Each year, and especially this year, the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs (MDVA) recognizes the staff at our five State Veterans Homes during what is nationally known as Skilled Nursing Care Week.

Held annually since 1967, and always beginning on Mother's Day, National Skilled Nursing Care Week (NSNCW) is May 10-16, 2020. The Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs chooses to celebrate this important week as “Minnesota Veterans Homes Week.” This is an annual opportunity to recognize our valued Veterans Healthcare staff for their hard work and dedication to caring for our Residents. Typically, it is a celebration for staff and Residents alike, with a week full of activities, food and fun.

Because of our current COVID-related restrictions, this year we are limited in our ability to celebrate. Regardless, all five of the Minnesota Veterans Homes will receive a variety of recognition over the next week. For example, each Home will be displaying a “Gratitude Wall” to showcase notes and letters of appreciation.

"...Through the most challenging of times, you have all continued to rise up and ensure our Veterans and their families receive the respect, care and compassion they deserve."

(Continued on page 2)
(Continued from page 1)

The healthcare team has demonstrated that you don’t just want to meet Resident needs... you strive to exceed their expectations. With a 2019 Satisfaction Rating of 99%, exceeding the national average, MDVA facilities remain the caring choice of Veterans and their families all across Minnesota. This is a direct reflection of our dedicated staff who continue to provide the highest quality of care. And through the most challenging of times, our staff have continued to rise up and ensure our Veterans and their families receive the respect, care and compassion they deserve.

These past few months have been difficult, but the outpouring of support and gratitude from families, fellow staff, Residents, partners and the community had been amazing! Thank you to all Minnesota Veterans Homes staff!

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Flower Power

Anonymous flowers arrived at the Luverne Veterans Home – to show appreciation for the staff. All staff were able to take a flower home after their shift.

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CUE THE confetti

Happy 90th!

The Luverne Veterans Home staff helped a Resident and his family celebrate his 90th birthday last week. His family watched him open up his cards and gifts through the window.

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it’s dad’s birthday

CREATIVE CELEBRATING

Visitor restrictions didn’t stop this family from helping their dad celebrate; their father is a Resident at the Minneapolis Veterans Home.
**Vickie Davidson**

Vickie is at Minneapolis DOMS to help during the COVID crisis. She is smiling every day and has warm greetings. She’s willing to help in any way possible. Vickie regularly reviews documents from VAMC and finds information that is important to the care of Veterans!

**Jamie Adler**

Jamie is a blessing to work with. She is always willing to accommodate and make things happen. She approaches new endeavors with an open mind, and seems to handle multiple things seamlessly. Jamie goes above and beyond every time!

**Tim Jacobson**

Tim is at Minneapolis DOMS. He wears many hats - and shows them every day through his endless ability to take on new challenges. Tim is friendly, and will step in wherever he is needed. He has helped set up isolation rooms, and even brought tools from home to help improve the PPE area.

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**Domiciliary Staff Hero Corner**

Look for updated names every week! (Submitted by Michael Anderson)
Thank you to all of our Homes’ staff for submitting content regularly, including Sandy Larson, Erin Betlock, Joyce Scott, Deanna Mounts, Kathy Lehn, Mike Anderson, Sue Register, Ruth Reimer, Shirlee Peterson, Shirley Connor – and many, many more!

(Email from a family)

Thank you to the Vet’s Club Team for a wonderful Spirit Week! Having the opportunity for a drive-by visit yesterday was fantastic . . . seeing all of you, your smiles, and enthusiasm, brought tears of joy to both Duane and me.

After leaving you, we continued on to Minnehaha Falls and took a slow drive along the Parkway to Mt. Olivet Lutheran Church (50th and Knox) where Duane and I were married 54 years ago in June. We drove to the furthest point of the parking lot where we could see Minnehaha Creek and enjoyed a picnic lunch (thanks to you).

Then, we traveled on home and called our sons to show them the Activity Bag you gave to Duane. Tonight, our youngest son will come over to enjoy the activities and play some of the games with us. He’ll also bring dinner and we’ll share our Fancy Friday Dessert (thanks once more to all of you).

This week has lifted Duane’s spirits, and mine as well. A simple thank you seems so inadequate, but we’ll say it again:

THANKS TO YOU ALL FOR YOUR KINDNESS AND GENEROSITY; IT IS APPRECIATED MORE THAN YOU CAN POSSIBLY IMAGINE!

(Sunday, May 10, 2020)

We hope you had a Happy Mother’s Day!

To all the mothers, and to all the women who serve as mother-figures.