Chief Master Sergeant Robert Lyons retired from the military after 34 years of honorable service.
During his retirement Rob received his Third Oak Leaf Cluster to his Meritorious Service Medal. The citation read:

Chief Master Sergeant Robert W. Lyons distinguished himself in the performance of outstanding service to the United States while assigned to 124th Fighter Wing, 124th Mission Support Group, Boise, Idaho. Chief Lyons displayed selfless and outstanding leadership for more than 33 years. During this time, Chief Lyons deployed to 12 countries and valiantly served in support of Operations REFORGER, BRIGHT STAR, TEAM SPIRIT, DESERT STORM, DESERT SHIELD, DESERT CALM, PROVIDE HOPE, PROVIDE COMFORT, IRAQI FREEDOM, and ENDURING FREEDOM. Additionally, he served as the 124th Mission Support Group Chief dedicated his time to improving and mentoring fellow Airmen. He initiated and facilitated a mock promotion board program within the Group that significantly enhanced interview skills and promoted growth among Non-Commissioned Officers. Lastly, Chief Lyons was instrumental in establishing a tremendously successful Non-Commissioned Officer Enrichment Course. He conducted 11 courses, influenced more than 300 Junior Enlisted Airman with invaluable leadership, team building and communication skills. His contributions, exceptional tutelage and positive influence have left a legacy for the Idaho Air National Guard that will inspire the members of the 124th Fighter Wing for years to come. The singularly distinctive accomplishments of Chief Lyons culminate a long and distinguished career in the service of his country and reflect great credit upon himself, the Air National Guard, and the United States Air Force.

Congratulations Rob! We are proud of you!
The Boise VAMC would like to welcome our new employees who came aboard:

Abbey Fenton, Pharmacy
Amanda Pentland, BH
Autumn Martin, MSO
Brittany Bartron, Pharmacy
Drew Conway, Nursing
Floyd Rawlinson, VCS
Jacqueline Potts, Nursing
Jennifer Taylor, HAS
Jerry Ledford, FMS
Jose Marmolejos, HAS
Joseph Paris, FMS
Leah Laprade, HAS

Maisie Trang, Pharmacy
Max Murray, Pharmacy
Michael Vandeveater, HAS
Pamela Martin, Nursing
Shannon Schritter, Dental
Stewart Herman, Logistics
Tristian Corson, FMS
Villiam Elikh, VCS
Wallace Perry, FMS
Wendi O’Dell, Nursing
Hello’s  😞  Goodbye’s

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

Cathy Hall, BH  
Gregory Lewer, MSO  
Kenneth Shipp, HAS  
Lutchmin Benson, Nursing  
Vilma Medina, Nursing  
Bradley Wrobel, Nursing  
Caitlin Wash, HAS  
Cheri Adams, Director  
Christine Cline, HR  
Christopher Richardson, VCS  
Craig Smith, HAS  
Dale Doan, MSO  

Hannah Sackett, Pharmacy  
Ingrid McKie, BH  
Jon Middleton, FMS  
Jose Nieves, SPS  
Lona Inthathirath, FMS  
Maira Coupe, Fiscal  
Nicole McKinley, Nursing  
Robert Dornath, FMS  

Dr. Lewer (right) shakes hands with Dr. Elzinga (left) at a retirement ceremony for Dr. Lewer on September 26th.
Clay Hunt was a Marine veteran who died by suicide at the age of 28. Clay was open about having PTSD and survivor’s guilt, and he tried to help others coping with similar issues. Clay’s story details the urgency needed in addressing these issues.

On February 12, 2015 the Clay Hunt SAV Act was signed into law by President Obama. Among many things, the Clay Hunt Act increased access to VA mental health care.

Please help us keep Clay’s legacy alive and join us as we meet with veterans, veterans stakeholders, mental health providers and others as we partner on the effort of addressing veterans mental health.

Each session will include information about behavioral health services & an opportunity to discuss behavioral health services in your area.

For more info call Josh at (208) 422-1064
There is no better time than right now to review your health care needs and decide if you have the right healthcare plan that meets the needs of you and your family.

To assist the VA Medical Center’s employees, annuitants, and their family members make informed decisions concerning their health care needs, we hold an annual Federal Employees Benefits Fair in which all VA employees and their families are encouraged to attend. We invite the health, dental, and vision insurance providers to attend so that employees can access specific information regarding their coverage directly from the source.

