The Pennsylvania Soldiers’ & Sailors’ Home hosted its fifth Veterans Resource Expo on Friday, January 17th in the Personal Care Dining Room. This annual event invites organizations from the Erie Area to promote their mission to the residents and provide information that can help connect veterans to a wide variety of valuable services.

This year 20 agencies participated in the Expo to include the Erie VA Medical Center, U.S. Senator Pat Toomey’s Office, PA Representative Curt Sonney’s office, PA Representative Ryan Bizzaro’s Office, the United Way of Erie County, Erie County Public Library, the Tom Ridge Environmental Center, US Senator Pat Toomey’s Office, US Representative Mike Kelly’s Office and many more!

Tremendous support was provided by the U.S. Coast Guard, Erie Station who helped vendors unload materials, escorted residents through the Expo, and provided their own resource table. Throughout the event, residents enjoyed music, refreshments, and the comradery shared with organizations looking to support veterans.
Happy New Year wishes to you and your families, and I hope that the year 2020 will be full of prosperity and good health. As we say goodbye to 2019, we reflect on the memories made, places we have been, people we have met, and the time spent with family and friends!

The month of December was a very busy time here at PSSH. The season of giving was in full swing! The many organizations and volunteers that gave their time and/or money to help our veterans enjoy the holiday season was truly inspirational and a testament that good still exists in the world. I cannot thank everyone enough for all that you do. January’s activities will continue with music, bingo and a few outings.

Renovations…I continue to see improvements in the chapel every day. Hopefully in late January and possibly even into February, the Lincoln stained glass project will begin. Again, the intention is to place the Lincoln in the wall in front of the Commandant’s office and the natural lighting inside the office will show the beauty of the stained glass. I am sure this will be stunning once it is complete.

Safety…We haven’t quite experienced the severe cold, snowy weather yet, but this is Erie and it will not disappoint. As we see the “polar coaster effect” that is predicted this season, be alert of the weather. Take extra time in your commute to and from the facility, be extra careful of possible wet or slippery surfaces and please make sure you wear the appropriate clothing and footwear when going outdoors. Prevention is key!

With the arrival of the new year, I must give credit to all the staff for the amazing job that you continue to do every day for PSSH, our residents and their families. Your hard work, compassion and commitment do not go unnoticed, and again, I am thankful for each one of you for all that you do!

Our “Caught You Caring” employee of the month is Hysni Morina. You can find Hysni in Security on 1st shift. Hysni is a great asset to our PSSH team! Thank you for what you do!

One last thought…Being a family means you are part of something very wonderful. It means you will love and be loved for the rest of your life…no matter what.
January Birthdays

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Daryl Berlin</td>
<td>January 3</td>
<td>Katheryn Murray</td>
<td>January 17</td>
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<td>Ann Stewart</td>
<td>January 6</td>
<td>Douglas Babo</td>
<td>January 18</td>
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<td>Richard Tome</td>
<td>January 7</td>
<td>Jacquelyn Root</td>
<td>January 18</td>
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<td>David Miller</td>
<td>January 10</td>
<td>Richard Smith</td>
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<td>James Gearhart</td>
<td>January 11</td>
<td>Retta Ellenberger</td>
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<td>Freddie Parker</td>
<td>January 13</td>
<td>Donald Lewis</td>
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<td>William Pyott</td>
<td>January 13</td>
<td>Carl Milewski</td>
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<td>Phillip Hoydic</td>
<td>January 15</td>
<td>Ed Ryan</td>
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<td>Ronald Lotarski</td>
<td>January 16</td>
<td>James Vogus</td>
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<td>Leroy Lewis</td>
<td>January 16</td>
<td>Daniel Storer</td>
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Richard Tome: Nursing Care Unit (NCU) Resident of the Month

Richard Tome is a native of Erie, PA and served in the US Army. He enjoys the outdoors and loves to hunt small game and fish in the bay. Following his military service Mr. Tome spent 31 years working construction in the tri-state area and coached the sport he loves, football. Mr. Tome’s favorite teams are Penn State and the New York Giants. He is also a licensed airplane pilot and flew private planes for personal enjoyment.

Mr. Tome enjoys traveling and in particular visiting Civil War battlefields. He has three boys, five grandchildren and three great grandchildren. Be sure to congratulate Richard Tome on being selected as the Nursing Care Unit Resident of the Month!

Stephan Mahler: Personal Care Unit (PCU) Resident of the Month

Stephan Mahler is a veteran of the US Army. Mr. Mahler’s favorite movie is Blazing Saddles and his favorite hobby is playing Dungeon and Dragons. When it comes to dealing with people Mr. Mahler recommends that you never let them know what you are thinking!

The next time you see Stephan Mahler be sure to congratulate him on being nominated PCU Resident of the Month!
Preview of January’s Activities

Thursday, 1/16, 1:30 pm, BINGO (NHDR)
Friday, 1/17, 2 pm, Veterans Resource Expo (PCDR)
Saturday, 1/18, 10am, BINGO Luncheon - Edinboro/McKean
Monday, 1/20, 2 pm, Steppin’ Pappy (NHDR)
Tuesday, 1/21, 10 am, BINGO/Luncheon Ushers Club
Wednesday, 1/22, 9:00am, Wal Mart Trip
Thursday, 1/23, 10 am, Pet Visits with Missy
Friday, 1/24, 2 pm, Birthday Party with Music by Mike and Marie (NHDR)
Saturday, 1/25, 2:00 pm, BINGO DAVA (NHDR)
Monday, 1/27, 2 pm, Music with Angelo (NHDR)
Tuesday, 1/28, 10:00 am, Pet Visits w/ Ginger
Wednesday, 1/29, 7 pm, Poker (AR)
Thursday, 1/30, 8:30 am, Meet & Greet
Friday, 1/31, 10:00 am, Four Chaplains Ceremony (PCDR)
New Residents
The PA Soldiers’ & Sailors’ Home would like to welcome our new residents:

Donald Martucci  1/2/20
Francis LaGrandeur  1/7/20
Jean Martin  1/10/20

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.