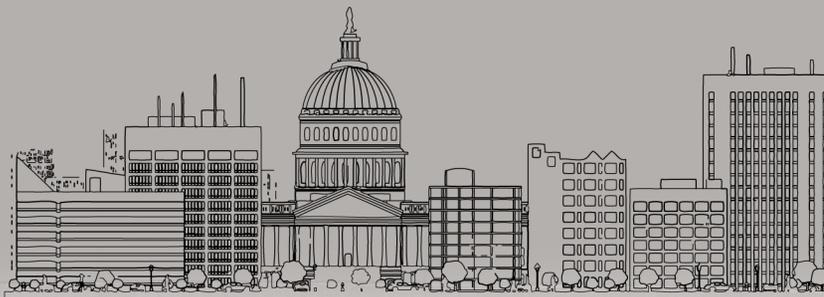


# The BOISE



December 2018

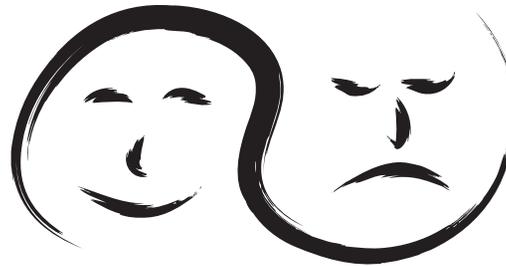
# FRONT

The official newsletter of the Boise VA Medical Center



The ribbon was cut on the new parking garage on December 20th

*Hello's*



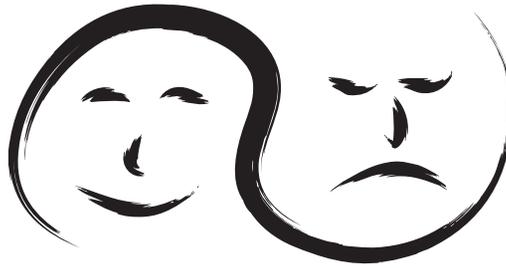
*Goodbye's*

The Boise VAMC would like to welcome our  
new employees who came aboard:

**Yvette Etherington, HRMS**  
**Christopher Savitz, HRMS**  
**Karl Heiner, ITOS**  
**Charles Washington, MSO**  
**Brian Boesiger, MSO**  
**Mark Burriesci, MSO**  
**Jessica Wasielewski, MSO**

**Minh Evans, Nursing**  
**Jane Woychick, Pharmacy**  
**Amanda Petersen, PM&R**  
**Michael McMartin, MSO**  
**Stephanie Dalton, Telehealth**  
**Ofalyn Razutis, Nursing**

*Hello's*



*Goodbye's*

The Boise VAMC would like to say goodbye to  
the employees who left us:

**Manuel Marrero, FMS**  
**Jamie Godwin, Dental**  
**Barbara Gordon, Nursing**  
**Nina "Jean" Anderson, RDS**  
**Paul Buhrman, FMS**  
**Steve Koenig, Pharmacy**  
**Edwin Lojeski, MSO**

# EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH **DECEMBER**



Kay Mascall

Ms. Mascall routinely displays commitment, and works diligently to serve veterans. Ms. Mascall truly shows commitment to advocacy; to protect, and safety. The commitment Ms. Mascall shows to all patients, family members, coworkers, and stakeholders is a daily occurrence, she is an advocate and an asset to the Boise VAMC and VHA.



Beth Pierce

Beth truly goes above and beyond to provide great care and understanding for our veterans, and give them the support that they need. She never asks for anything in return, and does these many things on the down low. She is more than deserving to receive "Employee of the Month."



Travis Clark

Travis is well known throughout our clinic, by staff and veterans alike, for going above and beyond to make sure that the veteran's needs are met. When a difficult situation comes up, he is our go-to guy because we know that he won't stop until the job is done.

## The Boise VA Medical Foster Home Program

# One Veteran's Story

Medical Foster Homes (MFHs) are an alternative to long term care in a personal home setting and for eligible Veterans who are no longer able to safely live independently. The program coordinator seeks out experienced caregivers who believe in caring for our nations veterans. These caregivers go thru application and inspection processes for certification. Once certified, the coordinator works to pair the veterans in need with the right fit. The ultimate goal is that the veterans are provided care in the home for the rest of their lives. Another aspect of the program is the VA Home Based Primary Care (HBPC) team. They are an integral component of the MFH program. Clinical staff from HBPC make visits to provide assessment, direct patient care, and oversight for the medically complex Veterans placed in the homes while also providing Caregiver support and education. The MFH Coordinator also makes regular unannounced visits to make sure that the fit is right and that both the veteran and caregiver are doing well. The Boise VA currently has 12 MFHs throughout the area including one in Wilder and one in Weiser. As of this writing, there are 16 Veterans in the different homes. Since its inception, the Boise MFH Program has been proud to serve 7 WWII veterans and 3 of them are still active in the program. The following is one veterans story leading him to the MFH in Wilder.