In addition to providing health care information, the VA also provides valuable information on other employee benefit programs which are aimed at enriching employee work life.

These benefits include:

- Employee Assistance Program (EAP)
- Transit Benefit Programs
- Child Care Subsidy
- Thrift Savings Plan (TSP)
- Flexible Spending Account (FSA)
- Federal Long Term Care Insurance (FLTCIP)
- American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE)
- Various health & athletic clubs
- Veteran’s Canteen Service
- Employee Health & Education
- Costco
- Ada County Highway District (ACHD) Commuteride

A great deal of work is put into making the Employee Health Benefits Fair informative and enjoyable for all who attend. Do not miss the opportunity to learn more about the benefits offered to Federal employees on November 13, 2018.

Refreshments will be provided by the VA Canteen Service.

If you are unable to attend, please contact the Human Resources office to schedule an appointment to discuss your Federal Benefits.

LTC Feds will be hosting a Virtual Benefits Fair for employees who cannot attend the on-site fair held at Mountain Cove Gym. You must register. Please contact HR for information.

For additional information, please contact Cindra Goldenstein or Idalia Gonzalez at BOIBenefits@va.gov or at 208-422-1211.

The VA Federal Benefits **OPEN SEASON** will run from November 12, 2018 through December 10, 2018.

Article submitted by: Idalia Gonzalez, HR Specialist
## Drive-Thru Flu Clinics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Boise VAMC, Flag Circle</td>
<td>October 2 thru 4</td>
<td>9:00am - 3:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Twin Falls CBOC</td>
<td>October 15 &amp; 19</td>
<td>9:00am - 3:00pm</td>
</tr>
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## Walk-In Flu Clinics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Boise VAMC, Bldg. 85A</td>
<td>October thru November</td>
<td>Mon-Fri / 8:30am - 3:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caldwell CBOC</td>
<td>October thru November</td>
<td>Mon-Fri / 8:00am - 3:00pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Flu vaccines are expected to arrive mid-September and will be provided for free to enrolled veterans. Get a flu vaccine during your scheduled appointment, walk-into any Outpatient Clinic, or attend one of the flu clinics being offered below.

*Please remember your VA ID card and clothes that help make your shoulder accessible.*

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**VETERANS GET YOUR FREE FLU VACCINE**
BOISE VA MEDICAL CENTER FY18 4th Quarter “GOOD CATCH!!” Recipient: SAVANNAH PROHL from the Laboratory.

The “Good Catch” award recognizes the prevention of an event that could have been harmful to a patient. Savannah identified that two specimens received in lab did not appear to have the correct results. “Two patients were involved and their results appeared to be swapped. The nurse was called and samples were recollected. The new samples were more consistent with the previous results”. Lesson to share: All specimen labeling should occur at the patient’s bedside.

Staff empowerment to identify and speak up to prevent potential medical errors stands as one of the strongest building blocks for a trustworthy organizational culture of safety.

A “Good Catch” represents an event or circumstance that had the potential to cause harm or error, but was averted due to early identification/intervention. These near-misses represent opportunities for system improvement and learning. Reporting and sharing “Good Catches” is a way to support the Boise VA Medical Center’s (BVAMC) journey toward becoming a Highly Reliable Organization (HRO). HROs don’t need an accident or major error to be a call for action; they seek out potential system vulnerabilities. Our employees represent the best source of that information. All employees, clinical and non-clinical are encouraged to report good catches/near-misses.
**Celebration Patrols:**

- **James Stewart** — *MyHealtheVet Quick-start Guide*
- **Andy Brooks** — *Bedside table clearing for food tray delivery*
- **Nancy Mann and Sandra Cavaney** — *Administrative Supply Swap*
FY 19 Boise VAMC Employee Engagement - Board of Champions

