Mortagne River, the light machine gun section that Technical Sergeant Slade was attached to, received a heavy barrage of small arms and mortar fire. Slade, discovering that out of his entire machine gun section he was the only man on his feet, manned his machine gun and successfully covered the road which was a natural approach from the German positions. His accurate fire inflicted many casualties and prevented the enemy from attacking. Even though numerous shells burst in the trees near Slade’s position he remained with his gun and stopped several German assaults. Together with the riflemen of his company and the attached weapons he broke up the enemy counterattack.

If accepted, Mr. Slade’s nomination will move forward for review and approval by the Pennsylvania State Veterans Commission.
Even though the weather hasn’t really been much to rave about, the first official day of summer was June 21st. Since then, I must admit the weather has been quite enjoyable.

Regardless, PSSH fun was in full swing for the month of June: June 6th was the 75th Anniversary of D-day (1944) and there was a remembrance ceremony in honor of those that served in the NCU dining room. June 7th we were honored to welcome Brigadier General Regan from the Air National Guard to our facility, as well as, the State Veterans’ Commission members for the Advisory Council and State Veterans’ Commission meetings. Our State Veterans’ Home week was June 9th through June 15th and it was a huge success with a great turnout. From tie-dye shirts to the SVHW Carnival Day that included the Kona Ice and Waffle trucks, a petting zoo, games and music to the Flag Day Ceremony, fun was had by all, and we are already looking forward to next year. Let us not forget “Re-Creation” that performed on the 13th. As always, they put on an excellent show for our Veteran’s. On the 14th we recognized “Flag Day”, we honored many of our residents with the Cold War Medal for their service. Thank you, to our own Katy Dilling and our activities staff, for the outstanding planning/execution of all the events that took place throughout the week. 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 social on June 16th. The activities continued throughout June with concerts, picnics, Seawolves games and bingo events...the perfect way to enjoy time with our residents and their families.

I want to take a moment to say “Thank you” to all the staff for all your hard work and dedication to our residents and their families. The relentless hours and commitment do not go unnoticed. Without you, none of this would have been possible. Not only is PSSH a better place, but the world is a better place because of you!

Safety reminder...School is out! Please be on the lookout for the children in the surrounding neighborhood as we arrive/leave the facility. Be aware of your surroundings and slow down. It is not just our elderly population but it’s the younger generation that we need to be mindful of, too!

Coming for the month of July...

The Chapel renovation will be starting hopefully in July and will be out of commission for approximately 1 year. Other alternatives for memorial services, funerals, etc. are in the works. Part of the renovation will involve the original Lincoln stained glass. The plan is to have this displayed in front of the Commandants’ office.

As always, the Activities Department will keep our resident’s and family members active with campfires, music and bingo throughout the month of July, too.

Our “Caught You Caring” employee of the month for May is Darryl Bell. Darryl was caught caring when he assisted with walking a resident and helping a fellow coworker. Darryl is a great asset to PSSH! He can be found in our stockroom or delivering supplies around the facility. Thank you for your hard work, dedication and how you care for our residents at PSSH!

One last thought...Life changes in an instant, and you will never be in that same place at that very same time again so live in the moment, laugh often and love endlessly.
Daryl Berlin: Personal Care Unit (PCU) Resident of the Month

Daryl Berlin was born in Ashtabula, OH and at a young age moved to California before returning to Ohio and eventually settling in Girard, PA. Growing up Mr. Berlin was active in the Cub Scouts and Boys Scouts and had the opportunity to travel west and visit many of our National Parks including the Grand Canyon. Mr. Berlin attended Rice Avenue Union High School (currently Girard High School) and entered their Building and Maintenance program through the Erie County Vocational and Technical School graduating in 1973.

Already well-traveled Mr. Berlin enlisted in the Navy’s delayed entry program in 1976 and joined the Sea Bees shortly thereafter. As a Sea Bee Mr. Berlin attended Builders School in California and Weapons Training in Mississippi. As a member of the Amphibious Assault Group, Beach Masters 2nd Unit, Mr. Berlin conducted assault trainings all over the world to include Scotland, Germany, Holland, Iceland, and St. Thomas. Mr. Berlin also spent two years as an engineman in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba repairing tug boats. It was there that Mr. Berlin enjoyed night diving and on one particular night encountered a school of Barracuda and had to remain completely still hoping the fish would swim away, fortunately they did! Preparing to exit the Navy Mr. Berlin spent his final days in Philadelphia’s Navy Yard until his Honorable Discharge in the spring of 1984.

