

Michigan Veteran Homes

A Place of Honor & Compassion

February 2024



Remembering and Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

January 15th provided the annual special opportunity for members, staff, volunteers, and families of MVH to honor the life, courage, and accomplishments of [Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.](#) The Reverend once said, "Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'" At MVH, we strive to answer that question daily in our service to the men and women who've worn the uniform.

Through the ages, individuals have stood for freedom, equality, and justice, often in the face of unfathomable hardship. There is perhaps no greater example of this perseverance and stalwart commitment than the life and legacy of Dr. King.

His legacy provides both example and inspiration in standing for that which is *right*. MVH is humbled to honor that legacy.

We hope your February is off to a great start, and that you're compelled to consider



Sponsor an Event with MVH and Witness Veteran Quality of Life Impact, In-Person

Each individual and organization gives back to their communities in different ways: with their time, with their talents, or with their treasures - or with some combination thereof. If you're an individual or organization with a passion for serving those who've served us, consider MVH as an opportunity for impact in 2024.

MVH provides unique opportunities to make an impact on veteran quality of life in late-in-life and end-of-life care: creating smiles, memories, friendships, and making "good days" for veterans in a nursing home care environment. One unique way of making that impact is through event sponsorship with MVH. Examples of past sponsorship opportunities include bingo, fishing derbies, 5k events, golf outings, onsite luncheons, dog shows, cookouts, luaus, concerts, sporting events, and more. Event sponsorship often allows groups to participate in the events with our MVH veterans, being part of their experience, and allowing sponsors to see and feel their impact in-person and firsthand.

And while bingo is a popular favorite, the opportunities for creativity are near limitless in impacting our veterans' quality of life. Our



Immense Gratitude, from MVH D.J. Jacobetti

A thank you note,
from [the Jacobetti](#):

"The staff and members of MVH D.J. Jacobetti wish to express our profound gratitude to our community members of the Upper Peninsula who made this holiday season so special for the veterans of the Jacobetti. The generosity of this community - our community - provided our members with holiday luncheons, carolers, light tours, visits from Santa, singalongs, outings in town, big buck\$ bingo, stockings, and presents for every single veteran and their loved ones.

Our work and mission is providing the best care and quality of life to veterans and their loved ones when they need nursing home-level care. They earned it, and deserve it. We also recognize that to fulfill our mission successfully, it takes a village. Indeed, serving those who've served all of us, takes all of us. And like you do every year, this community delivered beyond expectations.

what YOU'RE doing for others.



Fair Winds and Following Seas, to Mr. Harold Mast

On December 20, 2023, former MVH board member [Mr. Harold Mast of Grand Rapids](#) took his final breath and departed this earth. His impactful legacy of service remains, however, and will surely live on for many years to come. A former Captain in the U.S. Navy, 20-year Kent County Commissioner, 14-year Kentwood City Council Member, and former member of the Michigan Veteran Homes' Board (who wore many other titles), Mr. Mast was a leader in his community, and a generous giver.

Mr. Mast's record of generosity and service in community endeavors, including many veteran service opportunities, are too plentiful to adequately list here. However, we at MVH wish to

work and impact at MVH is meaningful, rewarding, and worthwhile - and we invite you and/or your organization to be part of the special impact we're making in veterans' lives. Learn more by visiting [our webpage](#), or [contact us](#) directly.



The Future of MVH: Seeking Qualified Servant Leaders for Board Service

The Board of Directors of the Michigan Veterans' Facility Authority (MVFA) is the governing body for Michigan Veteran Homes, providing strategic direction and focus, with the vision of being one of the nation's leading providers of long-term skilled nursing care and services to veterans.

Members of the [MVFA Board of Directors](#) are [appointed by the Governor](#) and have professional knowledge, skill or experience in long-term care, health care licensure, finance, or medicine, and often have strong ties to the veteran community - if they're not veterans themselves. There are currently two vacancies on the Board: one to be appointed by the Governor from nominations provided by the Speaker of the House of Representatives; and one to be appointed by the Governor from nominations provided by the Majority Leader of the Senate.

Indeed, the future of quality care for MVH members relies upon dedicated, selfless,

On behalf of the veteran members and staff of MVH D.J. Jacobetti, thank you for supporting our home. We're proud, grateful, and inspired to be part of this wonderful community."



2024: The Best Year Yet?

At MVH, as we [reflect on 2023](#), we're excited about what lies ahead for our members and their loved ones for 2024. One aspect of MVH that makes life different and *better* for members of our Homes is the quality-of-life experience and opportunities we're able to provide - thanks to community giving. Our Activities Departments at each of our Homes plans and provides activities and experiences - small and large - every day throughout the year, and 2024 looks bright.

Whether it's March Madness, Vegas Day, or the Dog Show at Grand Rapids, Carnival, NMU Hockey, or Rosie the Riveter Day at Jacobetti, or the Kentucky Derby, Pig Roast, or Bike Rally at Chesterfield Township, the year is full of opportunities - many more than can be listed here - for MVH members, families, staff, friends,

acknowledge his service and leadership upon our Board during a critical time of governing transition, care modernization, construction, and expansion several years ago.

David Henry, current Chair of the Michigan Veterans Facility Authority Board of Directors, stated, "Harold's leadership, selfless service, and impact were surely felt by every organization he touched. I know that his devoted service to MVH on the board was instrumental in delivering the care and quality of life being provided by MVH

today." He went on, "A life of service to others has passed, though I'm optimistic that the way he lived will inspire others to serve the community of veterans he cared so much about."

Mr. Mast's obituary can be read [here](#). Fair winds and following seas, Captain Mast.



experienced servant leaders who believe veterans and their loved ones - when they need nursing home care - deserve the best care and highest quality of life.

If you or someone you know has professional knowledge, skill or experience in long-term care, health care licensure, finance, or medicine, and a passion for the veteran community - consider [learning more about board service with the MVFA, by clicking here](#).

If not you, then who?

Donations to MVH are tax-deductible under section 170(c) of the IRC.

Michigan Veteran Homes are making a difference in the lives of MI veterans and their loved ones.

[Join us.](#)

Want to learn more about actively participating in the representative democracy our veterans stood to protect? Visit the

[Michigan Voter Information Center](#)

and community to come together and enjoy this special journey of life.

If you're an avid supporter of our members and mission, thank you. And if you see our staff in the halls, or out and about, please thank them for their tireless devotion to and compassion for our veterans. They take the generosity of community and then mold it into positive experiences for MVH members every day at MVH.

We hope you'll stay with us - or consider joining us - in our mission in 2024. We think this year might be - will be - the best year yet.



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