This image of soldiers resting at the Boise Barracks was taken from a post card that was found on Ebay. The photo was taken in 1909. See the next page for what the original looked like. You can almost make out what was written.
for I am sure that I will feel lost without someone to console me. For you know that my heart is in the right place, all the time, and see how it is a change, and the day with which of the so if you need a copy or any more just write me right away.

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

Aaron Jones, FMS
Angela Johnson, VCS
Angela Nakashima, Nursing
Brian Hanson, FMS
Brian Willson, Nursing
Christina Tucker, Nursing
Eric Gore, OFL
Eric Smith, OFL
Gina Thayer, Nursing
Hugh Murray, P&SS
Jeffrey Stevenson, HAS
Jennifer Anderson, MSO
John Mears, HAS

Kevin Williams, FMS
Manuel Sanchez, HAS
Maria Aragon de Gonzales, HAS
Meagan Coones, Nursing
Megan Marquez, Nursing
Patrick Sweeney, P&SS
Penney Huffman-Cook, Nursing
Reginald Sayles, HAS
Reiko Suzuki, Pharmacy
Roy Sutherland, FMS
Todd Herrera, P&SS
William Macrae-Smith, HAS
Yvonne Dukart, HAS
The Boise VAMC would like to say goodbye to the employees who left us:

- Gloria Lopez, HAS
- Heather Gergens, Surgery
- Jeremy Gardner, Nursing
- Joel Holley, FMS
- John Mears, HAS
- Julia Allen, Nursing
- Lynette Dunn, Fiscal
- Mark Shepard, N&FS
- Stephanie Morfin, Nursing
- Travis Riggs, HAS-Inpt
- Villiam Elikn, VCS
- Donald J. Krauser Jr., N&FS
- Earl M. Pearce, HAS
- Jamie Champion, BH
- Mary D. Francis, BH
EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH MARCH

Dave's consistent, outstanding performance and commitment to providing the best possible service to our Veterans uniquely distinguishes him as an ideal employee of the month candidate. Mr. Newton displays the highest level of integrity, commitment, advocacy, respect, and excellence and serves as an example for others in both the TRC and the BVAMC. He strives for accuracy and accountability in his work. Mr. Newton identified an opportunity to more proactively manage PRN effectiveness and medication administration at the TRC. He developed a daily use tool for night shift use that allows for easy visibility of PRN medication administration and identifies potential missed medications well before they are recorded as missed. This allows staff to seek out the Veteran needing the medication and to educate the veteran on timely administration of the medication. Mr. Newton's actions have been instrumental in the TRC having no missed medications or outstanding PRN effectiveness on night shift for the last three months. The TRC Team is appreciative of Mr. Newton's efforts and believe Mr. Newton epitomizes what it means to be recognized as a BVAMC employee of the month.

Bryan Bumgarner

For anyone who knows a veteran homeless outreach specialist, they clearly understand that this employee is the advance party, the front line in the mission toward ending veteran homelessness. What they might not know, is how fortunate Boise is to have such a strong, dedicated and creative advocate for veterans, in the form of Outreach Specialist Bryan Bumgarner. With a goal of reaching all homeless Veterans who are disconnected or under-connected to critical medical and mental health services, employment, benefits, community support and most importantly appropriate housing interventions, with a significant emphasis on those Veterans who are most vulnerable and sleeping outside. Bryan excels in developing relationships, overcoming barriers to success, creative searches and compassionate sacrifice for changing lives. In focusing on just one of the many veterans Bryan has supported, the journey of Bryan and VJ (call him Veteran Joe), is why Bryan should be recognized and respectfully saluted for his accomplishments. Month after month Bryan's attempts in outreach were declined until last week running into VJ at a day shelter, he asked for help with housing. Bryan quickly ran back to the homeless office, grabbed a vehicle and they returned together completing the assessment and referral that day. Bryan helped arrange for VJ to stay on the 2nd floor of the local mission so he could be surrounded with the supports needed to remain sober and out of the elements. Perseverance paid off, with a trusted advocate in Bryan, the two had formed a plan to forge a new yet fragile path towards housing and stability.

