

THE BUGLE

ILLINOIS VETERANS'
HOME AT QUINCY

Providing a home for
America's veterans for
more than 139 years

MARCH 2026
ISSUE NO. 1

GROWING CAMPUS



Photos of the new Quincy Veterans' Home skilled care building appear on the front and back covers of this edition of The Bugle. The main entrance faces the Fifer Building. Staff members were excited to open this state-of-the-art facility as part of the continued growth and modernization of the campus, enhancing the care and environment provided to veterans.

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POPULATION REPORT

WWII	4
Korea	32
Korea and Vietnam	2
Vietnam	140
Vietnam and Gulf	4
Gulf	11
Peace Time	36
Non-Veterans	57
Total	286

*-Statistics through December 31, 2025

AGE RANGE CHART

	Men	Women
50-59	9	0
60-69	7	1
70-79	89	12
80-89	69	33
90-99	45	18
100-plus	1	2
Total	220	66

BRANCH OF SERVICE

Air Force	39
Army	116
Coast Guard	1
Marine Corps	20
Navy	53

A special thank you to Laverne Franken, Activity Team members, Social Services staff and all staff who contributed photos for this edition of The Bugle.

The Bugle is published for the residents, staff, volunteers and friends of the Quincy Veterans' Home. It is not printed with tax funds.

To cut down on the printing and mailing expense of The Bugle, we ask that anyone willing to receive a digital copy via email instead of a printed copy to please let us know. Additionally, if you no longer wish to receive this publication, please let

us know to remove your name from our mailing list.

Contributions and comments signed by the author are welcome and can be sent to the attention of Director of Marketing Valerie Peterson.

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GRAND OPENING

The Illinois Veterans' Home celebrated in style on October 20, 2025, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and grand opening of the new skilled care building.

Gov. JB Pritzker joined state, local and community leaders, along with Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs leadership, residents, staff and guests, to formally open the state-of-the-art facility, the final phase of a \$300 million investment through the Rebuild Illinois program.

The event marked a historic moment for the home. The new building delivers modern, safe and dignified living for veterans and is thoughtfully designed to enhance quality of life through gracious living spaces, outdoor areas and gathering places. The project also represents a major investment in staff, providing a world-class environment in which to deliver exceptional care.

During the ceremony, Pritzker said, "Illinois veterans deserve the very best care and comfort. This new home at Quincy honors their service with state-of-the-art facilities that prioritize dignity, safety and community. The Quincy Veterans' Home has always stood as a living monument to that commitment, a place where service is honored and sacrifices never forgotten."

The 260,000-square-foot facility houses 210 veterans and spouses requiring skilled nursing care. It features four residential wings – Bravo, Charlie, Delta and Echo – surrounding a central hub for restorative, clinical, administrative, and social services. The building is also home to the dietary and laundry departments, with pharmacy scheduled to move in soon.

Private rooms are fully furnished and include private bathrooms, with select adjoining rooms available for couples. Living



Marine Corps veteran Bobby Whitten meets with Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker and other dignitaries in Delta before the ribbon-cutting ceremony.



Gov. JB Pritzker addresses the large crowd gathered in the lobby during the ceremony.



Quincy Mayor Linda Moore, center, and Gov. JB Pritzker visit with Echo resident and Army veteran Donald Dixon before the ceremony.

areas offer comfortable seating, fireplaces and televisions, while dining rooms were designed to create a warm, welcoming atmosphere and encourage creative meal options. Outdoor courtyards feature interactive sculptures. Residents can gather in the on-site pub for socializing, parties and special events. A café is planned for the future, providing a convenient spot for residents, staff and guests to grab a drink or light meal.

With the completion of this building and the Quincy Domiciliary, which opened in January 2025, IVHQ now has the capacity to support 467 residents.

IDVA Director Terry Prince also shared remarks during the ceremony, saying, "This is a place where those who served



A standing-room-only crowd gathered for the grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony.

our nation — often at great personal cost — can turn when they need help most. Like the North

Star in our IDVA logo, we will always be here to guide them through fair winds and following

seas. When they come through these doors, they will know we have their six."

A LOOK INSIDE



SKILLED CARE BUILDING | THE BUGLE MARCH 2026



Skilled Care Building photos by Dan Schwalm

“We Are the Champions” was the theme of this year’s Certified Nursing Assistants Week, celebrated June 12-18, 2025. During the week, the Illinois Veterans’ Home also recognized the VNAC of the Year, Virginia Darnell, who works in the Fifer building. Nomination letters highlighted her reliability, tireless work ethic and willingness to care for residents – even coming in on her days off. She is known for her kindness, compassion, dependability and always being ready to lend a helping hand. Congratulations to Virginia, and thank you for serving the residents with excellence and heart. From left are Fifer Supervisor Dana Herring, Director of Nursing Tracy Alexander, Virginia Darnell, Adjutant Amanda Bunch and Administrator Chuck Newton.

VNAC OF THE YEAR



GREAT RIVER HONOR FLIGHT | THE BUGLE MARCH 2026



John Sass, shown looking at the sunrise during his flight to Washington, D.C., above, was accompanied on the Great River Honor Flight by his daughter, Nicole Rauwolf. | Photos courtesy of Nicole Rauwolf



HEALING FLIGHT

John Sass, a U.S. Navy veteran and a resident of Hammond Hall, participated in Great River Honor Flight 77 on Aug. 14, 2025. This special flight, which honored Adams County veterans in celebration of the Adams County Bicentennial, proved to be a deeply meaningful experience for Sass.

Sass was 17 years old when he heard President John F. Kennedy's famous words, "Ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country." The message struck a powerful chord. From that moment on, Sass considered himself a patriot.

After graduating early from high school, Sass enlisted in the United States Navy, where he served as a naval aviation radar technician. Stationed aboard a P-2 Neptune long-range maritime patrol aircraft, he was responsible for controlling drones and managing their flight paths from the radar seat.

Sass completed two tours in Vietnam during the war. When he returned home, however, he was not welcomed. Instead, he experienced hostility that included being spat on while wearing his uniform. Those painful memories stayed with him for decades. Participating in the Honor Flight helped heal wounds that had been carried since his youth.

"The Honor Flight made me a hero in my own mind," Sass shared.

While his return from Vietnam was met with rejection, his Honor Flight experience was filled with appreciation and respect. From start to finish, crowds turned out to wave, salute and celebrate the veterans.

"I was welcomed everywhere we went," he said.

Visiting the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on the National Mall was a quiet, reflective moment for John. Standing before The Wall, he thought about the friends and comrades he served alongside.

"It took me back," he reflected.

For years, memories of the war had left him restless and unable to sleep. The Honor Flight, he said, helped close that chapter and begin healing the wound inflicted when he was still a teenager. The bag of mail he received during the trip was especially meaningful.

"It was amazing. The whole trip was amazing," he said. "It really was an honor."

Sass's favorite stop of the day was Arlington National Cemetery, where the Honor Flight veterans were given a close-up view of the Changing of the Guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Witnessing the precision, discipline and dedication of the guards was deeply emotional.



John Sass served two stints during the Vietnam War as a naval aviation radar technician for the U.S. Navy.

"It got me," he said.

Sass was accompanied on the trip by his daughter, Nicole Rauwolf, who proudly served as his chaperone for this once-in-a-lifetime journey to Washington, D.C.

One of the most remarkable moments of Sass's Navy career occurred in March 1966 while he was stationed in Okinawa, Japan.

His crew was tasked with recovering the Gemini 8 space capsule from the Pacific Ocean. Sass located the capsule on radar 40 miles south of Okinawa and was

the crew member who hooked the aircraft cable to it. Sliding down the cable, Sass knocked on the capsule door and opened the hatch to find astronauts Neil Armstrong and David Scott inside. After shaking their hands, the P-2 towed the capsule back to base. Sass remained in contact with Armstrong and his family until Armstrong's passing in 2012.

For Sass, the Honor Flight was more than a trip. It was recognition, reflection and long-overdue gratitude for a lifetime of service.

GIRLS' ROAD TRIP



Susan Christner, center, is pictured with her husband, Carl, right, and daughter, Jessica Drish, left, at the Hannibal VFW. Drish also works at the Illinois Veterans' Home as a member of the social services team.

Susan Christner is the health information administrator and privacy officer at the Illinois Veterans' Home and a veteran of the United States Air Force, serving for five years.

Christner had the honor in June of being selected for the 76th mission of the Great River Honor Flight, the first all-women veterans' flight in the organization's history. Thirty-seven female veterans representing five branches of the military participated in the two-day trip.

The first day included touring and sightseeing in Hannibal, Mo., a Mississippi River boat cruise and dinner at the Hannibal American Legion. The second day followed the successful itinerary of previous Great River Honor Flights, in addition to a tour and special recognition ceremony at the Women's Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery.

"When I first signed up for the Honor Flight, I

didn't know what to expect, but to say it was emotionally overwhelming would be an understatement," she said. "The warm welcome we received at the airports was absolutely incredible.

"As I experienced that, I couldn't help but think about our Vietnam veterans – so many of whom never received that kind of homecoming. It's heartbreaking to know they were met with hostility instead of gratitude. I would love to see our country continue finding ways to make this right for our Vietnam veterans, and programs such as the Honor Flight are a huge step in that direction. To any veteran who has the chance to go on an Honor Flight, please do it. It's an experience that will change your life forever."

