Michigan Veteran Homes

A Place of Honor & Compassion

September 2023

Advocating for Veterans in Long-Term Care

Providing late-in-life and end-of-life care to veterans is critically important work. Michigan Veteran Homes is proud to educate, advocate, and share our strengths and opportunities with many elected leaders who share our passion in caring for veterans.

In August, MVH was fortunate to host a number of those leaders. Governor Gretchen Whitmer stopped by MVH at Chesterfield Township (MVHCT) to chat with members over lunch, and conduct a tour. The Governor was joined by Senator Kevin Hertel, as well as Chesterfield Twp Supervisor Brad Kersten.

U.S. Representative Lisa McClain - Congresswoman for MI's 9th District - stopped by MVHCT as well, touring and engaging with staff and members.

Across the state, a week after she held a ceremony at the home *(see right column of this* newsletter), U.S. Representative Hillary Scholten - Congresswoman for MI's 3rd District - toured MVH at Grand Rapids and spent time with members and staff.

MVH is grateful for the involvement of the many elected leaders that support our veterans and our work. We're proud to be champions in advocacy for our veterans in our communities, in Lansing, and in Washington. We're serving those who've served us.

Goin' to the Fair with MVH D.J. Jacobetti

Yoopers love summer - in fact - it's the best week of the year. In August, veterans at MVH D.J. Jacobetti stopped by the Marquette County Fair and partook in the wonders of summer in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Admission, food, and games were all generously sponsored by the Military Order of the Purple Heart Auxiliary.

Great times were had by all - and it's one example of many where organizations are impacting lives at MVH. American Legion Post 44 sponsored bingo at MVHDJJ that week, volunteer Jim Feliciano barbecued in the rain for the members, pet therapy was brought to the veterans' home, artists came and drew veterans caricatures, and boaters took veterans fishing on Lake Superior. It's community - and it's making an impact.

At MVH, we provide great care and quality of life - but we're only able to do so through the generosity of community, and we're beyond grateful for the individuals and organizations working collaboratively to deliver on that promise.

MVH D.J. Jacobetti Community Forum: Sept. 19, 2023

In late June, MVH leadership was fortunate to share updates and engage in dialogue with community members in Marquette regarding the future replacement of MVH D.J. Jacobetti (MVHDJJ). Transparency, feedback, and communication with interested community members remains imperative for MVHDJJ's role as a community partner within Marquette and the greater Upper Peninsula, and for its longevity as a provider of excellent care and quality of life to Yooper veterans and their loved ones.

Another community forum in Marquette is tentatively scheduled for Sept. 19 at 5:30pm at NMU's Northern Center, and MVH invites veterans, veteran stakeholders, and interested community members to come hear updates about MVHDJJ, while having additional time for Q&A and dialogue. We encourage interested participants to stay connected to MVH social media to stay informed, in case of updates or changes.

MVH is incredibly grateful for the interest, passion, and active participation in the prior community forum and the Jacobetti replacement home. We're additionally grateful for Northern Michigan University's generosity in providing a beautiful venue at the Northern Center to engage in dialogue with the community. The funding for replacing MVHDJJ is a remarkable and worthwhile investment in veterans and in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, and we're ecstatic to embark upon that journey with the broader U.P. community.

Leaving Your Legacy, Through MVH

How one spends their life can determine the legacy they leave behind for years after they're gone. Service in uniform to our nation has always meant believing in something greater than oneself, and at MVH we're proud to care for such legacy-leavers: those who've stood to serve, in times of peace and times of war, often when it was unpopular to do so, yet still needed. There are song lyrics somewhere that state, "it's not what you take when you leave this world behind you - it's what you leave behind you when you go," and our veterans have left some pretty remarkable legacies of service.

YOUR legacy can be part of THAT legacy, too. Some of the largest gifts to MVH's mission are gifts left after life to Michigan Veteran Homes' Charitable Support Fund. This fund supports quality of life experiences and more for MVH members, and makes the experiences we're able to provide special, unique, and enriching for our MVH veterans. Cruising the Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, attending Grand Rapids Griffins hockey games, fishing trips on the big lake, museum trips in Detroit, baseball games on warm summer evenings - and more - are all due to the generosity of individuals and organizations in our communities.

If you're interested in considering how the legacy YOU leave behind can impact veterans at MVH, please contact us. With MVH's Charitable Support Fund as a beneficiary of your will, trust, retirement account or life insurance policy, the legacy and impact you can leave to those who've served is remarkable, and long-lasting. We're changing lives - late-in-life - for the better, and we invite you to consider joining that purposeful mission.

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.

Honoring the Fallen at MVH at Grand Rapids

MVH's niche in serving veterans is providing excellent care and quality of life to veterans and their loved ones who require skilled nursing care. And, we're partners in our communities also - part of a larger network of individuals and organizations who ensure America's heroes are cared for.

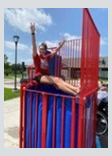
In August, MVH at Grand Rapids (MVHGR) was honored to partner with The Office of Congresswoman Hillary Scholten, MI-03, when the Congresswoman visited our campus and presented medals earned - but never previously given - to the mother of Lloyd Slack, a U.S. Army veteran Killed in Action in Vietnam.

Lloyd's mother, Lola Mondy, has been involved at MVHGR for decades, and there seemed no better venue for her to receive these medals for her and her son's sacrifice, than on the hallowed grounds of MVHGR.

It's been said that a nation that fails to serve and support those who've stood to defend it - will soon find no one left willing to stand and defend it. MVH is proud to honor our veterans, and thus be a small part of ensuring that never happens.

Summer Fun at MVH at Chesterfield Twp

Every now and again, we humans tend to reflect on how we're spending our lives - the minutes, hours, and days of this blessed journey we've been given - asking ourselves, "Am I doing this thing right...?" If you're wondering what "right" might look like, a stop by MVH at Chesterfield Township will show you lives and experiences filled with joy and smiles.

MVHCT's "Summer Fun in the Sun" event had a dunk tank where veterans could dunk their "favorite" staff members, along with opportunities for pies in the face, and water balloon tossing. A frozen treats truck blessed the party as well, serving nostalgic ice cream bars and more under the warm summer sun of southeast Michigan.

Contrary to popular belief, it takes fewer muscles to frown than to smile, so the veterans, families, staff and volunteers of MVHCT all got a good workout in that day. With lots of laughs, smiles, and conversation - MVH is continuing in its journey of changing lives for the better.