THE BUGLE

ILLINOIS VETERANS' HOME AT QUINCY



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

SEPTEMBER 2026
ISSUE NO. 2

AMERICA 250



Domiciliary residents gathered in the dining room and showed spirit by waving flags as the Quincy Veterans' Home kicked off America's 250th birthday celebration on July 2 with a festive day of patriotic fun.

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POPULATION REPORT

WWII	2
Korea	30
Korea and Vietnam	2
Vietnam	144
Vietnam and Gulf	4
Gulf	11
Peace Time	33
Non-Veterans	55
Total	281

***-Statistics through August 31, 2026**

AGE RANGE CHART

	Men	Women
50-59	6	0
60-69	9	1
70-79	83	17
80-89	75	29
90-99	41	15
100-plus	12	3
Total	216	65

BRANCH OF SERVICE

Air Force	42
Army	114
Coast Guard	1
Marine Corps	20
Navy	49

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.

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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PATRIOTIC FUN

The Quincy Home kicked off America's 250th birthday celebration on July 2 with a festive day of patriotic fun. A campus-wide celebration was planned at Lippincott Hall, featuring live music and special treats. However, with the heat index soaring above 100 degrees, the event was moved indoors, with individual celebrations held in each unit to keep everyone safe and comfortable.

The Activity Team made sure the festivities were just as memorable by hosting an ice cream social and serving a special red, white, and blue patriotic drink. Residents customized their own delicious sundaes, choosing from a variety of syrups and toppings, while activity staff carefully prepared each treat to order. The sweet celebration brought smiles to everyone's faces and provided a fun, festive way to honor this historic milestone.



Walt Hubbert (Army) and Kim Gilley in Fifer.



Army veteran Paul Altgilbers celebrated his birthday on July 2 at the America 250 party in Fifer.



Fifer veterans John Hoy (Navy) and Kate O'Brien (Air Force).



Delta & Echo residents partied in The Pub.



Army veteran Lenny Norman wears a hand-painted Uncle Sam hat he crafted from cardboard boxes.



Librarian Bobbi Mock and Director of Activities Sara Colgrove brought the party to the Domiciliary in their patriotic gear.

FINAL SALUTE



James Crittenden leads the procession of bikers who revved their engines for a veteran in his final hours. | Photo Courtesy of Muddy River News

When staff at Schapers learned that one of our veterans, who had been receiving hospice care for several weeks, was nearing the end of his life, they wanted to honor his lifelong passion for motorcycles in a meaningful way.

Director of Activities Sara Colgrove posted a message on Facebook inviting local motorcycle enthusiasts to participate in a special ride-by at 2 p.m. The response from the community was incredible.

Bikers gathered in the parking lot across from Schapers, while staff wheeled the veteran's bed outside so he could watch. One by one, a procession of 34 motorcycles and one stock car drove down the boulevard, revving their engines as they passed in a final tribute. The unmistakable roar of the engines filled the air, creating a sendoff that perfectly reflected the veteran's lifelong love of motorcycles.

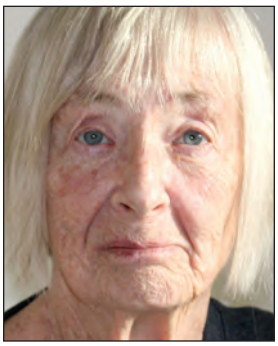
Schapers Nursing Supervisor Jen Cassens said several staff members who were not scheduled to work came to campus that afternoon to be there for the veteran and to say goodbye. She said she was incredibly proud of the staff's compassion and was moved to tears by the outpouring of support from both the team and the community. She also noted that one of the VA survey contractors happened to witness the motorcycle parade and was deeply touched by the tribute.

For this veteran, motorcycles were more than a hobby – they were a lifelong passion. He built them, rode them and loved them. Thanks to the kindness of our staff and the generosity of the local biking community, he experienced one final ride in spirit, surrounded by the respect, gratitude and care of those who honored his service and his life.

It was a beautiful reminder that even the smallest act of kindness can have a lasting impact. Our community always finds meaningful ways to say, "Thank you for your service."

WELCOME TO THE ILLINOIS VETERANS' HOME AT QUINCY

Between January 1 and July 10, 36 new residents joined the ranks of those living at the Home. Welcome to the Home. We are glad you're here!



