

# Michigan Veteran Homes

A Place of Honor & Compassion

April 2023



## Vietnam War Veterans Day

March 29th was [National Vietnam War Veterans Day](#): an opportunity for a nation to honor and reflect upon those brave men and women who answered the call to service, when it was neither popular to do so, nor greatly supported by much of the general public.

MVH serves nearly 200 Vietnam era veterans across its network - a growing population in long term care, and one we're proud to serve.

While March 29th has passed, so has the return home by nearly five decades of the hundreds of thousands of Michiganders who served in Vietnam. Mistakes were made by our nation and its citizenry in returning these warriors home to the homecoming they deserved. Find the Vietnam veteran in your life, learn about them, their sacrifices and service, and share the gratitude we failed to provide them decades ago for their service.



## A Little History

The author is an untrained (and certainly unqualified) historian of sorts, and the long history of the Veterans Home in Grand Rapids is too special to not share.

Did You Know that...

...in 1893, the MI legislature enacted a bill extending care at the Home to "wives, widows, and mothers," in addition to veterans?

...in 1945, the Home's last Civil War veteran, Martin Warner, passed away at 99yo?

...in 1955, military ranks and uniforms were discontinued for home staff?

...in 2001, the Home's last World War I veteran, Haroutun Mullian, passed away at 106yo?

The past is important. Understanding it helps us all make the future a better place.

[Michigan Veteran Homes - History](#)



## Event Sponsorships at MI Veteran Homes

If you or your organization is seeking a unique sponsorship opportunity - to make an impact in the lives of veterans, in the communities you reside in and serve - consider Michigan Veteran Homes. Opportunities are plentiful, and vary!

- [MVH at Chesterfield Township](#) is hosting a 5k Fun Run, Walk & Roll for its staff, volunteers, members, families and sponsors on 5/13, with sponsorships available.
- [MVH D.J. Jacobetti](#) is hosting its 26th Annual Golf Outing on 6/29 at Marquette Golf Club, with sponsorships available.
- [MVH at Grand Rapids](#) is hosting its Annual Dog Show on 6/22, and is seeking a sponsor.

If you or your organization has interest in becoming a sponsor and partner in our mission, contact Ryan Engle at [EngleR3@michigan.gov](mailto:EngleR3@michigan.gov) to learn more.



## Many Ways to Impact

He fought at Normandy. She was a Rosie. He was a POW in Korea. She was a nurse at Khe Sanh. He was Secretary of the Army. He fought in Afghanistan.

What do these have in common: They're all individual people and stories that Michigan Veteran Homes have had the privilege to serve. Each is one story - E pluribus unum - and each is special and unique. At MVH, we're serving veterans when they need it most.

There are many ways you, too, can give back to those who've served.

Monetary donations can be made [here](#).

MVHDJJ has an Amazon Wish List, [here](#).

MVHCT has an Amazon Wish List, [here](#).

MVHGR has an Amazon Wish List, [here](#).

Volunteer info can be found [here](#).

Whatever your means and destinations of personal giving, we encourage finding ways to include those who've served in that plan, whether with MVH or elsewhere.

*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.](#)



## Legislative Lunch & Learns at MVH

In late March, MVH had the opportunity to host two "Legislative Lunch & Learns" - one at Chesterfield Twp, and one at Grand Rapids - to share with our state senators, representatives, and their staff the work our teams do in veteran long-term skilled nursing care.

The visits offered MVH an opportunity to share the important history of State Veteran Homes nationally and here in Michigan, as well as our strengths, opportunities, and accomplishments in serving those who've served. The visits also allowed for tours of our new Homes, and some great food and dialogue with resident veterans.



## Service is a Family Endeavor

While the vast majority of our members are veterans, MVH is proud to serve veteran spouses as well, and recognizes the selflessness and hardship that comes with being the spouse of a man or woman who wears (or wore) the uniform.

Whether it's the day the servicemember becomes a veteran, or decades later, many spouses find themselves becoming Veteran Caregivers at some point. While MVH is there to support those caregivers and spouses in long-term care, it's important to know there are many, many resources available to veteran caregivers in or out of nursing homes. These include organizations / programs like [AARP Michigan](#), the [Elizabeth Dole Foundation](#), the [VA Caregiver Support Program](#), and more.

If you're a veteran caregiver - or aren't sure, but may be one - we encourage you and your veteran to seek out the benefits and resources earned in service, through [accredited veteran service officers across Michigan](#), providing assistance to veterans and their families at no cost.