Following his Naval Service Mr. Berlin returned to Girard and worked with his father in his Roofing and Aluminum Siding business. In the late 1980’s Mr. Berlin took a position here at the PA Soldiers’ & Sailors’ Home in the Maintenance Department and worked here until the mid-1990’s before returning to work with his father. When his father retired Mr. Berlin worked side jobs and helped out at his brother’s pizza shop.

Mr. Berlin enjoys the comradery and time spent with his fellow residents. Mr. Berlin is an avid Steelers fan and enjoys hunting, fishing, and coin collecting. He has three children and thoroughly enjoys spoiling his grandchildren! The next time you see Daryl Berlin congratulate him on being PCU resident of the month!

Donald McClellan: Nursing Care Unit (NCU) Resident of the Month

Donald McClellan was born in Waterford, Pennsylvania. Mr. McClellan is a US Navy veteran and worked at Aberdeen proving ground for 60 years. He ran wind tunnel tests and received a mission medallion from John Glenn for his work in launching the astronaut into orbit.

Mr. McClellan has been married to his wife Beverly for the past six years. His first wife of more than 50 years was a professional bowler and is in the Bowling Hall of Fame for more than 30, 300 games. Mr. McClellan was also an avid bowler. He enjoys playing cards, listening to country music and animals, especially dogs!

Mr. McClellan loves to be outdoors and his favorite sports to watch are NASCAR, Football, and Baseball. The next time you see Donald McClellan be sure to congratulate him on being the NCU resident of the month!
Preview of July’s Activities

Thursday, 7/4, 2 pm, Special July 4th Bingo in memory Paul Stiles (NHDR)
Friday, 7/5, 2pm, Music with Bob (NHDR)
Saturday, 7/6, 2 pm, BINGO Guardians USA Vets (NHDR)
Monday, 7/8, 7 pm, Presque Isle Little Big Band (Gazebo)
Tuesday, 7/9, 6:30pm, Campfire (Commandants House)
Wednesday, 7/10, 9am, Titusville Fish Fry
Thursday, 7/11, 1:30 pm, Gazebo Concert: Full House with Johnny Lambert
Friday, 7/12, 2 pm, Happy Hour with Music by Mike and Marie (NHDR)
Saturday, 7/13, 2 pm, BINGO VFWA Dept. of PA (NHDR)
Monday, 7/15, 2:30 pm, Music by Johnny Lambert (NHDR)
Tuesday, 7/16, 7 pm, Music by Steppin’ Pappy
Wednesday, 7/17, 10:30 am, Erie Seawolves Game
Thursday, 7/18, 10 am, Roar On The Shore: Al Mele Memorial Ride (Gazebo)
Friday, 7/19, 2:30 pm, Moon Pie Social w/ Elizabeth Tomcho (NHDR)
Sunday, 7/21, 2:30 pm, Cupcake Social
Monday, 7/22, 9am, Art Class with Ed & Tom (Activity Room)
Tuesday, 7/23, 6:30pm, Campfire (Commandants House)
Wednesday, 7/24, 2:30pm, Music by Kirk Hamza
Thursday, 7/25, 1:30 pm, Gazebo Concert: FAB4EVER
Monday, 7/29, 11 am, Erie Seawolves Game
Tuesday, 7/30, 9:00 am, Crazy Knitting (Unit B)

TAPS

James Brown, 6/4/2019
Marie Nevitt, 6/7/2019
Rose Marie Tufts, 6/11/2019
Edwin Vesely, 6/13/2019
Edward Desin, 6/15/2019

Newsletter Info

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

Ken Vybiral
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kvybiral@pa.gov
New Residents

The PA Soldiers’ & Sailors’ Home would like to welcome our new residents:

Clark Russ 5/30/19
Joseph Downs 5/30/19
Ralph Fleeger 6/3/19
James Hiles 6/11/19
William Smetana 6/12/19
John Hanich 6/19/19
Dorothy Gronostaj 6/14/19
Ralph Lossie 6/18/19
Ralph Lossie 6/19/19
Ronald Kedzierski 6/21/19
Dionisio Pulcini 6/25/19

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