Cathy Adrien
Tacoma, Wash.
Veteran Spouse



Paul Adrien
Tacoma, Wash.
Vietnam War
Air Force



Steve Anders
Springfield
Vietnam War
Navy



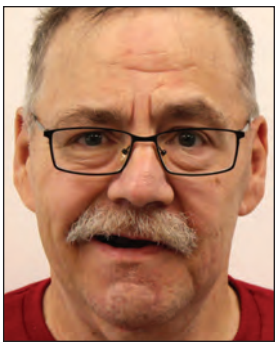
Terry Behrens
Quincy
Vietnam War
Army



Alan Brewer
Pawnee
Vietnam War
Air Force



Allan Cleeton
Springfield
Korean War
Marine Corps



Jeffrey Collins
Quincy
Persian Gulf War
Army



Dave Eager
Quincy
Vietnam War
Army



Donna Eager
Quincy
Veteran Spouse



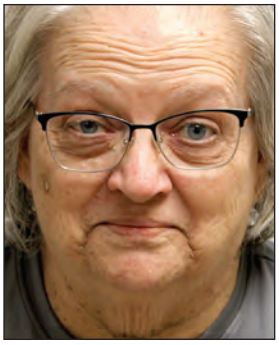
Gary Ely
Quincy
Vietnam War
Navy



Jim Garrison
Quincy
Vietnam War
Army



Ken Gates
Barry
Vietnam War
Army



Nancy Gates
Barry
Veteran Spouse



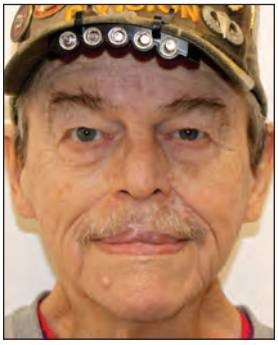
Jack Gregory
Galva
Vietnam War
Army



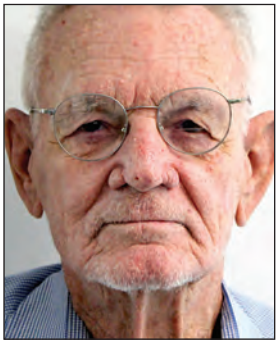
Bill Hesse
Quincy
Korean War
Army



Bill Hogan
Riverton
Korean War
Air Force



Bob Jackson
Quincy
Vietnam War
Army



Bill Jones
Bushnell
Vietnam War
Navy



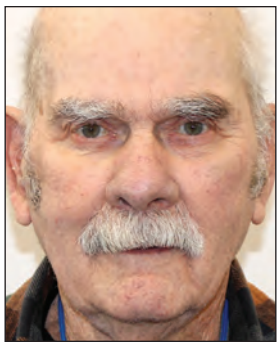
Irene Jones
Bushnell
Veteran Spouse



Karl Kreminski
Quincy
Vietnam War
Navy



Gerry Logsdon
Quincy
Vietnam War
Marine Corps



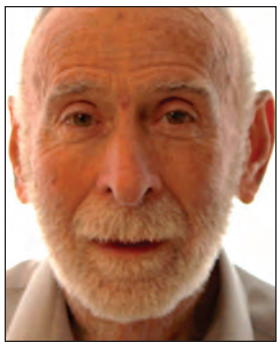
Ron McFarland
Hamilton
Vietnam War
Army



Kate O'Brien
Quincy
Persian Gulf War
Air Force



Bob Paden
Quincy
Korean War
Army



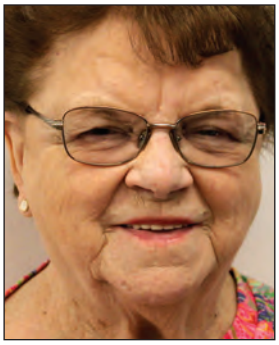
Terry Riley
Quincy
Vietnam War
Army



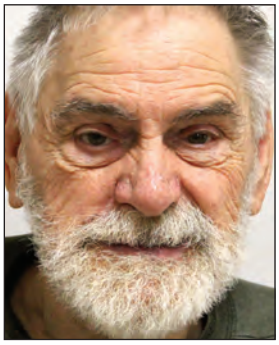
Norman Rost
Granite City
Vietnam War
Navy