Perry A. Justice was born Feb. 23, 1923 and raised in Hagerman Idaho. Like many of his generation coming of age after the depression, a 17 year old Perry asked his father for

permission to join the Army, so he left to do his part to avenge Pearl Harbor.

During the war, MacArthur was forced to leave the Philippines but claimed he would return. To meet the challenge MacArthur created the Engineer Special Brigade, and Perry wore the elite patch proudly. It was adorned with an eagle, a rifle, and an anchor, identifying the unit as the amphibious force that the general created. The unit's missions varied but when called on they spearheaded landings, crept ahead of landings, liberated captives held in small POW camps, and recovered dog tags from mass graves of Americans killed instead of captured.

Mr. Justice has ribbons identifying his involvement in six





campaigns and as near as his family can tell, he participated in 22 first wave assaults on South Pacific Beaches. Two years after MacArthur left the Philippines, Perry landed on and helped secure Leyte Island and was on the beach to witness MacArthur's return to the Philippine Island. Like so many others, Perry returned home and attended college. He became a chemist and managed projects for a large corporation but after a time he quit because he did not feel he fit with the corporate way of thinking. He returned to Idaho with his family and devoted his career to teaching high school chemistry, math, and physics, and his love of art. As an artist he has many items including paintings, drawings, and sculptures that are treasures and prove his talents. He says that he prefers landscapes, a nod to his upbringing in Hagerman.

Aging into his 90s, he found himself relying more on family and friends for support. His short term memory began to falter and he began needing more supervision. Having a family as active as he had always been, they began looking for options that would provide the care and attention he needed as he continued to age and had increasing need for assistance. They had heard about the MFH program and called the Boise VA and talked with the MFH Coordinator on several occasions and in the end, felt this was a better option for him than a facility. In May of this year, Mr. Justice transitioned to his new home, at Robin's Boise VA MFH in Wilder. From his first day in the old farm home, sitting in a

recliner between the kitchen and dining area, next to a large window with a view of the hills, the veteran said that he felt this was a good place for him.

Soon after, he was telling this MFH Coordinator and his family "there is no better place for me than here." Robin, her

daughter, and one other veteran live in the home that is inspected and certified as a Boise VA MFH. Robin has hired caregivers from the community to help her in the home, and help provide individualized care to the veterans. Perry also began a new friendship with a neighbor, Rod, who is a nurse at the Boise VA.

Late this past summer, a call came to Savita, his daughter. Mr. Justice was selected for the Honor Flight. The only obstacle was to find someone to accompany him, as he now needed daily assistance. The veteran's newfound friend, Rod McAlpin, was able to make this trip a reality for him by volunteering his time away from his job, to take Mr. Justice to Washington. Rod also agreed to stay over a few extra days so the veteran's cousin, Mr. Sandy, that works for an Idaho Senator, could take him on a few extra tours while he was there.