Congratulations to Christner on being part of this historic flight and for her continued service and dedication.



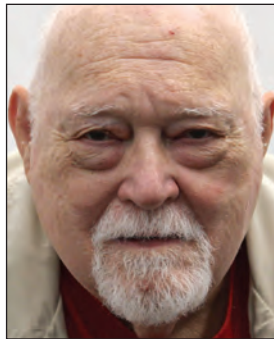
Susan Christner's U.S. Air Force enlistment photograph.

WELCOME TO THE ILLINOIS VETERANS' HOME AT QUINCY

Between April 1 and December 31, 57 new residents joined the ranks of those living at the Home. These new members represent every branch of service. All served during the time periods of World War II, the Korean War or the Vietnam War. Thirteen new ladies now call IVHQ their home, and one is a veteran herself. Welcome to the Home.



Richard Altheide
From Quincy
Vietnam War
Army



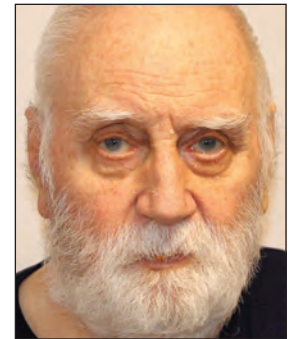
Andy Austin
From Jacksonville
Vietnam War
Navy



Gail Austin
From Jacksonville
Veteran Spouse



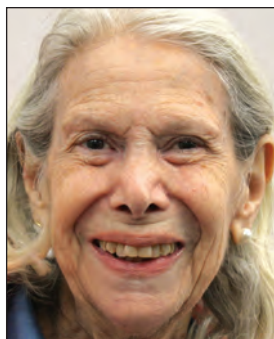
Terry Capps
From Versailles
Vietnam War
Army



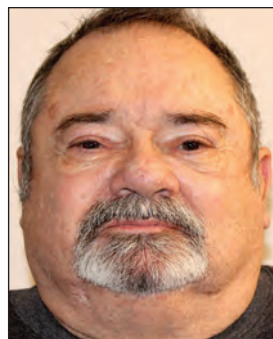
Danny Cogswell
From Meredosia
Vietnam War
Army



Jim Curtis
From Tinley Park
Vietnam War
Navy



Mary Curtis
From Tinley Park
Veteran Spouse



William Dalton
From Quincy
Vietnam War
Navy



Jim Daniels
From Quincy
Vietnam War
Army



Shirley Daniels
From Quincy
Veteran Spouse

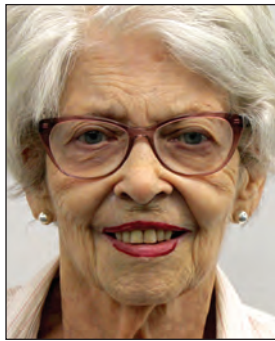
NEW ADMISSIONS | THE BUGLE: MARCH 2026



Donald Dixon
From Quincy
Vietnam War
Army



George Dyson
From Springfield
World War II
Air Force



Sharon Ertz
From Hull
Veteran Spouse



Wayne Ertz
From Hull
Vietnam War
Navy



David Eustace
From Pearl
Vietnam War
Army



Betty Flesner
From Golden
Veteran Spouse



Merlin Flesner
From Golden
Vietnam War
Army



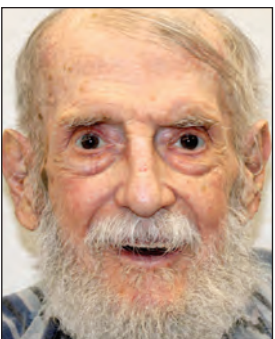
Andy Fries
From Quincy
Korean War
Army



Stephen Griswold
From Plymouth
Vietnam War
Army



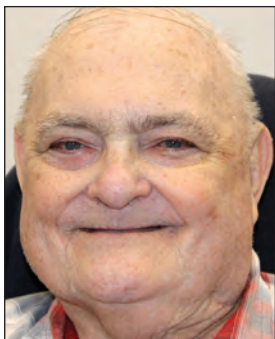
Cecil Haskins
From Loraine
Vietnam War
Navy



Gene Heaton
From Springfield
Korean War
Army



Norma Hebel
From Quincy
Veteran Spouse



James Horschler
From Joliet
Vietnam War
Navy

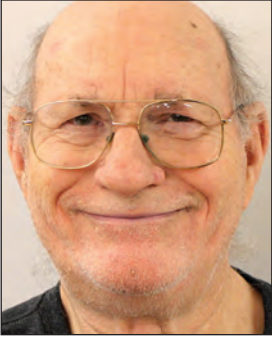


Vallerie Horschler
From Joliet
Veteran Spouse



Ron Hull
From Chambersburg
Vietnam War
Army

NEW ADMISSIONS | THE BUGLE: MARCH 2026



Clyde Irwin
From Camp Point
Vietnam War
Air Force



Steven Johnson
From Keokuk, Iowa
Vietnam War
Air Force



Fred Kern
From Quincy
Korean War
Army



Gene Kramer
From Fowler
Korean War
Navy



Peggy Kramer
From Fowler
Veteran Spouse



Delbert "Doc" Linn
From Edwardsville
Vietnam War
Army



Jo Mabry
From Quincy
Veteran Spouse



Paul Mabry
From Quincy
Vietnam War
Army



Donald Martin
From Springfield
Korean War
Army



Nolan "Mac" McElyea
From Morton
Vietnam War
Army



Daniel Mittelberg
From Ewing, Mo.
Vietnam War
Army



Judy Mittelberg
From Ewing, Mo.
Veteran Spouse



Dave Moore
From Golden
Vietnam War
Air Force

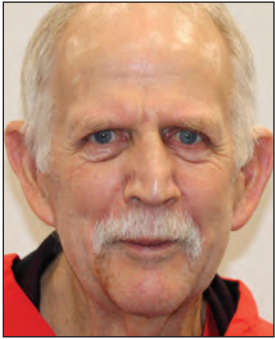


Barbara Nauert
From Quincy
Veteran Spouse



Jim Nauert
From Quincy
Korean War
Marine Corps

NEW ADMISSIONS | THE BUGLE: MARCH 2026



Charles Palmer
From Rushville
Vietnam War
Army



Philip Pennington
From Columbia, Mo.
Vietnam War
Army



Donald Peters
From Quincy
Korean War
Navy



Ed Richno
From Virden
Vietnam War
Marine Corps



Jim Riviere
From Pekin
Vietnam War
Army



Bud Robertson
From Springfield
Vietnam War
Air Force



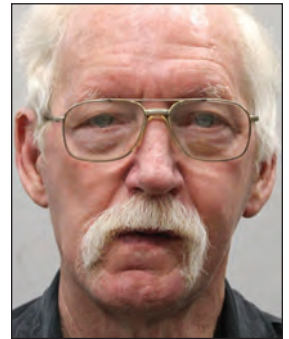
Bill Robinson
From Fieldon
Vietnam War
Navy



Annie Rohe
From Trenton
Vietnam War
Air Force



Larry Schnelle
From Quincy
Vietnam War
Army



Jim Sheffield
From Hannibal, Mo.
Vietnam War
Air Force



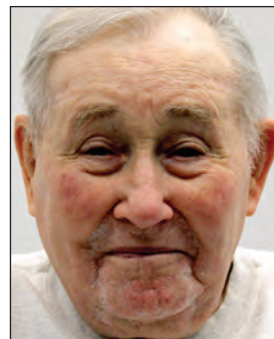
Robert Skinner
From Quincy
Vietnam War
Navy



Daniel Stambaugh
From Glen Carbon
Vietnam War
Air Force



Marilyn Stambaugh
From Glen Carbon
Veteran Spouse



Lloyd Stone
From Petersburg
Korean War
Navy



Dick "Speck" Wayland
From Colchester
Korean War
Army



Bob Werneth
From Quincy
Vietnam War
Air Force



Larry Wilson
From Quincy
Vietnam War
Army

SINGING SUNS



The Southeastern Junior High School band and chorus presented a music program at Lippincott Hall in April. Through a grant program, Southeastern students volunteered to share their music at a local nursing home and chose the Illinois Veterans' Home in Quincy. Thank you to these students and their directors for a morning of music and for the opportunity to see and interact with the students.