Executive Sponsor
Angela Brothers
Assoc. Director for Patient Care Services

Program Coordinator
Renee Johnson
Systems Redesign Coordinator

BOC
Travis Riggs
President, AFGE

BOC
Melissa Maury
Manager Ward 2MS

BOC
Kristi Funk
Assist. Chief of Nursing for Ambulatory Care

BOC
Tonya Eusepi
Chief, Human Resources

BOC
Stacie Burtis
Chief, Health Administrative Services

BOC
Shawn Neumayer
MSA AFGE Rep

BOC
Teresa Johnson
Health Technician

BOC
Josh Bode,
Veterans Justice Outreach Coordinator

BOC
Wayne Nicholson
Operations Sargent Police Service

BOC
Linette Hessenthaler
Medical Imaging Supervisor

BOC
George Morris
Nursing RNOD
# Wave 4 Sprint Projects and Team Members

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Title</th>
<th>Team Members</th>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Board of Champion Mentors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>American Flags for bodies when a Veteran dies as an inpatient</td>
<td>Jeanette McMillan*&lt;br&gt;Joanne Ferro&lt;br&gt;Meghan Leis</td>
<td>Nursing</td>
<td>George Morris&lt;br&gt;Melissa Maury</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oncology treatment completion celebration</td>
<td>Stephanie Magdanz*&lt;br&gt;Theresa Fritz&lt;br&gt;Kelly Leonard</td>
<td>Pharmacy&lt;br&gt;Social Work</td>
<td>Teresa Johnson&lt;br&gt;Wayne Nicholson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flower bulb planting</td>
<td>Adele Smith*&lt;br&gt;Angela Brothers&lt;br&gt;Amber Fisher&lt;br&gt;Tina Nichols&lt;br&gt;Rick Schlagle&lt;br&gt;Jesse Roberts</td>
<td>Assoc. Director&lt;br&gt;Assoc. Director Patient Care Services&lt;br&gt;Center of Excellence&lt;br&gt;Assoc. Director&lt;br&gt;FMS&lt;br&gt;FMS</td>
<td>Linette Hessenthaler&lt;br&gt;Tonya Eusepi</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Person who submitted idea and will lead team.

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Do you have an idea for a Sprint project?

Submit your ideas to:

BOIEmployeeEngagementIdeas@va.gov
The Boise VA was represented well at the Idaho Women Veterans Conference at the Riverside Hotel on October 20th.

LEFT - Jana Iverson and Megan Dunay
RIGHT - Mr. Wood, Director
BOTTOM - Nicole Watkins, Judith Wolfe and Jana Iverson
TREASURE VALLEY CONCERT BAND’S
FREE VETERANS DAY CONCERT
WE SALUTE YOU
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 7:00PM
THE MORRISON CENTER
FEATURING SPECIAL GUESTS
OPERA IDAHO CHILDREN’S CHORUSES
BOISE PHILHARMONIC MASTER CHORALE
Above: The Boise VAMC got their 'pink on' to support Breast Cancer Awareness. 
Left: Twin Falls CBOC staff show their support for the cause too
3rd Annual VAEA

Saturday, October 27, 2018

And the winners are....

1st Place: Bret McLaughlin
Pirates of the VA

2nd Place: Joyce Fine
(friend of employee)
Monster Under the Bed

3rd Place: Maritza Lorenzana
Family Ghouls
The Boise VAMC’s very own resident country legend, Pinto Bennett (of the Famous Motel Cowboys) was honored at a First Thursday event on October 4th at the Gallery 601, in downtown Boise. Pinto and The Motel Cowboys were featured in a poster art display by local artist Brian Florence. As part of the event, a limited edition framed poster was sold, and a portion of the proceeds was designated to be donated to the charity of Pinto’s choice. Mr. Bennett chose to donate that portion to the Boise VA Medical Center’s Chaplain program. Pinto is a longtime volunteer here at the medical center, and was excited “to give a little bit back, to the place that saved my life”. In a short ceremony in the medical center chapel, on October 25th, 601 Gallery owners Christine Otradovec and Terry Beggs presented a check for $500.00 to Tammy Lanning, Voluntary Service Chief, who accepted it on behalf of the medical center and the Chaplains. On-going sales of the poster, will result in additional money being donated to the Chaplain’s in the future. If you are interested in a poster, contact Gallery 601 for more information.