Bob L. Scott
Quincy
Vietnam War
Navy



Shirley Scott
Quincy
Veteran Spouse

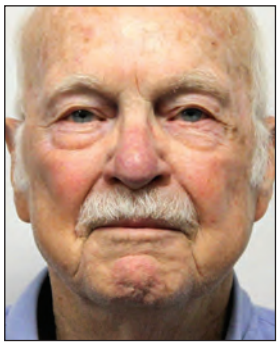


Don Shaffer
Palmyra, Mo.
Vietnam War
Air Force

Linda Shaw-Wilkinson
Springfield
Vietnam War
Army



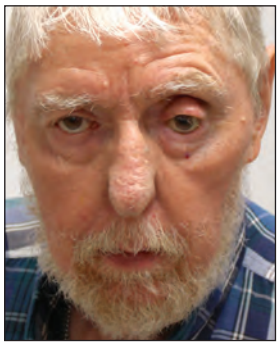
Larry Sheffler
Quincy
Vietnam War
Army



Joseph Sigler
Quincy
Peacetime
Army



Harvey Sims
Jonesboro
Vietnam War
Air Force



Tony Smith
Warsaw
Vietnam War
Army



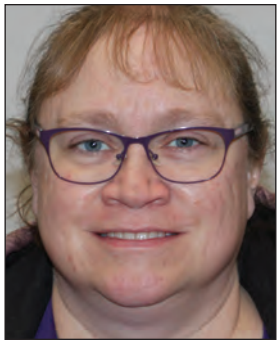
Mary Lu Taylor
Springfield
Peacetime
Air Force



Ralph Torrance
Lomax
Korean War
Army

EMPLOYEE MILESTONES

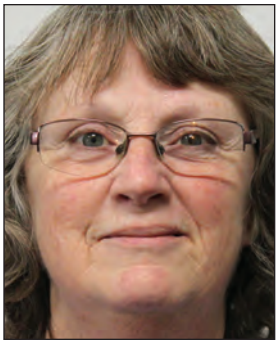
(January 1, 2026 to July 10, 2026)



Deanna Lefringhouse
Housekeeping
30 years



Terry Goodwin
Laundry
29 years



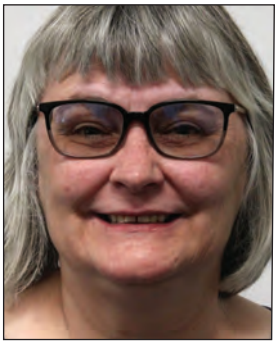
Gayle Moulton
Nursing
29 years



Tracy Brown
Medical Billing
29 years



Chad Roberts
Facilities
29 years



Paula Goodwin
Nursing
29 years



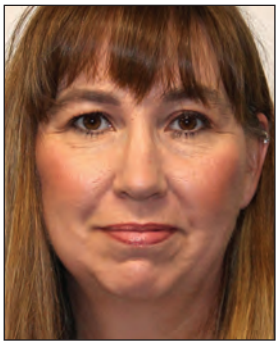
Jim Muldoon
Social Services
28 years



Angie Strang
Nursing
28 years



Michelle Hincks
Housekeeping
27 years



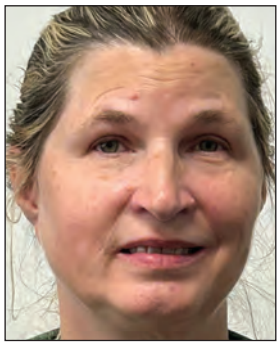
Angie Bevans
Nursing
27 years

20+ Years

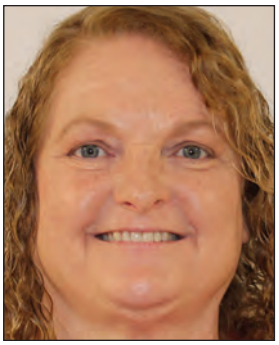
Valerie Klement	Nursing	24
Lisa Curry	Dietary	24
Kristen Westerheide	Nursing	24
Rob Johnston	Facilities	24
Shelly Watson	Dietary	24
Carrie Veile	Laundry	24
Chad Jackson	Truck Garage	24
Scott Alberts	Activities	23
Sara Colgrove	Activities	23
Rebecca Bockhold	Nursing	23
Rebecca Davis	Nursing	23
Robin Sonethongkham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