EMPLOYEE MILESTONES

(April 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025)



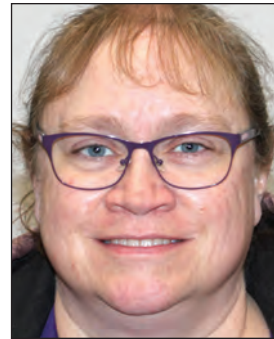
Ivan Hicks
Dietary
34 years



Tracy Brown
Medical Billing
29 years



Terry Goodwin
Laundry
29 years



Deanna Lefringhouse
Housekeeping
29 years



Gayle Moulton
Nursing
29 years



Paula Goodwin
Nursing
28 years



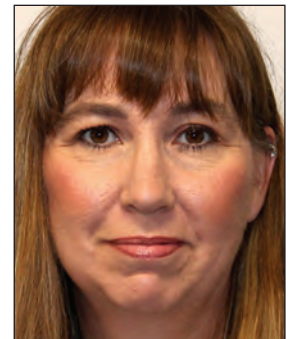
Chad Roberts
Facilities
28 years



Angie Strang
Nursing
28 years



Jim Muldoon
Social Services
27 years



Angie Bevans
Nursing
26 years

WORK ANNIVERSARIES | THE BUGLE MARCH 2026

20+ Years

Lisa Curry	Dietary	24
Rob Johnston	Facilities	24
Valerie Klement	Nursing	24
Darin Lefringhouse	Housekeeping	24
Janet Llewellyn	Dietary	24
Kristen Westerheide	Nursing	24
Scott Alberts	Activities	23
Rebecca Bockhold	Nursing	23
Sara Colgrove	Activities	23
Rebecca Davis	Nursing	23
James Hayes	Dietary	23
Chad Jackson	Truck Garage	23
Robin Sonethongkham	Nursing	23
Carrie Veile	Laundry	23
Shelly Watson	Dietary	23
Sara Deege	Nursing	22
Jo Jackson	Nursing	22
Nicole McLaughlin	General Store	22
Holly Perrine	Nursing	22
Scott Sohn	Dietary	22
Russ Whitaker	Laundry	22
Chad Ballinger	Truck Garage	21
Sherrie Halle	Nursing	21
Lucy Hankins	Nursing	21
Cynthia Rees	Nursing	21
Denise Rigg	Housekeeping	21
Denise Smith	Nursing	21
John Friday	Security	20
Tanesha Humphrey	Nursing	20
Dave Prindle	Facilities	20
Amanda Rife	Nursing	20
Bob Westerheide	Pharmacy	20



Mike Bevans
Facilities
26 years



Terry Clayton
Nursing
26 years



Michelle Hincks
Housekeeping
26 years



Lou Milhauser
Nursing
26 years



Kathy Bernard
Activities
25 years



Deb Carnes
Nursing
25 years

15-Year Anniversary	Position	Anniv. Date
Brad Florea	Nursing	May 3
Tanya Wolf	Nursing	May 3
Tiffany Seaver	Medical Office	June 16
Jennifer Fantz	Housekeeping	July 12
Michelle Voth	Nursing	Aug. 16
Kayla Kiefer	Nursing	Sept. 7
Rachael Dinklage	Nursing	Oct. 28
Cindy Conover	Nursing	Nov. 16
Rebecca Passmore	Nursing	Nov. 16
Brenda Gullion	Housekeeping	Dec. 27
Monica Williams	Nursing	Dec. 27



Laura Colston
Nursing
25 years



Michelle Daugherty
Nursing
25 years



Mary Day
Nursing
25 years

10-Year Anniversary	Position	Anniv. Date
Amber Wiemelt	Social Services	April 9
Tracy Ford	Nursing	June 3
Jennifer Bricker	Nursing	Aug. 10
Josh Smith	Facilities	Sept. 28
Tony Barnard	Dietary	Oct. 27
Brian Myers	Nursing	Nov. 30
Susan Nowell	Activities	Dec. 7

WORK ANNIVERSARIES / MID-MANAGERS LUNCH | THE BUGLE MARCH 2026



Greta Frankel
Social Services
25 years



Jerrilyn Mason
Pharmacy
25 years

Meagan Tipton Housekeeping Dec. 7

5-Year Anniversary	Position	Anniv. Date
Kayla Crabtree	Nursing	April 9
Mary Craft	Nursing	April 20
Nicole Duesdieker	Nursing	April 20
Catilyn Bland	Dietary	May 27
Sara Calhoun	Dietary	June 16
Rica Richmiller	Nursing	June 16
Elebade Akakpo-Lado	Nursing	July 20
Madalyn Cain	Nursing	July 20
Greg Cramsey	Security	Oct. 20
Rhonda Lightfoot	Housekeeping	Dec. 7
Sarah Starr	Security	Dec. 9
Adriauna Williams	Nursing	Dec. 9

STAFF LUNCH



The mid-managers team enjoyed a holiday luncheon in December in the newly remodeled employee lounge in the Nielson Building. The meal was prepared by the executive staff team in appreciation of the work accomplished by every department throughout the year. The group welcomed the opportunity to visit, relax and dine together in this new space.

NEW FACES ON CAMPUS

(April 1, 2025 to Dec. 31, 2025)



