



April 2024



Join MVH at Chesterfield Twp on May 11th

Walk. Run. Roll. Volunteer. Sponsor. [Donate](#). On behalf of MVH staff and members, you're invited to join us for [MVH at Chesterfield Township's 3rd Annual Heroic Walk, Run & Roll](#), on Saturday, May 11, 2024.

While in its third year, this will be the *first* year the event will include an official timed 5k race, and be open for registration to the general public. The 1/2 Mile Remembrance Walk/Roll with MVH members starts at 9am, with the 5k kicking off at 10am. The event also includes a silent auction, lunch, music, fun, and camaraderie for all involved.

All proceeds from the event are deposited in the Homes' Charitable Support Fund (CSF), which is separate from facility operations funds. All private donations to the Homes are deposited in the CSF, and its expenses are authorized by the Homes' Board of Directors, and include member social activities, member entertainment, member-oriented expenditures, equipment for the benefit of MVH members, outreach, and more. Private donations to the CSF allow the Home to *do more* for its members and their loved ones.

If you or your organization is interested in sponsoring the event, donating a basket/items for the silent auction, or otherwise supporting the event and MVH's mission, contact Maxine at ButlerM13@michigan.gov. Learn more by visiting [the event webpage](#).

We look forward to seeing you on May 11th! Register now!



Lawmakers Connect to MVH Mission

Michigan Veteran Homes believes strongly in connecting our elected leaders to our important work in veteran care. For this reason, in March, MVH hosted "Legislative Lunch & Learn" opportunities at our Grand Rapids and Chesterfield Township locations, inviting members of the Michigan legislature and their staff to join us for a presentation, tour, and meal with veterans of the home, as a means to learn about our work, our strengths, and our opportunities in serving those who've served us.

"Ensuring veterans receive the care and quality of life they earned is a societal responsibility. That's why it's essential that the leaders our citizens send to Lansing see and know firsthand what that care and quality of life entails," said Anne Zerbe, Chief Executive Officer of MVH. "By visiting and understanding our work, they can be better equipped to serve veterans and their families in Lansing, and in their districts. And we're grateful they take us up on our offer to share our work."

MVH wishes to thank the following individuals and their offices for sharing their time with Michigan Veteran Homes and its members this month:

- [Senator Kevin Hertel](#)
- [Senator Mark Huizenga](#)
- [Representative Jennifer Conlin](#)

- [Representative Kim Edwards](#)
 - [Representative Mike Harris](#)
 - [Representative Rachel Hood](#)
 - [Representative Jimmie Wilson Jr.](#)
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A Pivot on the Jacobetti Replacement

Right, Face. Forward, March.

On March 11, MVH notified the City of Marquette of its intent to [no longer pursue the former Cliffs-Dow property as a potential location for the MVH D.J. Jacobetti replacement](#). The decision comes following more than a year of discussion and negotiations, where the two parties were ultimately unable to align on the issue of liability as it pertains to the former Cliffs-Dow property.

While environmental assessments indicated the site could have provided a beautiful and safe location for the home, the inability to align on liability in the already-constrained time frame compelled MVH to pursue alternate locations.

In this replacement journey, MVH and its governing board had previously identified preferred alternate site(s) and is actively working through those identified alternatives.

MVH remains incredibly excited to replace the Jacobetti, and - contingent on a number of other factors - hopes to break ground in 2025. More information regarding the preferred alternate site(s) will be available in coming weeks. MVH encourages interested parties to subscribe to our newsletter and [visit our webpage](#) for the most up-to-date information regarding the project.



Visiting MVH at Grand Rapids

In early March, [Senator Mark Huizenga stopped by MVH at Grand Rapids to host bingo](#) and spend time with MVH members and staff. Senator Huizenga has MVHGR in his district, and whether he's hosting bingo, laying wreaths at our cemetery in December, or otherwise supporting our mission, the Senator is a regular at MVHGR.

MVHGR was also fortunate in March to get a visit from some of [the leadership and staff from Mercantile Bank](#). While many on the Mercantile Bank team have driven by the Home and its iconic cemetery for years, they'd never had the opportunity to visit and see firsthand impact of MVH, its history, and the important role State Veteran Homes play in long-term care. We were grateful to share our work with them, and opportunities for them to get involved.