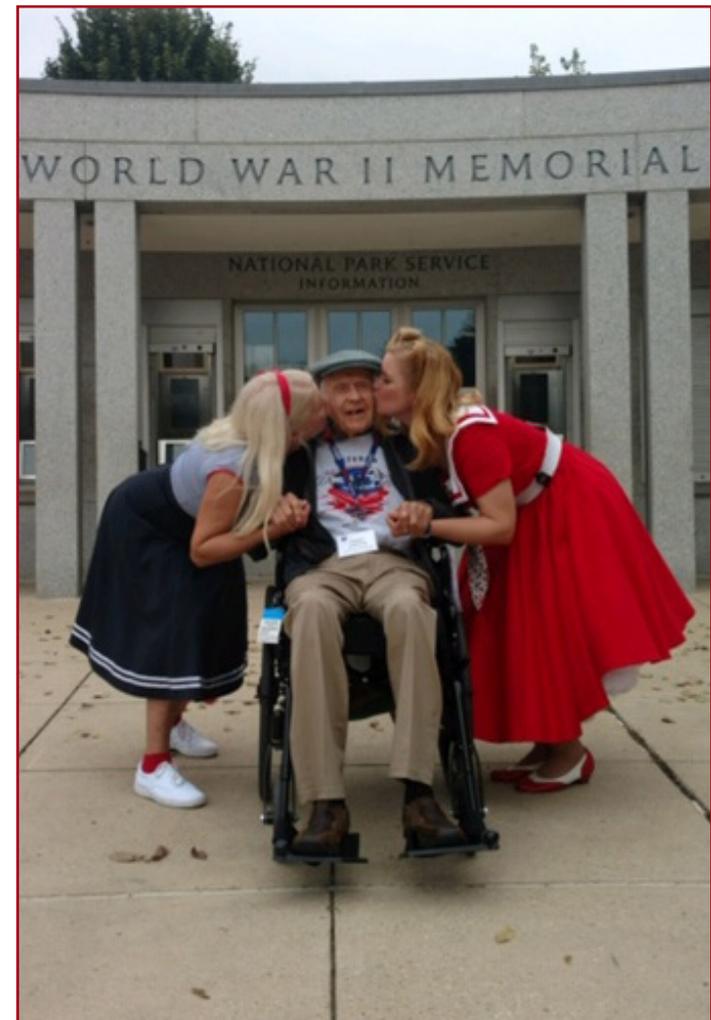
The trip has been a highlight for the veteran, and he has talked about it ever since. Everyone is so grateful that he was able to make the trip. His cousin made a picture book for him and the veterans favorite is the one pictured here, flanked by young ladies dressed in the outfits of the time, kissing his cheeks.

Other highlights for him were lunch in a restaurant favored by Congress and being provided with applause when introduced. It was also reported that he really enjoyed his visit to the art gallery, and they were very surprised when he began asking questions about parchments and pigments of the different eras.

The veteran, his friends, and family, including his new MFH family, are all very happy that he was able to make the trip and had a safe return. Recently, for Thanksgiving, Mr. Justice went with his daughter to visit his son in Portland. During that visit the veteran became ill and was hospitalized. His son requested he stay there, close to him but the veteran had other plans. Mr. Justice's daughter reports her father was firm in that he was going back to Idaho and "back to Robin's" where he is today. The veteran is very happy in his MFH. He continues to report that there is no place better for him.

Please keep the MFH program in mind for your veterans who need a higher level of care and are no longer safe to live independently. We also need more homes and are continuing our search for experienced caregivers in the

community who may want to pair with the Boise VA MFH/HBPC program to provide care to our nations veterans. The MFH Coordinator would be happy to come to team or service meetings to discuss the program in more detail. For more information, referrals, or questions, please contact the Boise VA MFH Program Office at 208-780-6256.





The Campaign season is almost over. We thank everyone who participated in our events this year and to all of the donors!



POC: Kennedy Meyer x1118  
Sarah Anderson x1218  
Allen Willard x4883

The combined Federal Campaign (CFC) will be running **September 10<sup>th</sup>- January 11<sup>th</sup>** this year. We have one last event before campaign season is over.