David Newton

We would like to nominate Brian for EOM for his continued commitment to our mission and our Veterans. He is an outstanding employee that not only every HAS employee, but every VA employee can count on. He has excelled in his current role as AOD and at the same time helped all the staff in the Bene Travel office while we were training new employees. Without asking he will take Bene Travel paperwork and work on the phone lists during his shift to relieve pressure from the Bene Travel staff. I am sure all staff would echo these comments, but I believe Corby has said it best: I would like to nominate Brian Flesch as MAS Outstanding Employee of the Month. It is a pleasure to work with Brian. His work ethic is impeccable, his reliability as solid as a rock. Brian continues to help out in Enrollment and Eligibility although he left that job over a year ago. His expertise is still sought out by employees of that department. Brian's knowledge as an AOD has matured very quickly during his time in Admitting. He always does what is right with very little or no supervision at all. He goes the extra mile helping veterans and fellow employees. He is curious and wants to know every aspect that affects his job as an AOD. Brian takes the lead when it comes to making sure Admitting has supplies needed to function as a section. Brian created a system for AODs to track lodgers by date which enables fellow employees to not over-book our contract hotels. Once, again, we are lucky to have Brian as a fellow employee and he is well-deserving of MAS Outstanding Employee of the Quarter and is an asset to the Boise VA Hospital.

Brian Flesch
Veteran Job Fair in Boise

IDAHO JOB SEEKERS – Find Your Next Rewarding Job at the Boise VA Job Fair April 25

- Companies participating in the event are encouraged to hire veterans from the event.
- Have your resume reviewed prior to the event with one of Labor’s veteran representatives found on Labor’s website at labor.idaho.gov/veterans.
- Come dressed for success and ready to interview. Find interviewing tips on the Department of Labor website.

WHEN
April 25, 2019
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

WHERE
Boise VA Medical Center
Gymnasium (Building 54)
500 W. Fort St.

CAMPAIGN PARTNERS

Idaho Department of Labor | labor.idaho.gov | A proud partner of the American Job Center network

The Idaho Department of Labor is an equal opportunity employer and service provider. Reasonable accommodations are available upon request. Dial 711 for Idaho Relay Service.
Ears Pick Up More Than Channels

You meet your boss in the hallway and ask a question about your current project. Does your project involve anyone’s personally identifiable information? Could someone have overheard something that breaches VA’s information security and privacy policies? Beware of sharing private information in public places. Your words may have an unseen audience.

vaww.infoprotection.va.gov

Protect our Veteran’s information. Take time to think before you speak.
In honor of Sexual Assault Awareness Month, Boise VAMC is hosting a Clothesline Project and footprint display. This visual display will aim to raise awareness of military sexual trauma, sexual assault and sexual abuse.

To ‘break the silence’ that can often surround these experiences, male and female Veterans will design shirts that reflect their experience of sexual trauma and recovery. The shirts hang side-by-side to bear witness to how their lives have been impacted by sexual violence.

APRIL IS SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

Come join us for a visual display to recognize Military Sexual Trauma (MST) survivors.

Bldg. 85A April 3, 10, & 17 from 10A-2P
Bldg. 114 April 25 from 2P-4:30P

...Continued on next page
The theme for this year’s display is ‘Creating Pathways to Healing’.

Do you know a male or female survivor of MST? Please encourage your MST Veteran clients to design a footprint that reflects their experiences with sexual trauma to be showcased in the visual display. You can direct your Veteran to the below location or have footprints on hand to make during your meeting with them.

VA providers: Please show your support by designing a footprint to be placed next to the Veteran’s footprint to demonstrate that the VA supports survivors of military sexual trauma. The footprints will show that we can walk the path of recovery together.

Footprints and storage box for completed footprints can be found in Building 114 at the front desk with Ritakay Youngblood. For questions please contact Wendy Coffman, LCSW, LMFT at (208) 422-1000 x4201

DATES OF DISPLAY:
Main Hospital - 85A entrance - Wednesday April 3, 10, 17 from 10am - 2pm
Building 114 - Group Room 4 - Thursday April 25 from 2pm - 4:30pm

About 1 in 4 women and 1 in 100 men have told their VA healthcare provider that they experienced MST. Despite higher rates of MST among women, there are actually only slightly fewer men than women seen in VA who experienced MST, due to the greater numbers of men in the military.