15-Year Anniversary		**Anniversary Date**
Lindsay Crossman	Nursing	Feb. 16
Whittany Flambeau	Activities	Feb. 16
Dana Mehochko	Nursing	Feb. 16
Dawn Whelan	Laundry	Feb. 16
Zach Grattan	Medical Billing	April 1
Susan DeMoss	Housekeeping	April 1
Susan Dochterman	PT	June 13
Jenna Smith	General Store	June 13

10-Year Anniversary		**Anniversary Date**
Dave Hall	Chaplain	Jan. 4
Cassie Hedges	Nursing	Jan. 25
Shelby Hilgenbrinck	Nursing	Jan. 25
Alimatou Moussa	Nursing	Jan. 25
Megin Orrill	Nursing	Jan. 25
Mikhayla Sharpe	Nursing	Jan. 25
Sadie Smith	Nursing	Jan. 25
Chantel Baker	Business Admin.	Feb. 17



Lou Milhauser
Nursing
27 years



Terry Clayton
Nursing
26 years



Mike Bevans
Facilities
26 years



Michelle Daugherty
Nursing
26 years



Mary Day
Nursing
26 years



Jerrilyn Mason
Pharmacy
26 years



Laura Colston
Nursing
25 years



Greta Frankel
Social Services
25 years



Kathy Bernard
Business Office
25 years



Deb Carnes
Nursing
25 years



Janet Llewellyn
Dietary
25 years



Darin Lefringhouse
Housekeeping
25 years

Mandy Curfman	Nursing	Feb. 17
Judith Young	Nursing	March 7
Kelsey Terwelp	Nursing	March 21
Ashley Cobb	Nursing	April 18
Darren Schnelle	Facilities	May 2
Karen Mittelberg	Nursing	May 16
William Campbell	Dietary	June 27
John Wellman	Facilities	June 27

5-Year Anniversary		**Anniversary Date**
Jessica Perrine	Nursing	Feb. 22
Brian Fish	Dietary	Feb. 24
Daylin Goehl	Nursing	March 9
Tammie Dieterich	Nursing	March 22
Randy Rees	Truck Garage	May 5
Jessica Kennedy	Nursing	May 10

SHARING FOOD



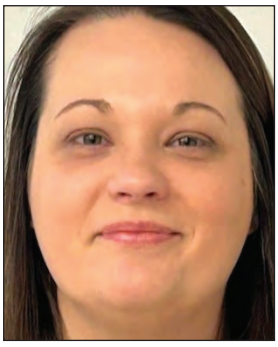
Despite what her apron says in the photo, Annie Rohe, an Air Force veteran, loves to cook. Annie grew up in the Philippines and holds dual U.S. citizenship. She met her husband, Rick Rohe, while they were attending the U.S. Air Force Academy near Colorado Springs, CO. Rick came to the Home in December 2024 and lives in the Schapers Unit. Annie joined Rick at IVHQ in October 2025. Now living in the Domiciliary, she can often be found in the kitchen preparing and sharing delicious dishes inspired by her Filipino heritage. Her specialties include egg rolls, adobo pork and chicken, and flavorful stir-fries. Annie enjoys sharing her cooking with anyone fortunate enough to be nearby, bringing people together through her generosity, warm spirit and love of food.

NEW FACES ON CAMPUS

(January 1, 2026 to July 10, 2026)