### ONE LAST HURRAH!!!



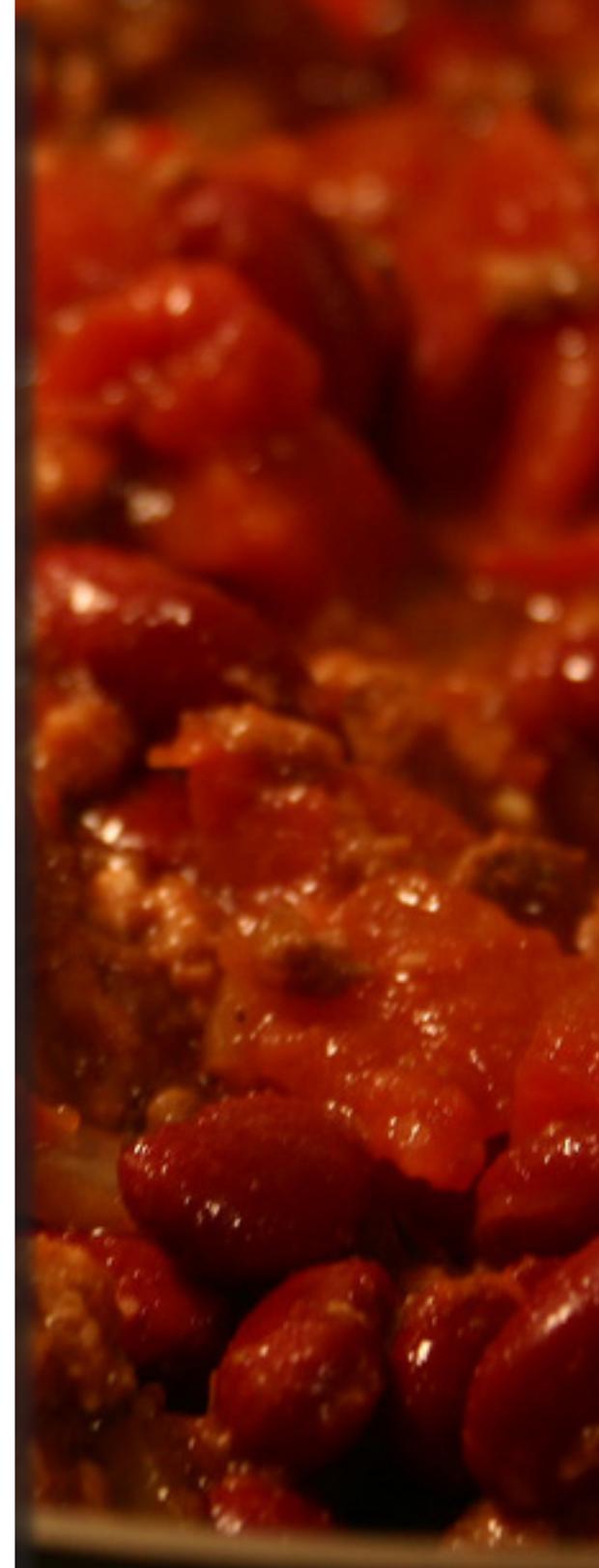
The CFC campaign season is coming to an end. We have one last event that will give you an opportunity to give to charity if you haven't already. This year the VAEA is having their annual Chili/Cornbread cookoff on January 9<sup>th</sup>, there is a \$5.00/\$7.00 entry fee. If you would like to give to a charity instead, bring your checkbook and choose a charity and your donation to that charity will get you admittance to the contest.

*thank you*

We want to thank each and every person who donated this year and to all of those who participated in the CFC events throughout the campaign season. Together the Mountain States raised over 1 MILLION dollars towards charity!

#### 2018 – 2019 CFC Board:

**Chair:** Kennedy Meyer  
**Co-Chairs:** Allen Willard and Sarah Anderson  
**Departmental Champions:** Dr. Flyer, Tim Beams, Teresa Johnson, Tony Rieche, Valarie Olson, Adam Brotman, Allen Boles, Brian Griffiths.





V-IMPACT staff donated gifts for a local foster home program.



Caldwell CBOC Holiday Party



Boise VAMC Mental Health staff Holiday Party



Boise VAMC Holiday Party



*What's Happening in Mental Health -  
It's all about Hope and Recovery!*

## **MAKE THE CONNECTION**

***www.MakeTheConnection.net***

*Helping Veteran, Families And Providers*

*MakeTheConnection.net* helps Veteran and their families recognize that they are not alone – there are people out there like them who are going through similar experiences, overcoming challenges, reaching positive outcomes for treatment and recovery, and finding paths to fulfilling lives. These messages are conveyed by the credible sources of all – the voices of other Veterans.

### **An Interactive Resource for Veterans, their Families, and Providers**

Powerful personal stories and testimonials from Veterans of all service eras, genders, and backgrounds are at the heart of *Make the Connection*, illustrating how Veterans and their families face and overcome issues and challenges.

These stories and testimonials, available at this free, completely confidential website, provide compelling examples of the positive outcomes for treatment and recovery, and the many paths to more fulfilling lives.

Many of our Nation's Veterans – from those who served in World War II to those who served more recently – can benefit from hearing the stories of others and gaining greater awareness of the resources that are available to help them move forward with their lives.

***Recovery is Possible.***

Learn more at:

**[www.MakeTheConnection.net](http://www.MakeTheConnection.net)**



Submitted by Larry Buttel  
Peer Support Specialist





# PRIVACY PRACTICES GOING DOWNHILL?

Be sure you're up to date on all required privacy training and regularly review VA's privacy policies at:  
<https://moss.boise.med.va.gov/pr/SitePages/Home.aspx>

✉ [Gina.Thruston@va.gov](mailto:Gina.Thruston@va.gov)

☎ 208-422-1031

**VA**



U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs

**PRIVACY  
BUILDS  
TRUST**