State Veteran Homes trace their origins to the post-Civil War era, and today provide nearly 30,000 long-term care beds to veterans across the nation. If your organization wants to learn more about MVH and its impact, contact us for a visit. We're always happy - and honored - to share our work and impact with our communities. Afterall, we're part of the community, too.



Recognizing our MVH Vietnam Veterans

March 29th was National Vietnam War Veterans Day: a day to honor Vietnam veterans and their families. U.S. combat troops arrived in Da Nang on March 6, 1965, and the last American combat soldier left Vietnam on March 29, 1973 - though troops were there well before, and well after those dates. More than 2.5M Americans served within the borders of South Vietnam, and more than 58,000 lost their lives. Those whose lives were spared returned home to a divided and ungrateful nation.

Recognizing our collective national failure in returning home those who bore the violent and unpopular burden of American foreign policy, MVH graciously took the opportunity in March to partner in an effort to recognize, thank, and honor our veterans who served during the Vietnam War era. Our friends at the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency (MVAA) hosted an event for our MVH at Grand Rapids veterans, where [MVAA Director Brian Love](#) provided a pin to each MVHGR Vietnam veteran and shared his gratitude on behalf of a grateful citizenry. At MVH at Chesterfield Twp, Residential Home Health sponsored a ceremony to recognize, pin, and honor all MVHCT Vietnam veterans. And up north, MVH D.J. Jacobetti hosted a solemn ceremony, paying tribute to those men and women who answered the call to service at a time when it was unpopular to do so.

Maya Lin designed the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington D.C., and about the design, remarked, "As opposed to pretending it never happened, you have to look it straight in the eye. Then you can turn around and walk back out into the light."

MVH is proud to serve those who answered the call to duty during Vietnam - and we're grateful for their service.



Getting Involved at Michigan Veteran Homes

Life is far too short to not make a difference in the lives of others.

At Michigan Veteran Homes, we offer numerous opportunities to individuals, groups, and organizations to get involved in our mission and to make a difference in the lives of our members.

For example, the [Wolverine Skyhawks](#) recently visited MVHGR to share their [remarkable aircraft display](#) with our members. At MVHDJJ, [American Legion Aux. Greenwood #114](#) and [AMVETS Aux. #122](#) sponsored bingo, while [Danny Garceau](#) shared an hour of flute playing and [Ojibwe storytelling](#).

At MVHCT, [Paws, Awes & Claws](#) brought by [kindles of kittens and clowders of cats](#) - all of whom received lots of love from MVH members. And throughout March across our network of three homes, many other wonderful visits occurred from our supportive communities that aren't listed here.

Whether you want to individually volunteer, have a small group host or sponsor an event, or are seeking a service-type project, connect with MVH to explore potential options for impacting the lives of our veterans.

Those interested in supporting the MVH mission and members can learn more by visiting our website at www.michigan.gov/mvh.



Veteran Healthcare Expansion

March saw one of the largest expansions of veteran health care in history, thanks to the PACT Act - with the VA rolling out the expansion of eligibility sooner than expected, or required. All veterans exposed to toxins and other hazards during military service are now eligible for VA health care.

To learn more about your potential eligibility, visit the VA's website at

[The PACT Act: 2024 Expanded Health Care Eligibility toolkit - VA News](#)

or

[Veterans exposed to toxins and other hazards during service now eligible for VA health care - VA News](#)

Regardless of whether or not one *thinks* they may or may not be eligible for VA benefits, MVH encourages every veteran to connect with an accredited veteran service officer (VSO) to seek out the benefits for which they may be eligible. Find a VSO near you by visiting the website of our friends at the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency: michigan.gov/mvaa, or by calling 800-MICH-VET.

Donations to Michigan Veteran Homes are tax-deductible under 170(c) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Michigan Veteran Homes are making a difference in the lives of Michigan veterans and their loved ones. [Join us.](#)

Want to learn more about participating in the representative democracy our veterans stood to protect? Visit the [Michigan Voter Information Center](#).