MST can affect a person’s physical and mental health, even many years later. Fortunately, recovery is possible and VA has free services available to help Veterans do this.
Wednesday, May 15, 2019 (11:00am-1:00pm)

Where: Parade Grounds (Front of the Hospital)

Why: Collect toilet paper for Homeless Veterans
Announcing... the new Boise Employee Engagement logo!

Our Employee Engagement Board of Champions (BOC) is working to expand our program. During this phase we have “paused” from starting a new wave of projects while we focus on how to work throughout the organization to support employees.

The BOC hosted a facility-wide contest for a new logo for the EE Program. Eleven employees submitted a total of 15 submissions. The top 3 selected by the BOC were sent to all employees for voting. **The logo contest winner is Ronald Lee.** He is the Visual Information Specialist with the Center of Excellence. Ron and the other 10 staff who submitted entries will be treated to a lunch with Mr. Wood in April.
Employee Engagement Celebration Patrols arrive at the Twin Falls and Caldwell CBOCs

Angela Brothers with Corinna Jones and Marcey Waugh in Caldwell. Celebrating their Veteran orientation information project and a staff photo board for their clinic.

Angela Brothers with Kay Juker and Karen Jennings in Twin Falls. Celebrating their project to develop orientation information for new Veterans to the Twin Falls CBOC.
An opportunity to share our successes! The 2019 VHA Shark Tank Competition application will open on April 1, 2019, and all employees are invited to submit their practices to the Competition!

The Competition offers a unique opportunity to recognize top performers solving some of the toughest challenges across VHA with the goal of changing and saving Veteran lives. To be eligible, applicants must have successfully implemented their practice in at least one facility, and the practice must address one of the 2019 VHA Shark Tank Priorities:

- Access
- Digital Health
- High Reliability Culture Change: Commit to Zero Harm
- Improving Capacity, Efficiency, and Productivity
- Medical Education in Rural Areas
- Veteran Experience
- Whole Health
- Workforce Development

Information about how to submit applications will be sent via e-mail April 1.
Governor Brad Little, proclaims the week of April 21th - 27, 2019 as Medical Laboratory Professional Week!

In his proclamation, Governor Little encourages Idahoans to recognize and celebrate Medical Laboratory Professionals for their significant contributions to the health and wellness of our state. Pathologist, Medical Laboratory Scientist, Cytotechnologists, Histotechnologists and Phlebotomists are highly trained specialist who perform and evaluate laboratory tests to detect and diagnose disease and monitor treatments.
HOMELESS VETERANS
STAND DOWN
April 27, 2019
8am to 2pm

You fought for us - Let us fight for you

PROOF OF VETERAN REQUIRED
MEDICAL SCREENINGS, HAIRCUTS,
FOOD, SURPLUS GEAR & MUCH MORE!!!

Veterans Memorial Hall - 1101 Cleveland Blvd. Caldwell, ID 83605

For more info please call (208) 422-1000 ext. 7423
5TH ANNUAL
WESTERN REGIONAL MEETINGS/FUNDRAISING DINNER
HOSTED BY
MAGIC VALLEY POW/MIA
AWARENESS ASSOCIATION

APRIL 6, 2019
TO BE HELD AT:
TURF CLUB
734 FALLS AVE TWIN FALLS, ID

10:00 AM
INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS WITH GUEST SPEAKERS
INCLUDING MARK STEPHENSON (MIA SON & CO-CHAIRMAN
OF THE NATIONAL LEAGUE OF POW/MIA FAMILIES)

5:00 PM
HAPPY HOUR

6:00 PM
OPENING CEREMONIES WITH SPECIAL
RECOGNITION OF ROBERT “AB” SMITH AS OUR PERSON OF
THE YEAR FOLLOWED BY DINNER, AUCTION & RAFFLES

DINNER TICKETS
$20.00 AVAILABLE PRESALE OR AT DOOR
(INFORMATIONAL MEETING FREE TO PUBLIC)
FOR INFO OR TO BUY PRESALE DINNER TICKETS CONTACT
KATIE: 775-385-4885 MONA 208-308-0442 OR SUE 208-280-0689

PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT LOCAL VETERANS & THE NATIONAL LEAGUE OF POW/MIA FAMILIES