



*(November 13, 2015)*

In order to further improve the lines of communication and to respond to the concerns between the National VA Council and you our members, I have established a National VA Council Briefing. This NVAC Briefing will bring you the latest news and developments within DVA and provide you with the current status of issues this Council is currently addressing. I believe that this NVAC Briefing will greatly enhance the way in which we communicate and the way in which we share new information, keeping you better informed.

**Alma L. Lee**  
National VA Council, President

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**In This Briefing: A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF OF STAFF**

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In October, the Secretary, Deputy Secretary, and I received emails and letters from Veterans highlighting exceptional customer service provided by the following employees. Thank you for your commitment to our institutional core values—Integrity, Commitment, Advocacy, Respect, and Excellence. These mission-critical ideals profoundly influence our day-to-day behavior, performance, and enhance the Veteran experience. Employees like you across the Nation are working to transform every day into Veterans Day.

***VA Regional Office, Atlanta, GA***

- James Goist, Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor
- Jason Rene, Coach, Veterans Service Center
- Jacob Savage, Rating Veterans Service Representative

***VA Medical Center, Baltimore, MD***

- Anthony DeAngelis, CT Technologist
- Donetta Hatcher, RN
- Ruth Miller, Diagnostic Radiologic Technologist
- Cathy Ponton, RN
- Rudolph Titanji, MD
- Ronald Warnick, RN

**VA Western New York Healthcare System, Batavia, NY**

Royce Calhoun, Assistant Director  
Kathleen A. Ryan, Social Worker (Retired)

**C.W. Bill Young VA Medical Center, Bay Pines, FL (Veteran letter referred by White House)**

Suzanne M. Klinker, Director  
Ronald W. Braasch, PhD

**Veterans Crisis Line, Canandaigua, NY**

Tracy Thompson

**VA Central Office, Veterans Benefits Administration**

Lucas Tickner, Senior Collaboration Strategist  
James Lester, Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor

**VA Medical Center, Cincinnati, OH (Veteran letter referred by White House)**

Angelica Arejola, RN  
Owen Baldwin, MD  
Sandra Dickens, MD  
Kathleen Francis, Social Worker  
Jean Holthaus, NP Social Work Service  
Susan Hosey, Social Worker  
Susan Kang, RN  
LaTasha King, Nursing Assistant  
Diana Kirby, LPN  
Kantha Medepalli, MD  
Adam Morris, RN  
Kim Yen Thi Njuyen, MD  
Jensine J. Norman, MD  
Jesse D. Rhodes, MD  
Adam Rose, MD  
Charlotte So, MD  
Elliott Welford, MD

**VA Regional Office, Columbia, SC**

Andrea Parrott, Public Contact Coach

**VA Health Care System, Dallas, TX – North Texas Health Care System**

Cecelia Knight, Social Worker  
Michelle Lee, Supervisory Social Worker  
Hanna Lin, Social Worker  
Kristin Manley, Social Work Associate  
Sylvia Pettigrew, Social Worker  
James Williams, Social Worker

**Carl Vinson VA Medical Center, Dublin, GA**

Latasha M. Hall, Prosthetics Clerk

**VA Medical Center, Erie, PA**

Ishwer Bharwani, MD

Kathleen Crowe, MDS Coordinator  
Carolyn Donnell, Unit 4 Supervisor  
David P. Fugate, Chaplain  
Jill Seeley, Social Worker  
Natalie Woznicki, Recreation Therapist

***VA Black Hills Health Care System, Ft. Meade Campus, SD***

Justine Peterson, Physician Assistant  
Lisa M. Sundstrom, RN

***VA Health Care Center, Harlingen, TX***

Yasisca Pujols, Psychologist

***VA Regional Office, Indianapolis, IN***

Milagros L. Frolich, Field Examiner

***VA Medical Center, Kansas City, MO***

Darryl Blalock, MD  
Andra Branscumb, RN  
Jennifer Capuzelo Kiel, RN  
Greta Chaar, RN  
Arundhati Desai, MD  
Marlon Edwards, Environmental Services  
James Gates, Environmental Services  
Abdul Ahad Haleem, MD  
Michelle Locke, Nursing Assistant  
Paula Payton, LPN  
Grant Rowland, MD  
Nischal Sagar, MD  
Veer Anup Shah, MD  
Carol Sikes, Medical Support Assistant  
Christopher Streitberger, RN  
Ella Thomas, Nursing Assistant  
Dana Thompson, RN  
Leslee Wilson, RN

***VA Outpatient Clinic, Laredo, TX***

Jennifer Roby, Case Manager

***VA Medical Center, Lebanon, PA***

Philip I. Landis, Respiratory Therapist  
William L. Simpson, Respiratory Therapist

***VA Medical Center, Martinsburg, WV***

Joann Ashworth, NP

***Tennessee Valley Healthcare System, Murfreesboro, TN***

Mitzi A. Walkup, Audiologist

***Phoenix VA Health Care System, Phoenix, AZ***

Staci B. Fine, RN

Brian G. Hawkins, MD

**VA Regional Office, Pittsburgh, PA**

Jennifer Stone-Barash, Director

**VA Medical Center (Hunter Holmes McGuire), Richmond, VA**

Brian Burkhardt, Rehabilitation Engineer

Ricky Hawkins, Physical Therapist

Melissa Oliver, Occupational Therapist

Benjamin Salatin, Rehabilitation Technician

Nicole Shuman, Recreation Therapist

Joseph Webster, MD

Patricia Young, Physical Therapist

**VA Roseburg Healthcare System, Roseburg, OR**

Lawrence Lyon, MD

**Central Texas Veterans Health Care System, Temple, TX**

Ashley N. Hersey, Audiologist

Robert L. Nabors II

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