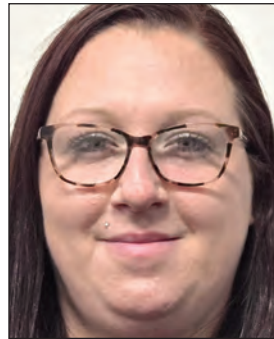
Chelle Birck
Nursing
11/17/25



Libby Bohan
Nursing
8/1/25



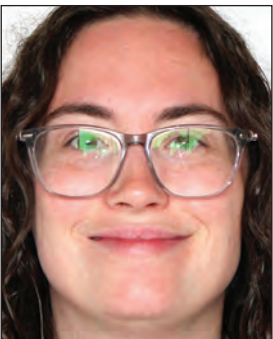
Alonna Brewer
Nursing
8/18/25



Lauren Brooks
Nursing
12/1/25



Shelby Broome
Nursing
10/16/25



Sophie Brown
Nursing
8/1/25



Shawn Bunch
Dietary
5/1/25



James Calmese
Business Office
11/3/25



Laekann Casley
Nursing
11/17/25



Caydence Clayton
Nursing
11/17/25

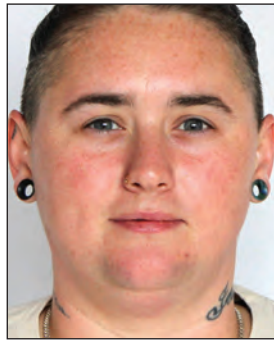
NEW EMPLOYEES | THE BUGLE MARCH 2026



Elizabeth Coffman
Nursing
8/1/25



Ciara Cole
Nursing
12/1/25



Jessica Cornelius
Nursing
8/18/25



Melissa Cornelius
Nursing
8/18/25



JeAyna Crider
Nursing
12/16/25



Kylie Crow
Nursing
9/16/25



Lauren Crump
Nursing
12/1/25



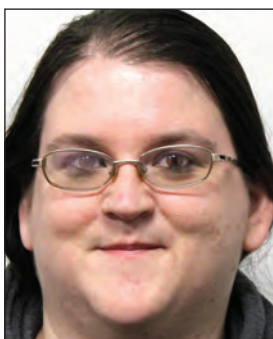
Heather Donald
Nursing
9/16/25



Jessica Drish
Social Services
12/1/25



Jamie Ellerman
Nursing
8/1/25



Kelly Fields
Nursing
11/17/25



Tammy Fiss
Nursing
10/1/25



Linda French
Dietary
12/16/25



Lexus Hagerbaumer
Nursing
8/18/25



Crystal Harrison
Dietary
12/16/25

NEW EMPLOYEES | THE BUGLE MARCH 2026



Colita Hawkins
Nursing
8/1/25



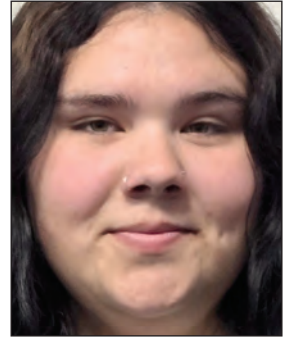
Lakesha Hawkins
Nursing
12/16/25



Lily Hayes
Nursing
5/28/25



Roy Heaton
Dietary
6/16/25



Tabatha Heitmeier
Nursing
12/1/25



Haley Hickerson
Nursing
9/16/25



Bonnie Hinton
Nursing
8/1/25



Christina Hunt
Nursing
8/18/25



Michael Jackson
Security
10/1/25



Nautica Jackson
Nursing
8/18/25



Clevonna Jirdon
Nursing
12/1/25



Rick Kendall
Facilities
8/1/25



Lucas Kite
Dietary
12/16/25



Jennifer Klauser
HR
6/3/25



Amanda Klodt
Nursing
11/17/25

NEW EMPLOYEES | THE BUGLE MARCH 2026



Ally Knox
Nursing
8/1/25



Angela Kurtz
Nursing
8/1/25



Chloey Leon-Alvarado
Nursing
11/3/25



Ronette Leonard
Nursing
10/16/25



Denise Lewis
Dietary
12/16/25



Kyra Lewis
Nursing
8/1/25



Mandy Loos
Social Services
11/17/25



Sheila Maiyo
Nursing
12/16/25



Victoria Malaney
Nursing
8/1/25



Kimberly McDermott
Dietary
6/16/25



Summer McNeece
Nursing
8/18/25



Klayton Miller
Facilities
5/16/25



Briana Mosley
Nursing
11/17/25



Kristin Nichols
Nursing
8/1/25



Lilyanna Pirtle
Nursing
11/17/25

NEW EMPLOYEES | THE BUGLE MARCH 2026



Natalyah Reed
Nursing
8/1/25



Keanna Reese
Nursing
11/17/25



Shelby Schafer
Nursing
12/16/25



Steven Stewart
HR
5/1/25



Amy Stratton
Nursing
10/1/25



Kegan Sullivan
Nursing
9/2/25



Kaitlin Taylor
Nursing
8/18/25



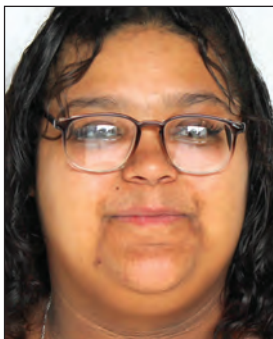
Sierra Thomas
Nursing
12/1/25



Amber Trammel
Nursing
12/1/25



Michael Trejo
Nursing
11/17/25



Kristiana Wagner-Dunklin
Nursing
8/1/25



Rebecca Whipple
Nursing
11/17/25



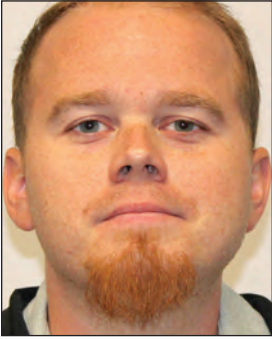
Rickayla Williams
Nursing
12/1/25



Kaeona Woodson
Nursing
8/1/25



Sam Zanger
Facilities
10/1/25



Jay Zimmerman
Security
10/1/25

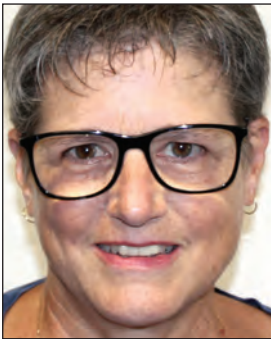
NEW CALLING



Respiratory therapist Dwayne Goodwin, who spent five years in the Catholic diaconate program, was ordained a deacon by Archbishop Shawn McKnight on June 7, 2025. As a deacon, Goodwin may perform a variety of duties within the church, including liturgical, sacramental, charitable, administrative and teaching functions. He celebrated Mass at the church in Palmyra the day after his ordination. Goodwin, who has worked at IVHQ since March 2022, can be found throughout campus providing care and support to residents.

HANGING UP THEIR HATS

(from May 1, 2025 through Dec. 31, 2025)



Nurse Laura Akers
retired May 30, 2025,
after 40 years



Nurse Practitioner Teresa
Allensworth retired May
30, 2025 after 16 years



Carpenter Doug Campbell
retired Oct. 31, 2025
after 27 years



Housekeeping Coordinator
Chris Dever retired Oct. 31,
2025 after 23 years



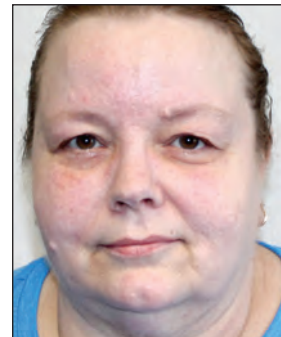
John Frank retired from
facilities on Aug. 31, 2025,
after 25 years



Security guard Bill
Llewellyn retired Dec. 31,
2025 after 15 years



Housekeeper Bev McPike
retired Oct. 31, 2025,
after 11 years



June Newbold retired from
laundry on Oct. 1, 2025,
after 25 years

RETIREMENTS | THE BUGLE MARCH 2026



Bridgette Randall retired from Medicare billing on Oct. 31, 2025 after 37 years



Kelvin Roberts retired from Social Services on Sept. 30, 2025 after 30 years



Judy Smith retired from Dietary on July 30, 2025, after 20 years



Stella Stubblefield retired from Dietary on Dec. 31, 2025 after 10 years



VFW COIN

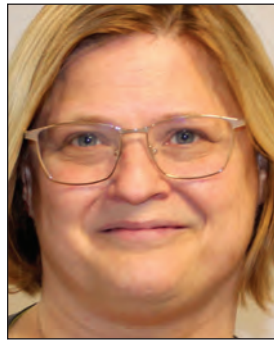
Army veteran and Echo resident Bill Starkey was presented with a special commemorative coin by VFW Department of Illinois State Commander Eugene Blackwell, left, and State Surgeon Doug Jameson. The VFW leaders were on campus for the grand opening ceremony of the new skilled care buildings and took time to visit with Starkey during their tour.

THE BEST OF THE BEST

(April 2025 to December 2025)



April 2025
Aryn Hills
Dietary



May 2025
Nurse of Year
Jonita Brunier
Nursing



June 2025
CNA of Year
Virginia Darnell
Nursing



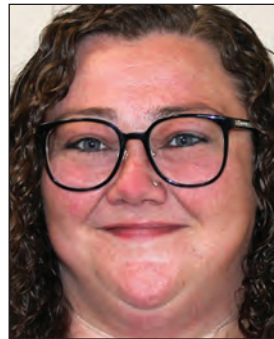
July 2025
Janese Byrd
Nursing



August 2025
Colette Douglas
Housekeeping



September 2025
Brandon Holder
Security



October 2025
Emily Kipley
Nursing



November 2025
Rheagan DeVerger
Nursing



December 2025
Amy Haley
Nursing

CENTURY MARK



Marine Corps veteran Charlie Doan, above, celebrated his 100th birthday in October with a gathering in Smith Hall. Quincy Mayor Linda Moore proclaimed it "Charlie Doan Day" and presented him with a certificate of congratulations from Gov. JB Pritzker. Ruth Taylor, left, celebrated her 100th birthday in April with a party at the Domiciliary. Ruth has been a resident of the home since November 2012.



BUSY AUGUST



In August alone, the Illinois Veterans' Home in Quincy welcomed 28 new staff members, including two registered nurses, 25 veterans nursing assistant certified (VNAC) and one stationary engineer. Special thanks to the HR team of Tim Kane, Danell Tullock, Sierra Burcham, Steve Stewart and Jennifer Klauser for their continued efforts in strengthening the IVHQ's workforce with new full-time staff. This latest group of hires bring both skill and enthusiasm to serving those who served.

Left, Sierra Burcham leads orientation for new staff members.

Above, new employees attended orientation in the classroom of the new building.

PRETTY IN PINK



From clothing to decorations, the Illinois Veterans' Home was decked out in every shade of pink during October's Pink Out Day celebration. The event promoted breast cancer awareness while honoring survivors and remembering those lost to the disease.

Above, Fifer Staff.
Left, Dietary Staff.

NUTS AND BOLTS



Army veteran Damian Wuellner, left, presented the Veterans' Choice Award to Keith Krogmeier of Fort Madison, Iowa, to conclude the event.

The Lugnuts Car Club hosted its 26th annual Endless Summer Car Show at IVHQ on September 7, 2025. Below, representatives from the club presented a check to Administrator Chuck Newton, left, at the conclusion of the Veterans' Day program in Lippincott Hall.

Thank you to the Lugnuts for their continued support of the Home through their annual donations to the Activity Fund.



200TH BIRTHDAY



The Adams County Bicentennial Commission hosted a special presentation at the Quincy Veterans' Home on October 16, 2025, honoring the home's 139 years of continuous service and care in Adams County. The program was held in Lippincott Hall on the main campus, with the bicentennial truck and trailer on display throughout the celebration. Remarks were delivered by Home Administrator Chuck Newton, along with video presentations highlighting veterans in Adams County and local events commemorating the county's 200th anniversary. Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs Assistant Director Anthony Vaughn accepted the awards and thanked the commission, as well as Quincy veterans and staff, for the work being done on campus. To conclude the event, a picnic lunch for residents and staff featured hamburgers, brats, potato salad, baked beans and cookies.



Bicentennial Commission Chairperson Chuck Scholz, right, presents a certificate and plaque to Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs Assistant Director Anthony Vaughn.

ART IN MOTION



Markword 2's Leonard "Lenny" Norman, an Army veteran, is an artist whose work is always in motion. Norman handcrafts whirligigs – wind-powered kinetic sculptures featuring spinning propellers, paddles and moving figures. He first discovered whirligigs while vacationing in Florida, and what began as a fun hobby soon grew into a side business. The craft also created opportunities for Norman and his wife, Diane, to travel across the country, attending folk art shows. Visitors stopping by to see Lenny will spot several of his creations on display, many of which highlight his favorite theme: Americana.

In his spare time, Norman enjoys golfing and can often be found practicing his short game on the putting green between Smith Hall and the new skilled care building.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

(from April 2025 to December 2025)

ACTIVITY FUND

American Legion Auxiliary Dept. of Illinois, \$500
American Legion Auxiliary 297, \$100
American Legion Central Park Post 1028, \$200
American Legion Peoria Post 2, \$3,000
American Legion Post 105, \$500
AMVET Ladies Auxiliary 169, \$331.07
Angela Wellman, \$100
Anna Pepin, \$10,000
Anonymous Donations, \$2,000
Anonymous Donations Armed Forces Picnic, \$573.01
Atkinson Women's Club, \$200
Bethany United Church Mendon, \$300
Bodley Lodge No. One Masonic Temple, \$700
Carl Limes Account, \$81.16
Chris Martin, \$150
Claudia Malin, \$200
Connie Jacobs, \$100
DAR Macomb Chapter, \$100
DAV #33 Verdun Chapter, \$750
DAV Chapter 103, \$250
Department of IL VFW Auxiliary, \$385.72
District 22 American Legion, \$200
Edwin Corpin American Legion 905, \$3,000
Elks National Veterans Commission, \$300
Eldred Legion Auxiliary Post 1135, \$671.59
Eric & Linda Terry, \$100
First Christian Church Quincy, \$100
Floyd & Diane Alexander, \$1,000
Francie Staggs, \$25
Friends of Illinois Veterans' Home at Anna, \$5,400.88
Joseph Gallaher, \$600
Gary & Debra Brown, \$60
David Goodwin, \$8,000
Great River Corvette Club, \$500
Harrison Pub Kickin' for A Cause,

