

Reveille !



Volume 5, Issue 2
February 2010

“Welcome Home” Celebration for OEF/OIF Veterans

JBVAMC’s third annual “Welcome Home” celebration for OEF/OIF veterans will be held on Saturday, April 24, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the UIC Forum, located at 725 W. Roosevelt Road in Chicago. All returning veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan and active duty service members are welcome to attend and bring their families.

Approximately 100 community, government and service organizations will provide information on employment, veterans’ benefits, health care and other community resources to assist veterans in their transition to home and family. An emphasis is being placed on inviting Chicago-area employers who are actively recruiting to hire OEF/OIF veterans.

The event will also offer health screenings, food, live entertainment, raffle prizes donated by Chicago sports teams, massages, and a Kids Corner with a variety of games and activities for the veterans’ children.

Last year’s Welcome Home celebration was attended by 400 people and this year’s program is anticipated to be even larger. Please help us to promote our Welcome Home celebration to any OEF/OIF veterans you know. They will be happy you did.

For additional information, please contact Valerie Creedon, OEF/OIF Program Manager: (312) 569-6516.

OEF/OIF Program Updates

- ◆ JBVAMC has established a comprehensive Post Deployment Clinic on the 10th floor of the Damen Pavilion. It provides “one-stop shopping” for our newest veterans from Iran and Iraq in a family-friendly atmosphere that includes a vending area and toys for the children of our veterans to play with.
- ◆ Last month, the OEF/OIF program began weekly family re-integration meetings on Monday evenings from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. in Room 10401 for OEF/OIF veterans and their families. For information, please contact case managers Jeff Stebor (312-569-8254) or Liz Rogers (312-569-6755).
- ◆ The OEF/OIF program began a new cable access TV show last month that airs live on the fourth Thursday of every month at 6:30 p.m. on Chicago’s Cable Access Network. It is hosted by Dr. Eric Proescher. Chicago residents with the Comcast, RCN or WOW cable TV systems can tune in and view it on Channel 21. The shows will be rebroadcast on JBVAMC’s Patient Education Channel.



Plastic Surgery Now Offered at JBVAMC

JBVAMC has established a Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery program. It is not for cosmetic surgery, but is intended to provide reconstructive care following a previous surgery or for difficult wound care.

This service will cover the full spectrum of plastic and reconstructive surgical procedures, including (but not limited to):

Breast: Breast reduction and reconstruction

Body: Body contouring after massive weight loss; abdominal wall reconstruction/massive ventral hernia repair; chest wall reconstruction; Panniculectomy

Head and Neck: Skin cancer and reconstruction; head and neck reconstruction after tumor resection; eyelid and periorbital surgery

Extremity: Limb reconstruction after tumor resection; hand/wrist surgery; peripheral nerve surgery/carpal tunnel

Other: Burn reconstruction, complex non-healing wounds, microsurgery, scar revisions, pressure sores, decubitus ulcers

The Plastic Surgery program holds a clinic every Tuesday in Room 2329 of the Purple Clinic, on the second floor of the Ogden Pavilion. Interested veterans can ask any health care provider to enter a computer consult under Surgery.

Governor Presents Sustainability Award to JBVAMC

Jesse Brown VAMC was a recipient of the Illinois 2009 Governor's Sustainability Award for "meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." The award was personally presented to JBVAMC by Governor Quinn at the medical center on December 22. He was accompanied by Dan Grant, Director of the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs.

Why did we win? In just one year's time, Jesse Brown VA Medical Center recycles 170 tons of cardboard and paper, saves over 1.4 million KWh of electrical energy and almost 2.5 million gallons of water, keeps over 100 tons of pollutants from entering the atmosphere, avoids sending over 1,000 cubic yards of waste to a landfill and recycles over 60,000 gallons of food grease.

JBVAMC's Bed Tower is also one of the "greenest" in the nation, using recycled materials for woodwork and flooring, sky lights and thermal windows for temperature control and a green roof that controls storm water run-off and returns oxygen to the atmosphere.



Governor Pat Quinn (middle) personally presented the Governor's Award for Sustainability to JBVAMC on December 22. He is joined here by (from left) Dan Grant, Director, IL Department of Veterans Affairs; Joe Bazil, Assistant Chief, JBVAMC Environmental Management Service; Michelle Blakely, JBVAMC Associate Director and Derrick Morrison, GEMS Coordinator for JBVAMC.



VETERANS and EMPLOYEES RESPECT One Another. RESPECT Our Environment. RESPECT !



To make, change, or
cancel an appointment
please call our
Call Center at
1-888-569-5282

**Veterans – FREE Valet Parking
is available for you at Jesse
Brown VAMC & Lakeside CBOC**



**FREE Flu Shots for Veterans
Please go to Room #1412 at
JBVA or any of our clinics**

Levi Laroco RN, MSN - Editor/Layout/Design

Raymond Leber– Co-Editor/Contributor

We ask that you help us develop the Patient Newsletter by providing us with information, about events, activities, and individuals or groups that highlight the Veterans of Jesse Brown VAMC. Individuals wishing to contribute articles or ideas are asked to contact either Levi Laroco (56450) or Ray Leber (56402). Your input is always welcomed.