

Michigan Veteran Homes

A Place of Honor & Compassion

October 2023



Veteran Benefits Matter for Long-Term Care

Often times when a servicemember transitions to becoming a veteran, accessing benefits gets missed. They may get a job, go to college or trade school, start a career and a family, and have a very busy few decades: life gets busy. That often means getting connected to the benefits they earned in service repetitively falls to the bottom of a very long list of "to-do's."

But that connection and those benefits matter greatly in many ways, and definitely in long-term care. At State Veteran Homes like [Michigan Veteran Homes](#), veterans with 70%-100% service-connected disabilities (SCD), or whose SCD is the reason for needing nursing home care may have their *entire cost of care* paid for by the U.S. Dept. of Veterans of Affairs.

If you know a veteran who has not met with an accredited veteran service officer to help [seek out the benefits](#) earned in service, encourage them to do so. A condition due to service may get worse over the years, and new conditions may arise from conditions caused from service. It might not matter for a veteran at this moment in time, but whether tomorrow or in fifty years, they'll be glad they did.

Veteran Service Officers help veterans connect to their benefits at no cost to the veteran, through the [county government](#) or through [veteran service organizations](#). Connect today.



Giving to Michigan Veteran Homes

Philanthropists come in all shapes and sizes. Natalie (13), Penny (10), Quenton (6), and Zechariah (1), for example, recently set out to make a difference in the world - and in West Michigan. Via a lemonade stand and bake sale, they wanted to make an impact on Michigan veterans through Michigan Veteran Homes. Ultimately, they raised \$183, and donated it to MVH's [Charitable Support Fund](#), which funds quality of life initiatives and opportunities for life enrichment for members of MVH.

Sometimes we reserve the word "philanthropy" solely for the giving away or granting of dollars - of generally large sums - by those with remarkable financial wealth, toward worthy charitable causes. That's philanthropy, to be sure, but it also encompasses much, much more. The word comes to English from Greek, where "philos" means love, and "anthropos" means "man" or "humanity." Quite simply, it's the love of humanity, and



Selflessly Serving Those Who Served

At [Michigan Veteran Homes](#), our mission is our members: providing care and quality of life worthy of those who wore the uniform. But we can't do it alone. In addition to our staff, MVH is blessed with the generous support of hundreds of volunteers who give thousands of hours of their time, compassion, and energy to make a difference in the lives of our veterans. They run bingo's, go on outings with members, hold a member's hand in the final hours, and develop meaningful friendships that unite families, and create smiles. They do a lot more. They're incredible people, serving incredible people.

At two of our homes this month - [Grand Rapids](#) and [Chesterfield Township](#) - MVH was fortunate to honor and recognize our volunteers with a dinner celebration: a small but meaningful gesture of appreciation that pales in comparison to their selflessness, but still ensures those volunteers know how much they're valued by MVH staff, members, and families. We wouldn't be who we are, without them.

In addition to the scores of volunteers, MVHGR's banquet was joined by State Representative Rachel Hood, the Office of State Senator Winnie Brinks, the Office of U.S. Representative Hillary Scholten, and the Office of U.S. Senator Gary Peters. At MVHCT, their banquet was joined by the Office of State Representative Jay DeBoyer and the Office of U.S. Senator Gary Peters.

While our elected leaders and their staff don't get to see it everyday, their involvement illustrates the important purpose of our work, and the incredible value of our volunteers, as these leaders merely wanted to be present, meet our volunteers, and share their gratitude. A ceremony, food, and camaraderie were enjoyed by all in attendance at each of the events.

Think you've got what it takes to join their ranks? Learn more about volunteering with Michigan Veteran homes, [here](#).



Community Forums on the [Jacobetti Replacement](#)

In June, MVH held a community forum in Marquette for veterans, community members, and other interested parties regarding updates on the replacement of MVH D.J. Jacobetti. This was an opportunity to share information and updates, engage in dialogue, and have Q&A regarding the future Michigan Veteran Homes D.J. Jacobetti.

September brought opportunity for another [community forum](#), which was again held at the Northern Center at NMU. In presenting and answering questions, MVH leadership was joined by the [Michigan Veterans Facility Authority Board of Directors](#), the [MI Dept. of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy](#) (EGLE), and the design and architecture firm [Perkins Eastman](#), as well as environmental engineers, civil engineers, and geologists from [GEI Consultants](#), who are all involved in bringing the new 157,000 sq. ft, 108-bed nursing home for veterans to the Upper Peninsula to replace the existing home.

MVH is pursuing a portion of the former Cliffs-Dow site as a potential location for the new home, pending a litany of environmental assessments and approvals from autonomous entities, property acquisition, and other factors. MVH has held these community forums as a means to engage in dialogue with the community, keep citizens informed, and ensure



End-of-Summer Luau at Chesterfield

As another summer in southeast Michigan comes to a close, [MVH at Chesterfield Township](#) sent it out in appropriate fashion with an end-of-summer luau, complete with a [pig roast and hula and fire dancers](#) - an event enjoyed by all involved.

Later-in-life and end-of-life care is special work, and MVH is fortunate to have caring and compassionate staff and volunteers who ensure those years, months, weeks, days, hours, and minutes where veterans need our care - that they experience *both* excellent care *and* quality of life. And those experiences are *always* because of the people. The luau at MVHCT was just another example of that shining through.

Experiences happen daily at Michigan Veteran Homes. [Visit our website](#), and check out each home's specific page to see their life enrichment calendars by month, and then determine how YOU want to get involved through volunteering, donating, or sharing our special mission with others.

At MVH, we're providing excellent care and quality of life worthy of those who've worn the uniform: we've got incredible people, serving incredible people.



Beyond the Call of Duty at MVH D.J. Jacobetti

[Michigan Veteran Homes D.J. Jacobetti](#) gets the opportunity every month to recognize an employee who goes "Beyond the Call of Duty" in their work and service toward our members and their lives. In September, that employee was [Ryan Buck, LPN](#). No surprise to anyone that knows him or works with him, you can find Ryan on the medication cart, or passing meal trays, or holding a member's hand, or helping them find the right channel, or doing whatever needs to be done to make a positive difference in the lives of MVHDJJ members.

It is - unquestionably - the incredible people that serve our members that makes all the difference in making Michigan Veteran Homes better for veterans and their loved ones. Ryan Buck exemplifies that, and is an asset to our veterans and their loved ones. If you know an employee at MVH, happen to be visiting and strolling our halls, see an MVH employee out in town, or otherwise get the opportunity - make sure you thank our remarkable staff for the difference they're making in the lives of our veterans.

Each MVH site has unique ways to recognize the

thus the altruistic active efforts to promote the welfare and well-being of fellow humans. We can all choose to be philanthropists. Natalie, Penny, Quenton, and Zechariah certainly are.

transparency. We've also created a [webpage dedicated to information on the replacement of MVH D.J. Jacobetti.](#)



incredible work of our people. Long-term care is hard work, and it takes [caring, committed, and special people](#) to deliver great care and quality of life to those who've worn the uniform. We're grateful we've got them.

*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.](#)*