\$1,700
Illinois State Org of the National Society DAR, \$200
Illinois Marines Vet MC, \$2,400
IVH Gift Shop, \$106.10
Jacksonville Emblem Club, \$100
James & Michelle Thompson, \$25
James Moffat, \$50
Jennie Rodgers Tent 103 DUVCW, \$25
Joyce & Larry Hasler, \$100
Korean War Veterans Association State of Illinois, \$250
Ladies Auxiliary VFW Post 6408, \$112
Lynn & David Wright, \$30
Macomb BPOE Elks Lodge 1003, \$1,000
Marine League Dept. of Illinois, \$900
Mark Ponsot, \$100
Martha Beck, \$100
Mary Sprinkle, \$25
Memorial Bill Keck, \$15
Memorial Bill Mester, \$205
Memorial Bill Venvertloh, \$10
Memorial Daniel Custeau, \$118.72
Memorial Darryl Hunsaker, \$1,025
Memorial Delbert Linn, \$32.25
Memorial Don Peters, \$60
Memorial Gary Delong, \$100
Memorial Gary Garner, \$45
Memorial George Huddleston, \$530
Memorial James Hawkins, \$165
Memorial James Osborne, \$325
Memorial James Ponsot, \$1,370
Memorial Jim Steeples, \$220
Memorial Joe, Virginia & Edward Necker, \$100
Memorial John Kane, \$200
Memorial John Thomas Gilbert, \$755
Memorial Lyle Metz Pool, \$250
Memorial Marjorie Harris, \$110
Memorial Mary Ann Mountain, \$1,285
Memorial Patricia Riggins, \$851.49
Memorial Paul Lewis, \$205
Memorial Roger Voorhis, \$420
Memorial Ronald Whittaker, \$1,075

Memorial Rosemary Ghidara, \$25
Memorial William Keck, \$50
Memorial Zada Brown, \$50
Military Order of Purple Heart, \$1,652.93
Paul O'Daniel, \$28,704.45
Phyllis Rominger, \$1,000
Polish Legion of American Veterans, \$100
Q-City Squares, \$100
Quincy Area Chamber of Commerce, \$100
Quincy Grand Prix, \$140
Quincy Service Club – Buddy Program, \$203.80
Quincy Society of Fine Arts, \$500
Quincy Table Tennis, \$300
Resource Sharing Alliance, \$1,000
Richfield Methodist Church, \$200
Robert & Linda Bailey, \$20
Robert Coulter Post 1941, \$2,500
Shirley Thielbar, \$100
St. Dominic School, \$276.25
Tri-State Lugnuts - Popcorn, \$1,000
Vanessa Miller, \$200
Vanessa Miller & Alan Foster, \$200
Veterans of Foreign Wars Bremen Post 2791, \$500
VFW Dept. of IL 2149 Tioga Post, \$400
VFW Gift Shop, \$631.10
VFW Post 2257, \$500
Wanda O'Hara, \$50
West Central Illinois Leathernecks Marine Corps League, \$2,000

THE BUGLE

Carol Derhake, \$50
Linda Schneider, \$50
Linda Wacker, \$30
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Crandall, \$50
Norma Buffington, \$20
Ricky & Margaret Hamman, \$25
Wanda O'Hara, \$50

‘V’ACELIFT



The Vietnam Veterans Memorial on campus received a facelift in May thanks to the efforts of local Vietnam War veterans and friends. The idea for a local Vietnam Veterans Memorial originated in 1984. The Adams County Vietnam Veterans Memorial Committee was formed in 1986, and ground was broken for the memorial. The black granite “V” is crafted from remnants of the stone used for the panels of the national memorial in Washington, DC, known as “The Wall.” The memorial was dedicated on Memorial Day in 1987 to the people whose names are etched into the stone around the “V”. The memorial was updated with new granite benches, landscaping and crushed rock in time for this year’s Memorial Day observance. Thank you to all who worked tirelessly and gave unselfishly to preserve and enhance this meaningful place.

UTV – Utility Task Vehicle

David Goodwin, \$8,000
Department of Illinois VFW Auxiliary,
\$10,000
Elks National Veterans Commission,
\$2,100

Dudley Mansion

Hap Northern Memorial, \$4,630

Christmas Gifts for Residents

AMVETS Post 94, \$250
Carol Drzewicki, \$100
Darrel Mink, \$200
Linda Wacker, \$100

Lynn & Connie Jacobs, \$250
Polish Legion of American Veterans, \$100
Ricky & Margaret Hamann, \$50
VFW US Grant Post 2665, \$2,500

Christmas Party

Anonymous Donations, \$690
Brenda Farris, \$5
Everett Terry, \$100
Linda Skinner, \$10
Midwest Chapter National 4th Infantry,
\$100
Nancy Hall, \$30
Ronald Whittaker, \$25
VFW Post 5129, \$200

Memorial Day Family Picnic

Anonymous Donations, \$1,938.50
JoAnn Wolkitt, \$20
Linda Smith, \$25
Nancy Hall & David Schaffnit, \$50
Ralph Webb, \$25
Rose & Hubert Craven, \$50

All-Wars Museum

Memorial Harold Lentz, \$595
Museum Donation Jar, \$1,049
Pins For Patriots, \$205
The Advantage Club, \$150

STAR SEARCH



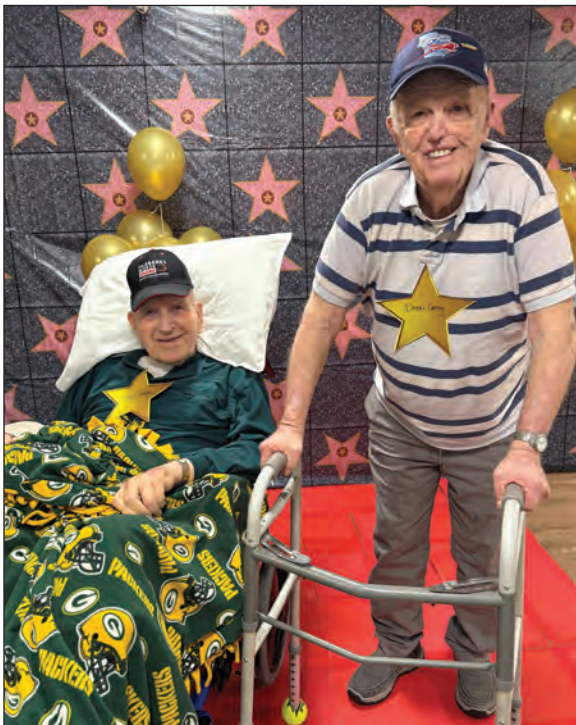
IVHQ celebrated Halloween on October 31 with costumes, games and fun. Activity staff at Hammond Hall rolled out the red carpet for a star-studded party. Residents were assigned famous personas. Celebrities such as Bing Crosby, Drew Carey, John Lennon, Jimi Hendrix, Johnny Cash, Frank Sinatra and Kermit the Frog, were spotted making grand entrances, each moment captured by a "viral" photographer.



HALLOWEEN | THE BUGLE MARCH 2026



The Adjutant's Office – from left, Andrew Juetter, Tina Powell, Amanda Bunch and Devyn Winters – dressed as the Big Bad Wolf and the Three Little Pigs. They took their show on the road across campus, delighting residents along the way. Security Chief Mark Iseminger escorted the group in style aboard the limo golf cart.



Gordie Ringlein (Army) and Bill Harter (Navy)



Tammy McCune and Monica Williams

'DEAR HERO'

An 18-foot aluminum sculpture titled "Dear Hero" was installed in late September on the rear side of the new Illinois Veterans' Home skilled care building. The piece, designed by artist Maxwell Emcays, features five towering notebook pages, each inscribed with intentionally illegible handwriting that evokes the intimacy of a personal letter. Amid the abstract text, select words emerge — "Dear Hero, Grateful, Bravery, Strength, Honor, Resilience, Respect, Discipline and Thank You." Cut into the pages is the silhouette of a service member marching both toward and away from the viewer. The text bends and wraps around this figure, suggesting the individual's emergence from the



letter itself — a symbolic passage through gratitude, memory, and recognition. Inspired by the need to humanize and honor those

who serve, the sculpture uses the universal language of handwritten letters to foster connection, reflection and appreciation. It

stands as a quiet yet powerful tribute to the emotional weight of service and the enduring need for personal acknowledgment.

TIME FOR TEA

The ladies of Hammond Hall gathered in the dining room for the annual Mother's Day Tea Party. They also meet weekly for manicures. Pictured from left around the table are Betty Turner, Janice Wiemelt, Louise Seaver, Dorothy Mortimore, Betty Bradshaw, Vivian Henry and Sharon Ervin.





FLAGS FOR ALL

Every stone at Sunset Cemetery is marked with a flag in honor of Memorial Day. Placing flags at more than 8,200 graves is a daunting task, and we are blessed to have dedicated volunteers join our staff in completing this important work before Memorial Day weekend. As always, there was a great turnout, and we deeply appreciate everyone who volunteered to help make the cemetery beautiful.



