



**pennsylvania**

DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY  
AND VETERANS AFFAIRS  
PENNSYLVANIA SOLDIERS'  
AND SAILORS' HOME

### **PSSH Leadership**

**Commandant**

Cheri Spacht

**Deputy Commandant**

Beth Seibert

**Director of Nursing**

Deborah Harris

### **Congressional Medal of Honor Day**



Born in Chester County, on August 9<sup>th</sup>, 1841, Captain Sylvester Martin enlisted as a private in Company A of the Pennsylvania Volunteers on April 21, 1861.

At Weldon Railroad in Virginia on August 19, 1864, the actions of his Medal of Honor, the line of battle held by the Second Division Signal Corps was broken on both flanks and the enemy formed in the rear. Firing came from both flanks and the rear; the line was falling back, and the men were falling into the hands of the enemy. Captain Martin ordered his men to the other side of the parapet. This was followed by the regiment and then by the 97<sup>th</sup> out of New York, both of which organizations were still intact while all others were disorganized, with soldiers and many other officers being taken prisoners.

Believing that these two regiments were surrounded, the officer in command Colonel Wheelock upon consultation with the other officers decided to fight his way out and join the other corps. He was then ordered by the division commander to return and reoccupy the works which were supposed to have been taken possession of by the enemy. The Colonel called for an officer to volunteer and take some men, advance through the works, take possession of the works, and send word to him if it were safe to advance the line.

Captain Martin promptly volunteered for this dangerous duty and leading his men through the woods, after a gallant fight, occupied the works, and sent back the information that made it possible for the Union to gain victory.

On February 7, 1865, Martin was badly wounded at Hutchens Run, Virginia and spent the remainder of the war at a Washington D.C. hospital where he was visited almost daily by President Abraham Lincoln. Captain Martin was about to be commissioned as a Major when the severity of his wounds rendered him unfit for further service.

Whether as a workman in a brickyard, as a textile operative, in the field as a soldier fighting for the preservation of his country or as an employee and official of the City of Philadelphia, Sylvester Martin recognized his duty and faithfully performed it. He easily won and retained the respect and esteem of all with whom or under whom he labored, and he was highly thought of by those who worked under him.

Captain Martin was the Commandant at the Pennsylvania Soldiers' & Sailors' Home from 1903-1923. His funeral services were held in the PSSH Chapel on Tuesday, September 27<sup>th</sup>, 1927.

# Commandant's Corner

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Spring, the season of new beginnings, has finally arrived. While I myself am excited for the warmer days ahead, I still admire the richly marbled grey skies and trees so elegant in their bare beauty from the winter past.

March was a month filled with many activities for both our residents and staff. Our "Employee Fun Committee" hosted a basket raffle in which the winners won an Italian dinner or kids' fun basket! Congratulations to Mike Allegretto and John Leone on being the lucky winners! On March 14<sup>th</sup> we hosted our quarterly Advisory Board Meeting, March 15<sup>th</sup> the Employee Fun Committee held a "Baked Potato Bar", there was a special St. Patty's Day party on March 18<sup>th</sup>, and our Congressional Medal of Honor Ceremony was held on March 25<sup>th</sup>. We also continued to enjoy bingos, music, and popcorn Wednesdays throughout the month.

On March 24<sup>th</sup>, PSSH held an Employee Easter Egg Hunt for children ages 12 years and younger in the Gazebo area. We celebrate Good Friday on March 29<sup>th</sup>, followed by Easter Sunday on March 31<sup>st</sup>. On April 8<sup>th</sup>, the Employee Fun Committee will host a Total Eclipse party including t-shirts, glasses, snacks and tattoos for our residents and staff.

## Employee Appreciation Day

We will be celebrating Administrative Professional Day on April 24<sup>th</sup>. You are all deeply appreciated, and I can't say thank you enough for everything you all do!

Our "Caught You Caring" employee of the month of March is Matt Wilcox! You can find Matt working in our Maintenance Department on 1<sup>st</sup> shift. He does an amazing job and is a true asset to PSSH. Thank you for all your hard work and dedication to making PSSH a great place to live for our residents. Congratulations Matt!

One last thought..."Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much".



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## April's Birthdays

Louis Hoffer	April	1	James Grucza	April	17
Frank Johnston	April	1	James Bradley	April	18
Gregory Smith	April	2	Andrew Carmosino	April	19
Marjorie Payne	April	3	David Lyons	April	19
Thomas Bowe	April	5	Helen Cancilla	April	20
William Wolfe	April	8	Gene Austin	April	21
Jeffrey Hurst	April	9	Paul Jack	April	27
Keith Eller	April	11	Dorothy Martone	April	27
Joseph Davis	April	12	William Soder	April	29
Kenneth Heeter	April	15			



### Dave Mizak: NCU Resident of the Month

Dave Mizak is originally from Erie, PA and served in the US Navy. He served for three years and traveled to many places including China, Japan, Australia, Tiawan, and Hawaii. Mr. Mizak has one daughter, one sister and two brothers. He loves golf and started playing when he was seven years old and caddied at the Fairview Golf Course when he was 13. Mr. Mizak enjoys watching football, basketball, baseball, and hockey. He likes listening to music, both classic rock and the modern hits. Mr. Mizak has many hobbies to include photography, technology, and cars. The next time you see Dave Mizak make you congratulate him on being nominated NCU Resident of the Month!



### Joseph Post: PCU Resident of the Month

Joseph Post is a US Air Force and Marine Corps veteran originally from Wheeling, WV. Mr. Post has been married to his wife Terri-Ann for 33 years. He has a pet Rottweiler named Tarus. Mr. Post enjoys listening to smooth jazz and follows football, the Pittsburgh Steelers are his favorite team. His hobbies include reading murder mystery stories and also likes to spend his free time with adult coloring books. Mr. Post finds it to be a very relaxing and tranquil hobby. At PSSH Mr. Post plays BINGO and participates in the spaghetti dinner trips. When you see Joseph Post be sure to congratulate him on being nominated PCU Resident of the Month!



## Preview of April's Activities:

Monday, 4/8, 1:30pm, Solar Eclipse Viewing Party

Wednesday, 4/10, 2:00pm, Card & Board Games (NCU Dining Room)

Thursday, 4/11, 2:00pm, Music by Bob Nieratko (NCU Dining Room)

Wednesday, 4/17, 7:00pm, BINGO (NCU Dining Room)

Monday, 4/22, 6:30pm, North East Choral Group (NCU Dining Room)

Wednesday, 4/24, 11:45am, Erie Seawolves Game

Thursday, 4/25, 2:00pm, Music by Dan Grucza (NCU Dining Room)

Friday, 4/26, 2:00pm, Freestyle Friday



## TAPS

Ronald Dalton

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## Newsletter Info

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



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Volunteer Coordinator  
(814) 878-4961  
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## New Residents

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

Cherrie Ross

Ernest Claudio

John Moorhead



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