May, marked officially as Military Appreciation Month, is a special month for both those in and out of the military.

Not only do we pause on Memorial Day to remember the sacrifice and service of those who gave all, but the month also holds several other military anniversaries and events, including Military Spouse Appreciation Day and Armed Forces Day. What is Military Appreciation Month?

Each year the president makes a proclamation, reminding Americans of the important role the U.S. Armed Forces have played in the history and development of our country. May was chosen because it has many individual days marked to note our military’s achievements.

Declared by Congress in 1999, May was selected National Military Appreciation Month as a month-long observance honoring the sacrifices of the United States Armed Forces. There are more military related observances during the month of May than any other month, so it is an appropriate time to celebrate the men and women in uniform. During May, we recognize Loyalty Day, VE Day (the end of World War II in Europe on May 8, 1945), Armed Forces Day, Military Spouses Day and Memorial Day.

It is a month to honor those who are serving and those who have served.
I want to begin by saying “Thank you” to everyone for your patience, cooperation and attention to the COVID-19 pandemic that we are experiencing in our Country and worldwide.

Many changes have been implemented over the past couple of weeks here at PSSH, and they continue to change by the minute. Currently, our priority is the health and safety of our veterans, families and staff. Security measures have been established here at the facility and health screeners are posted upon entrance. Please STOP to complete questionnaire and have your temperature taken. Visitation is still prohibited at this time.

The DMVA is monitoring the situation closely. We are following the current CDC guidelines regarding COVID-19 and decided to limit March activities. April activities will be decided on an as needed basis. Renovation projects have been placed on hold, too. Please note that once this pandemic has come to pass and we are given the all clear, we will resume activities and continue with the renovation projects as previously scheduled.

The Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) is a contagious respiratory illness. For the majority, symptoms will be very similar to a bad cold. The elderly are at a greater risk of developing more complicated symptoms due to having underlying health conditions. Symptoms can also be like influenza A or B. Coronavirus – like most respiratory illnesses, are spread by prolonged, close contact.

Preventative measures you should utilize include:
- Hand washing & use of hand sanitizers.
- Coughing/sneezing in elbows versus hands.
- Avoid touching your face whenever possible. Particularly – eyes, nose, mouth
- Maintaining a social distance whenever possible – recommended 6 feet between yourself and another individual.
- Limit group activities to less than 10 people.

Our “Caught you Caring” employee of the month is Mark Thompson. You can find Mark in housekeeping on 1st shift. Mark is an integral part of our PSSH team. Thank you for all you do for our Veterans and the PSSH family!

One last thought... “Keep your head up; God gives his hardest battles to his strongest soldiers.”
John Serafin: Nursing Care Unit (NCU) Resident of the Month

John Serafin is a veteran of the U.S. Navy and is originally from Oil City (Venango County), Pennsylvania where he is still an American Legion member. Growing up Mr. Serafin was an alter boy for 12 years and learned to play the drums, piano, guitar, and accordion. Upon his discharge from the Navy Mr. Serafin worked as a big rig truck driver. He enjoys ice skating and was an instructor for the Ice Capades in Houston, Texas for four years. Mr. Serafin’s favorite activities at PSSH are going on outings and playing BINGO.

When you pass by John Serafin be sure to congratulate him on being selected as the Nursing Care Unit Resident of the Month!

Dwight Weible: Personal Care Unit (PCU) Resident of the Month

Dwight Weible is originally from DuBois (Clearfield County), Pennsylvania. Fondly referred to as Father Dwight by his fellow residents, Weible is a U.S. Navy veteran that served aboard the USS Douglas H. Fox. Mr. Weible regularly enjoys BINGO at the Home and can often be found playing cards with his fellow residents. Mr. Weible is an avid golfer and participates on those outings regularly along with luncheons to local social clubs and organizations.

The next time you see Dwight Weible congratulate him on being nominated Personal Care Unit Resident of the Month!
Preview of April’s Activities

NCU Activities:

Wednesday, 4/8, 1pm—2pm, Room to Room Juice & Chat
Wednesday, 4/15, 1:30-3 pm, Unit to Unit Soft Pretzel Social
Wednesday, 4/22, 1:30-3pm, Unit to Unit Earth Day Social
Wednesday, 4/29, 1:30-3pm, Unit to Unit Birthday Cake Social

PCU Activities:

Wednesday, 4/8, 3:30-4:00 pm, Afternoon snacks (First Floor Lounge)
Wednesday, 4/15, 3:30-4:00 pm, Soft Pretzel Social (First Floor Lounge)
Wednesday, 4/22, 3:30-4:00pm, Earth Day Social (First Floor Lounge)
Wednesday, 4/29, 3:30-4:00pm, Birthday Cake Social (First Floor Lounge)

TAPS

Phillip Hoydic 3/2/2020
Carl Milewski 3/4/2020
James Gearhart 3/5/2020
William Loesch 3/6/2020
Rita Desser 3/11/2020
John Phelps 3/18/2020
Lewis Sciamanda 3/20/2020

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:

Ronald Ewing 3/11/20
John Fetrow 3/13/20
Joseph Sansone 3/23/20

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.