SANTA'S VISIT



IVHQ celebrated the season with a festive Christmas party for residents and their families on December 12. The dietary team served lunch in each unit, serving 650 people. The chicken piccata was such a crowd favorite that dietary managers were inundated with recipe requests. Activity staff also hit it out of the park with entertainment and holiday-themed activities. Thank you to the IVHQ staff for making this a day for residents to share with their families – and to our volunteers for their never-ending help and support.



CHRISTMAS PARTY | THE BUGLE MARCH 2026





PLAY BALL

The Doggy Paddlers, a new Prospect League summer baseball team in Quincy, provided a fun outing for Illinois Veterans' Home residents in July at QU Stadium. Seven residents attended the game.

Above, Navy veteran Betty Smith, Air Force veteran Mike Smith and Army veteran Bert Janssen were recognized on the field during the third inning and had the opportunity to address the crowd. As they were leaving the stadium, a kind stranger surprised the group by giving Cardinal fan Betty Smith a free St. Louis Cardinals T-shirt.

Everyone had a great time, even though the Doggy Paddlers didn't secure a victory that night.

QUINCY UNIVERSITY FOOTBALL GAME | THE BUGLE MARCH 2026

Several residents took advantage of the opportunity to attend the season-opening game for the Quincy University football team, where veterans and active-duty military were honored during Veterans Appreciation Night on August 28. Members of the American Legion Post 37 Color Guard also participated in the event. The Hawks earned the victory, and so did our veterans. Those attending were David Reid, Thomas Safranske, Chuck Vespa, James Missen, Steve Griswold, Joe Thoebald, Betty Smith, Mike Smith and three people from the activities staff – Kim Gilley, Marikkia Velez and Tammy Baehr.



KICKOFF



SUPER SURVEY



In appreciation of a successful federal VA survey in May, members of the executive staff assembled balloons and goodie bags filled with cookies and crackers and delivered them around campus. Each bag included a note: "No matter how the cookie crumbles, you are the best staff around! We couldn't have done it without you!" Adjutant Amanda Bunch even dusted off her cheerleading skills to add a special thank-you cheer for our team.



FEDERAL VA SURVEY | THE BUGLE MARCH 2026



From top on Page 44 are photos from Fifer, Markword and the dietary team. From top on this page are photos with the medical staff, from Schapers and with the switchboard and security staff.



TREE DONATION

Russell and Martha Phillips of Maywood, Mo., donated two red maple trees that were planted at Sunset Cemetery in honor of their son, Marine Corps veteran Kevin Phillips. Sexton Mike Bevans planted the trees just before Veterans Day in November, creating a lasting tribute to Kevin's service and memory.



97 CANDLES



Veteran spouse Ruby Steele celebrated her 97th birthday in September with cake, ice cream and music in the Markword Building, where she lived before moving to Delta later that month. Happy birthday, Ruby!

LOVE IN THE AIR



Two couples celebrated landmark wedding anniversaries in June. Above, Army veteran Fred Still and his wife, Betty, celebrated 69 years of marriage on June 10. The Stills, originally from Jacksonville, moved to IVHQ in March 2025. Jim and Barb Nauert, below, originally from Quincy, marked their 67th anniversary on June 14. Jim is a Marine Corps veteran. The Nauerts came to the home in May 2025.



National Nurses Week, celebrated May 6–12, carried the theme “The Power of Nurses,” honoring the expertise, leadership and compassionate care our nurses provide. The week was a vital reminder of our nurses’ unwavering commitment as patient advocates, innovators and the backbone of IVHQ. They are truly the heart and soul of the facility, and their knowledge and dedication leave a lasting impact on the lives of veterans and their families.

The week concluded with an INA-sponsored luncheon at Hammond Hall, where the 2025 Patty Goehl Award for Nursing Excellence was presented to Jonita Brunier. Brunier has worked at IVHQ for 11 years and serves as the acting supervisor at Hammond Hall. She was recognized for her exceptional nursing care. The award, sponsored by the family of Patty Goehl in her honor, celebrates an RN or LPN who has demonstrated outstanding dedication to the men and women residing at the Home. IDVA Director Terry Prince was on hand for the presentation.

THE POWER OF NURSES



2025 Patty Goehl Award for Nursing Excellence recipient Jonita Brunier RN



Nurse of Year Nominees, from left, were Cindy Rees, Angie Redman, Tracy Ford, Jonita Brunier, Sandy Nelson, Margaret Schuermann, Brenda Eldridge and Sylvia Mowen. Not pictured: Sidney Sutton and Melanie Weese.

NATIONAL NURSES WEEK | THE BUGLE MARCH 2026



Above, the 2025 Patty Goehl Award for Nursing Excellence winner poses for a photo with the Goehl family. From left are Administrator Chuck Newton, IDVA Director Terry Prince, Daylin Goehl, Jonita Brunier, John Goehl and daughter, Tori Goehl Dameron, Director of Nursing Tracy Alexander. Below are the nursing supervisors: Tracy Alexander, Director of Nursing; Dana Herring, Fifer; Jonita Brunier, Hammond; Michelle Daugherty, Markword 2; Jen Cassens, Schapers; Holly Perrine, Assistant Director of Nursing; Lindsey Kelley, Infection Preventionist; and Amy Green, Markword 1.



STARS & STRIPES



The Quincy Veterans Day Parade took place November 8, and the Illinois Veterans' Home was proudly represented throughout the event.

Above, nine veterans rode along the parade route aboard the IVHQ bus, delighting in the enthusiastic waves and salutes from spectators lining the streets.



The All-Wars Museum, center, also made a special appearance with its reproduction Continental Army uniform and Revolutionary War-era "Brown Bess" rifle, featured on the American Legion Post 37 float. The uniform was worn by Alex Mock, son of Librarian Bobbi Mock, while the banner was carried by Grace Mock—Bobbi's daughter—and Cabella Wilson, daughter of Nursing Supervisor Amanda Tournear.



Army veteran Bert Janssen, left, a resident of Hammond Hall, served as the parade's Grand Marshal.

11th HOUR, 11TH DAY

Veterans Day was commemorated with a formal program in Lippincott Hall on November 11, honoring the service and sacrifice of our nation's veterans. Lt. Col. John Bleigh, U.S. Army (Ret.), delivered the keynote address, sharing reflections and stories from his career as a Special Forces officer. Musical selections were performed by the Quincy Notre Dame High School band and choir. The program concluded at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month with a rifle salute and the playing of "Taps" by bugler Jeff Schuecking, marking a moving and respectful close to the observance.



Fifer resident and Army veteran Paul Altgilbers conducted the wreath-laying ceremony as a solemn tribute to fallen comrades.





William Brumback (Navy) helps Activities staff Kathy Bernard and Mia Meacher shuck and silk the corn.



Dottie Euchler (Navy)

SWEET TREAT

Hammond Hall was blessed with a batch of fresh sweet corn generously donated by Gabe and Amy Wheelan— a perfect treat to enjoy in July!



Denny Hull (Army)



Dannie Mowen (Air Force)

DONUT DAZE



National Donut Day, celebrated on the first Friday of June each year, gave IVHQ residents a sweet reason to celebrate. The holiday was started by the Salvation Army in 1938 to honor members who served donuts to soldiers during World War I. Residents across the campus enjoyed donuts provided by the Salvation Army, while the Salvation Army Brass Band entertained a packed Fifer dining room. To add to the fun, Director of Activities Sara Colgrove, above left, who has glasses for every occasion, brought out a pair for Donut Day. The Donut, above right, made a special appearance at the event, posing with Paul Altgilbers. Thank you to the Quincy Salvation Army for sponsoring this day and providing both delicious treats and lively entertainment.



DEAL ME IN

IVHQ was a beneficiary of Quincy University's October Day of Service, highlighted by a lively poker event in Lippincott Hall. Members of the men's athletic department served as card dealers, giving residents the chance to test both their skill and luck with each hand. Thank you to Quincy University for their continued support of the home and our veterans!



BAIT THE HOOK



Jim Nusbaum (Navy)



William Brumback (Navy)



A special Fishing for Freedom event was held Sunday, June 1, at Lake Illinois for the enjoyment of IVHQ residents and their friends. Before the picnic and fishing activities, escort vehicles driven by veterans and firefighters from nearby Coatsburg traveled through campus to honor our veterans before heading to the Quincy riverfront for the fishing weigh-in.

CANDY IS DANDY



Residents at Hammond Hall joined the Halloween spirit by handing out candy to trick-or-treaters at Melrose Church. The group had a blast, seeing more than 500 children and adults dressed in creative and colorful costumes. The fun continued back at Hammond Hall, where residents shared treats with trick-or-treaters at home.





TRICK OR TREAT

The Employee Recognition Committee hosted a festive trunk-or-treat event around Lake Illinois in late October for staff members and their families. Fifteen participants created the best-decorated trunks, with standout entries including Security's vintage bus and Dietary's spooky tent. Every trunk lining the lake became a fun stop for attending families. Hot dogs, chips, desserts and drinks were served in the pavilion to keep everyone fueled for the evening.



HELPING HANDS



What do popcorn, gardening, woodworking, sorting clothes and giving manicures have in common?

These tasks, and many others, are ways our volunteers regularly help improve our campus and provide meaningful benefits for our residents.

We are truly thankful for our volunteers! In April, a luncheon hosted by the Activity team was held to express our gratitude for the time and dedication our volunteers give to the home and its residents. You may notice some familiar faces among the volunteers, such as Domiciliary residents

who volunteer around campus and retirees who often return to assist with activities.