Left-to-Right: Chaplain David Reid, Pinto Bennett, Christine Otradovec and Terry Beggs.
Mr. Hughes displayed both Commitment and Respect while finishing a project that installed new flooring in the specialty clinic area. First of all, the carpenters shop has been short handed for some time now and the medical center continues to add to the pile of work orders. Mr. Hughes has picked up the slack from other vacancies and did it with a smile. He assisted staff with relocating items and changing lock cores, as well as making last minute repairs so that staff would have a completed space when they returned. There was a lot of moving parts and Michael displayed the utmost respect and calmness, even when others were not. I think his attitude and commitment to the VA should be put in the spotlight for others to emulate. We have many others who shine but we think that this month should belong to Mr. Hughes.

Dr. Griffiths displayed a clear commitment to find a solution to challenges surrounding PHI and Cloud technology. She dedicated herself as a voice of the Veteran to advocate for a process to keep Veterans health information secure while finding a way to transfer and obtain that information for patient care and patient safety purposes.

Excellence: A workable compromise is now in place that serves the needs of both the Veteran and the care provider.

Dr. Griffiths is not only a leader in her field but she also motivational team player serving the bests interests of everyone!

Marcus put the CARE in ICARE this week when I observed him working with a veteran that had been let down by the surgical consult pathway. Marcus listened to the angry veteran and let him vent. Then with great respect and skill Marcus helped to collect some pertinent data regarding the consult that had been omitted by those previously working on the consult. Marcus was able to get a note to the community care folks so the veteran’s request for surgical help could be completed.

Way to go Marcus, greatest of care for a deserving vet.......KUDOS MAN!
A DAV van was dedicated to the Boise VAMC on Oct 11, 2018 by DAV Chapter 23 who purchased the van. Pictured Left to Right: Sterling Mathis, Ron Tolmant, Nate Stewart, David Wood, Angela Brothers, and Tracey Thomas
November is National Family Caregivers Month

During November’s National Family Caregivers Month, VA thanks, celebrates, and honors the 5.5 million Americans who provide care to Veterans. This month, VA takes time to honor and thank the family caregivers who provide essential support. Caregivers are VA’s unsung heroes! Caregivers are truly an integral part of VA’s mission is to provide the best care possible to our Nation’s Veterans. Of the estimated 2.4 million enrollees (27%) receiving any assistance with daily living activities, most (63%) receive 10 hours or less assistance per week. Caregiving needs in the Veteran population served include; spouse 59%, adult children 26%, friend or neighbor 20%, brother or sister 10%, and parent 9%. We invite you to join us in honoring caregivers for all they do. For more information please contact your Caregiver Support Coordinator at your local Medical center. Visit: www.caregiver.va.gov for more information.
THE GREAT AMERICAN SMOKEOUT IS NOV 15

Call 1-855-QUIT-VET to start living your tobacco-free life!
The combined Federal Campaign (CFC) will be running **September 10th- January 11th** this year. With the Holiday season right around the corner, we have some fun events planned for you.

**WE NEED BAKERS!!!**

This year the CFC is hosting its first Pie/Cooking Baking Contest. If you think you have what it takes to bake the tastiest pie or cookie, then enter our baking contest (donation to CFC must be made to enter contest) and put your skills to the test. Prizes will be awarded to the top bakers!

**ENTER TO WIN!**

Our monthly parking spot raffle is going on right now. Reach out to any of the people listed below for your chance at a parking spot.

One-time donation gives you entrance into all events for the rest of the year!!! This means that if you show us proof that you donated any monetary amount to a CFC Charity of your choice, you will get free admission into all CFC events AND have your name entered into the parking raffle EVERY MONTH!

UPCOMING CFC EVENTS

**November**

CFC Cookie/Pie Baking Contest (11/2-11/9 Entry)

11/13 Contest Tetrad/Service Chiefs decide winners

Pizza Party (for participating CBOC’s) 11/16

Raffle off 2 parking spaces for December (11/12-11/28)

Draw for winners 11/28 @ Noon.

**December**

Holiday Celebration- 12/12

Holiday Celebration – Night Shift 12/12

**January**

CFC Thank You Celebration (Tentative Date)

***Goal is $20,000***
2018-19 CATHEDRAL CONCERT SERIES

We Throw The Torch
A Choral Tribute to the 100th Anniversary of Armistice Day

November Eleventh | Two O’clock in the Afternoon
Cathedral of the Rockies | Downtown Boise, Corner of Eleventh and Huys

www.cathedraloftherockies.org