We are always looking for new volunteers who would like to share their time and talents. If you are interested in volunteering, we would love to hear from you.



Army veteran and Domiciliary resident Rich Fisher works alongside Cathy Shanks in the Shirlee Northern Memorial Garden.



Illinois Veterans' Home retirees Donna Williamson, Mary Jarvis and Tom Boden make popcorn in Smith Hall every week. The popcorn is then distributed around campus for residents to enjoy.

LOVING CARE



Even though Amanda Rife puts him through the paces during physical therapy, Army veteran Lewis Kirkwood is all smiles. IVHQ staff consider it an honor and a privilege to care for our veterans.



LEGION LOYALTY

Hubert "Buster" Craven, an Army veteran and resident of Hammond Hall, was presented a Certificate of Continuous Membership for his 70 years of American Legion membership. This certificate highlights his dedication to service, community, and loyalty to the principles and camaraderie of the American Legion. Congratulations, Buster!



SILVER SCREEN

August brought excitement to campus when scenes from the movie "Death of a Brewer" were filmed at the Illinois Veterans' Home. The library was transformed into "Mercy Hospital" for the shoot, which involved four actors and a crew of approximately 40 people who were on campus for almost three hours. All filming centered around the library.

"Death of a Brewer" is a gripping tale of love, deception and the struggle for freedom in a town torn between its vices and virtues, based on S.C. Sherman's book "Beer Money: A Tale of the Iowa City Beer Mafia." The film is set during the 1880s clash between prohibitionists and the three most powerful brewers in Iowa City, known as "The Beer Mafia." Blending real-life historical figures with compelling fictional characters, the movie is slated for release in 2026.



Domiciliary resident Bobby Weisenburger, left, visits with Executive Producer Doug Alberhasky and Quincy Producer Joi Austen during the filming.

'DEATH OF A BREWER' | THE BUGLE MARCH 2026





MUSICAL MEMORY

A dedication ceremony for the new Drum and Bugle Corps monument was held June 21, 2025, honoring the men and women who were part of Quincy's rich drum and bugle corps history. The monument celebrates Quincy's musical legacy and the strong sense of community that sustained these corps for decades.

For nearly half a century, several nationally competitive drum and bugle corps called Quincy home. Groups such as the Trojans, the Debutantes, and the Sons of the American Legion Squadron 37, also known as the Flying Dutchmen, played important roles in fostering community pride and encourag-



ing youth development. These groups frequently performed at the home, serving as unofficial ambassadors and participating in ceremonies and special events. While not military organizations,

the corps were sponsored by the local American Legion Post and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. The Veterans Home shares a meaningful connection to this history, making it a fitting

location for the monument.

The Drum and Bugle Corps monument is at the site of the former Illinois Veterans' Home Hospital Annex, known as the Horseshoe Building. The building was decommissioned in the 1970s as a hospital and became home to the Flying Dutchmen, serving as a storage facility for equipment and a gathering place before tours. The monument bears the inscription, "May this site forever remind us of the dedication and sacrifice of those who served." The monument is in the parking lot between the library and the front entrances of Fifer and the newly opened Veterans Home building in Quincy.

TWISTED GOLF



The Sugar Cookie Open is a golf tournament with a twist – water and sand hazards are provided free of charge. Hosted by a group of veterans and friends, the fundraiser benefits resident activities at the Veterans Home as well as firefighters, law enforcement and first responders in the Quincy area.

The planning committee provided unlimited tickets for our veterans to attend the kickoff dinner in October at the Oakley-Lindsay Center. At left, Billy McGahan, president of the Resident Advisory Group, accepted a check for the activity fund from event spokesman Jared Ogden. Several residents enjoyed a night out.

Thank you to the Sugar Cookie Open organizers for supporting programs at the home year after year.



Keith Neville, Jim Chaney, Activity Staff Kim Gilley and David Self.



WINDOW IN TIME

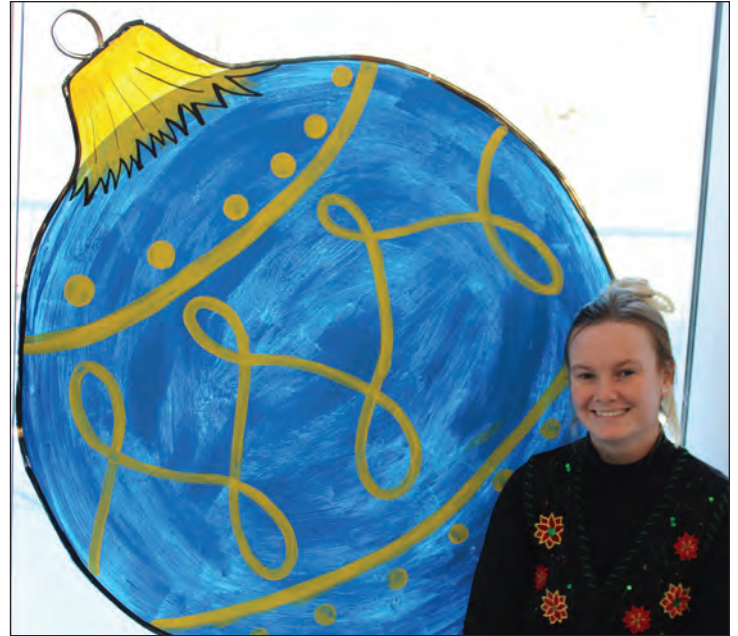
Librarian Bobbi Mock continues to create engaging displays for the Smith Hall window, most recently highlighting the Illinois Veterans' Home in honor of Founder's Day, which is October 19, 1886. Her creativity and attention to detail bring history to life.

COLOR OF NIGHT



Security Officer Brandon McMullen captured this stunning photo of the Northern Lights over IVHQ in November.

HOLIDAY ART



Reimbursement Officer Devyn Winters has a hidden talent that's no longer a secret. She is the artist behind the painted holiday windows across campus. From nutcrackers and ornaments to candy canes, trees and wreaths, no festive detail was overlooked. Winters sketches each design freehand before painting in the details. She estimates she spent more than 30 hours creating these seasonal masterpieces.



DOGWOOD DOUBLE



The Dogwood Parade is an annual tradition in Quincy. This year's theme, "Celebrating Our Heritage," was perfectly captured by the Illinois Veterans' Home float, which won the Mayor's Award for the second year in a row. The float followed staff members Russ Whitaker, Chuck Newton and Kelvin Roberts, who carried the IVHQ and Mayor's Award banners. The IVHQ van followed the parade float.

Thanks to Chris Dever and her team for transforming a simple rack wagon into a historic display celebrating the heritage of the Veterans Home. The float featured the Eighth Street Gate to the home, uniforms representing each branch of the Armed Forces and flags displayed on the back. Thanks to the All-Wars Museum for the loan of uniforms, mannequins and flags and to Doug Campbell and his wife for pulling the float.



DANCIN' SHOES



A large crowd enjoyed the Father's Day picnic in Lippincott Hall on June 15, 2025. Entertainment was provided by David Damm, delightful Navy veteran Jim Shank and his wife, Janet, pictured at left. The Shanks are frequently seen dancing at events around campus, especially at Hammond Hall where Jim resides. Special thanks to American Legion Post 374 and its auxiliary from Mount Sterling for the lunch of chicken strips, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans and rolls, along with pies donated by Dot Foods.

ARMED FORCES DAY PICNIC | THE BUGLE MARCH 2026



Armed Forces Day was celebrated in May with a picnic at the American Legion Pavilion on Lake Illinois. Residents and staff enjoyed musical entertainment by Music Plays On, as well as a delicious lunch of grilled hamburgers, hot dogs and brats, along with potato salad, baked beans, coleslaw and ice cream.

Thank you to the American Legion, AMVETS, Disabled American Veterans, Military Order of the Purple Heart and the VFW and Auxiliary for hosting this special event.





REMEMBERING THOSE WHO SERVED



ST. DOMINIC SCHOOL | THE BUGLE MARCH 2026



A fun day is on tap whenever the yellow school bus filled with fifth-grade students from St. Dominic School arrives on campus. The monthly Buddy Program is a big hit with both students and residents.



GOOD BUDDIES



Special activities give students and residents the chance throughout the year to get to know each other. The program concludes in May with a picnic and fishing derby at Lake Illinois. We are grateful to the Quincy Service Club for its continued support, which makes this program possible for our residents.



HIDDEN GEM



The All-Wars Museum celebrated another successful year with a volunteer appreciation luncheon in December. In 2025, more than 1,600 visitors signed the guest book, proof that this hidden gem continues to attract growing interest. Often called one of Quincy's best-kept secrets, the museum looks ahead to 2026 with plans to unveil a new logo, updated signage and a new brochure.

We extend our sincere thanks to Curator Roger Schwengel and the dedicated greeters who volunteer each week. Throughout the year, the museum welcomed numerous groups, including the Quincy Service Club, senior organizations, school field trips and visitors from near and far. The museum is open March 1 through Thanksgiving.

VIETNAM VISIT

The gathering of Vietnam War veterans and friends at the All-Wars Museum in April was a notable event, with attendees Tom McKinney, Curator Roger Schwengel, Dale Hilgenbrinck, Gary Dedert, Gene Vahle, Dennis Mathes and Bill Rose. The All-Wars Museum is dedicated to preserving and exhibiting artifacts from all American conflicts, from the Revolutionary War to the War on Terror.





ASPHALT ADD



Domiciliary residents received an upgrade to their parking lot in May when it was newly paved with asphalt. Improvements like this continue to enhance life on campus.

UP AND DOWN THE BOULEVARD



The Boulevard received a fresh look in August when it was resurfaced and paved with asphalt. Above, Air Force veteran Lloyd Prior “supervised” the project from the sidelines, drawing on his construction experience. Staff and visitors are thrilled with the smooth new surface.

LEARNING SPACE



The Mid-Managers held their monthly meeting in May in the classroom of the new LTC building. Although the building was not yet formally open, the team enjoyed gathering in this beautiful, modern space.

SUMMER SONGS



In what has become an annual summer tradition at the Illinois Veterans' Home, the Harvest Ministry Team presented a praise and worship concert in the chapel in July. Residents and friends of the team gathered for the event, which was also live streamed on Channel 2. The group is led by Tim Price, a close friend of Chaplain Dave Hall. Each summer, Harvest Ministry sends teams to serve as worship bands for camps, churches and ministry events.

HONORING THOSE WHO DIED



American Legion Post 37 Honor Guard performed the rifle salute, with Taps played by bugler Jeff Schuecking.



Memorial Day was celebrated with programs and family picnics at both Lippincott Hall and Hammond Hall on Friday, May 23.

The celebration at Lippincott Hall featured keynote speaker Barry Cheyne (left), a U.S. Air Force veteran, and a wreath-laying ceremony. Matt and Hannah Bordenkircher provided musical entertainment.

Adding a special touch, a male cardinal flew through Lippincott Hall during the program – a symbolic reminder of loved ones who have passed, making this Memorial Day celebration even more meaningful.

Hammond Hall's celebration was held in a tent in the parking lot, giving residents and their families another opportunity to honor and remember those who served. IVHQ Dietary served a delicious meal to residents and their guests at both locations.

MEMORIAL DAY | THE BUGLE MARCH 2026



The celebration at Lippincott Hall featured a wreath-laying ceremony by Domiciliary resident Betty Balzer and her family, left, in honor of her late husband Ken and all deceased veterans.



POLITICAL VISIT



Administrator Chuck Newton, right, and a team of Illinois Veterans' Home staff members lead the legislative tour through the new skilled care building.



The Illinois Veterans' Home was the site of a Legislative Tour on June 26, 2025, welcoming four Illinois legislators and three legislative staff members. Guests toured the Quincy Domiciliary and the new Quincy Veterans' Home skilled care building, which was nearing completion. During the visit, legislators met with residents and staff and spoke with IDVA Director Terry Prince about the agency's mission.

At left, Air Force veteran and Domiciliary resident Vicki Kurtz enjoyed engaging with Illinois Rep. Kyle Moore, R-Quincy, during the Legislative Tour.



Residents experience seeing and visiting anywhere in the world wearing VR headsets. Seated clockwise from front to back, William Brumback, Steve Griswold, Howard Miller, Betty Bradshaw and Mia Meacher.

STAY CONNECTED



William Brumback, Howard Miller and Betty Bradshaw enjoy the tabletop projection and interactive activities and games available with the Lucynt system.

The Illinois Veterans' Home is dedicated to providing veterans with opportunities that enrich their lives as part of a holistic commitment to caring for the whole person – addressing medical needs, day-to-day personal care, nutrition, physical activity, social connections and spiritual well-being. Activity professionals organize engaging programs, events and parties to ensure veterans remain socially connected and enjoy vibrant, fulfilling days.

Hammond Hall residents had the chance in July to showcase new technologies available at IVHQ for therapy, entertainment and enjoyment to WGEM reporter Clare Edlund. Activity Therapist Mia Meacher led the demonstrations.

Using virtual reality equipment and a catalog of destinations through Rendever Technologies, residents can visit almost any place on earth from the comfort of home. They also enjoy the excitement and friendly competition of Lucynt Technologies' interactive gaming system. Both systems were made possible through generous donations, enhancing residents' daily experiences and engagement.

BIRD'S-EYE VIEW



An updated aerial view of the Illinois Veterans' Home campus, where new buildings complement historic structures across the beautiful grounds. | Photo courtesy of Randy Phillips

250 CANDLES



The United States Marine Corps celebrated its 250th birthday on November 10, and IVHQ marked the occasion with a ceremonial cake cutting in Smith Hall. Pictured are Charlie Doan, who cut the cake with a Marine Corps sword, and Jesus Delgado, helping commemorate this historic milestone.

‘HAP’ TRIBUTE



A hero came home in September when Richard E. “Hap” Northern was laid to rest at Sunset Cemetery following funeral services in Lippincott Hall. The day marked a somber yet meaningful celebration of his distinguished military career and a well-lived life. Northern’s flag-draped casket was placed on the All-Wars Museum’s horse-drawn caisson and escorted through campus by a riderless horse on the way to the cemetery – a powerful military tradition symbolizing a fallen leader or soldier who will ride no more. Northern is survived by his children, Natalie Northern and Rick Northern, both of Quincy.

Brigadier General Northern served 38 years with the Illinois National Guard, including service during the Korean War. He later devoted decades to the Illinois Veterans’ Home, serving seven years as chief of security and more than 21 years as superintendent. Northern celebrated his 97th birthday on September 1, just one day before his passing. Well done, good and faithful servant.



GIDDY-UP!



Everyone loves to see the Mounted Patriots ride onto campus, and residents were delighted when they stopped by for a visit on a hot day in August. Riders were Susie Weiss and Evie Ajdinovich with Fancy, Jennifer Weiss with Legs, Kathy Kroner with Chica and Darla Pullins with Misty.

The horses were decked out in red, white, and blue glitter in honor of their visit to see veterans. Despite the festive flair and the heat, the horses were well behaved and happily accepted apple treats courtesy of the Domiciliary residents.

MOUNTED PATRIOTS | THE BUGLE MARCH 2026



NEXT CHAPTER



Administrator Chuck Newton, Bridgette Randall and Business Administrator Hannah Ajdinovich



Administrator Chuck Newton, Chris Dever and Adjutant Amanda Bunch



Administrator Chuck Newton, Doug Campbell and Chief Engineer Dave Clifford



Administrator Chuck Newton, Director of Social Services Erin Baker, Kelvin Roberts and Adjutant Amanda Bunch



John Frank & Adjutant Amanda Bunch



Administrator Chuck Newton & Laura Akers

RETIREMENTS | THE BUGLE MARCH 2026

More than 280 years of combined experience at the Illinois Veterans' Home retired between April and December 2025. We wish all our friends well as they embark on this next chapter of life...retirement! As Rick Gengenbacher used to say, the IVHQ train is always running. Although it's your turn to get off the train, don't forget you can always get a visitor pass and return to this place called home.



Teresa Allensworth and Administrator Chuck Newton



Administrator Chuck Newton and Stella Stubblefield



Dietary Manager Darien Burcham, Judy Smith, Dietary Manager Shawn Bunch, Dietician Janet Llewellyn. Judy bestowed her collection of special aprons to friends in dietary.



Adjutant Amanda Bunch, Housekeeping Supervisor Chris Dever, Bev McPike, Administrator Chuck Newton



Bill Llewellyn and his family celebrate retirement in the Security office.



The housekeeping staff celebrated Supervisor Chris Dever's last day with a luncheon and party in the Nielson building. Dever is known as the Corn Queen, so staff members had T-shirts made with "corny" quotes and seated the guest of honor between ears of corn.

MOVE-IN DAY



A dream was realized on September 16 when 30 residents moved into the new skilled care building. It was exciting to see the first floor of the Delta and Echo wings officially occupied by veterans and their spouses.

The move was made possible by dedicated veteran service organizations, community volunteers and an all-hands-on-deck effort by IVHQ staff. In less than two hours, belongings were transported from Markword 1 to the new building, while Golden Bridges and IVHQ staff unpacked boxes and prepared rooms. During the transition, residents gathered in The Pub for lunch and activities (above and at left) while waiting for their new spaces to be ready.

A message board captured the spirit of the day: "Welcome to your new home! Thank you for your service. You deserve this beautiful home!"

SKILLED CARE BUILDING | THE BUGLE MARCH 2026



Nursing staff spent the day getting settled into Delta and Echo right alongside the residents. Pictured at left are Brandon Brod and Kegan Sullivan, and above are Karen Mittelberg and Cassie Jones.



Delta/Echo Nursing Supervisor Amy Green and Ward Clerk Paula Goodwin were all smiles on move-in day.



Marine Corps veteran Bobby Whitten was thrilled to move into Delta and continues to tell everyone he meets that he feels like he is living in the Taj Mahal. He also volunteers as a greeter, welcoming guests to the building.



Nurse Educator Robin Sonethongkham, Chief Engineer Dave Clifford and Nursing Supervisor Amanda Tournear celebrated the opening of the building after putting their blood, sweat and tears into its planning and completion.

ILLINOIS VETERANS' HOME AT QUINCY

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<https://quincyivh.org>

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COME BACK AND SEE US



Photos of the new Quincy Veterans' Home skilled care building appear on the front and back covers of this edition of The Bugle. The rear of the structure overlooks the Stone Building, Smith Hall and Lippincott Hall. | Photo courtesy of Dan Schwalm

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