William Casper
Truck Garage
1/2/26



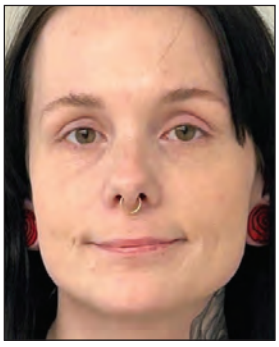
Ashlee Cosgrove
Dietary
1/2/26



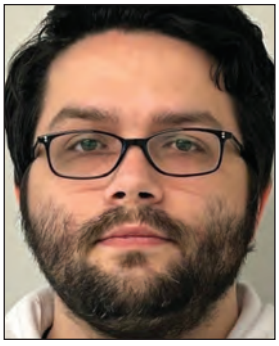
Demarius Deverger
Dietary
1/2/26



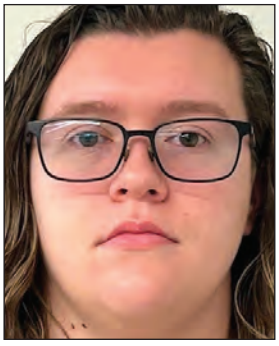
Anita Gallaher
Nursing
1/2/26



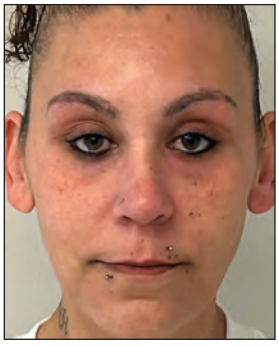
Sarah Goldsworthy-Varni
Nursing
1/2/26



James Hills Jr.
Dietary
1/2/26



Alyssa Lubbert
Dietary
1/2/26



Shontelese Rhodes
Nursing
1/2/26



April Smith-Leasman
Dietary
1/2/26



Tabitha Sparks
Nursing
1/2/26



Xavier Talton
Dietary
1/2/26



Rick Knochel
Nursing
1/16/26



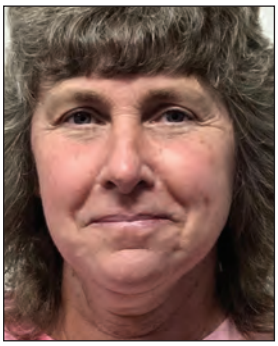
Haley Rugado
Dietary
1/16/26



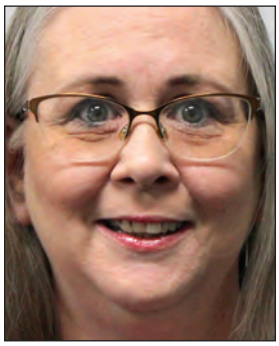
Susan Bowles
Nursing
2/2/26



Jodi Winfield
Nursing
2/2/26



Debra Smith
Nursing
2/17/26



Lisa Smith
Nursing
2/17/26



Jayla Tipton Jensen
Dietary
2/17/26



Andrea Fisher
Dietary
3/2/26



Melissa Holman
Nursing
3/2/26



Kelsey Stephens
Nursing
3/2/26



Kimberly Whelan
Nursing
3/2/26



Carmen Baumgartner
Dietary
3/16/26



Miranda Bliss
Dietary
3/16/26



Katherine Cook
Dietary
3/16/26



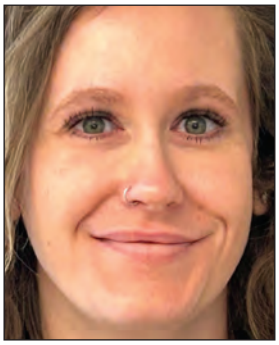
Rachelle Goodwin
Nursing
3/16/26



Abby Hively
Dietary
3/16/26



Jessica Jones
Dietary
3/16/26



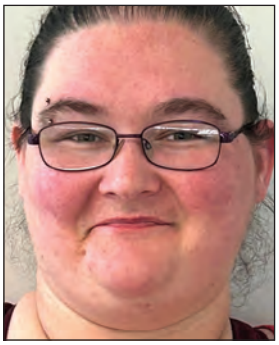
Kaleen Lay
Nursing
3/16/26



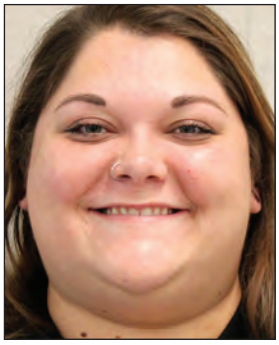
Lydia Nutt
Dietary
3/16/26



Cheryl West
Dietary
3/16/26



Ashley Wester
Dietary
3/16/26



Madeline Patterson
Nursing
4/1/26



Landon Smith
Facilities
4/1/26



Vien Bouavong
Nursing
4/16/26



Stephanie Jameson
Dietary
4/16/26



Caleb Kane
Dietary
4/16/26



Lori Roberts
Dietary
4/16/26



Danielle Schlosser
Dietary
4/16/26



Kim Ashby
Dietary
5/1/26



Brandon Gallaher
Dietary
5/1/26



Jennifer Weiss
Nursing
5/1/26



Richard Morelock
Health Information Services
5/18/26



Katara Smith
Dietary
5/18/26



LaShonda Burton
Nursing
6/1/26



Sierra Parrish
Nursing
6/1/26



Judy Dougherty
Dietary
7/1/26



Willie Manuel
Dietary
7/1/26



Lynette Moore
Dietary
7/1/26

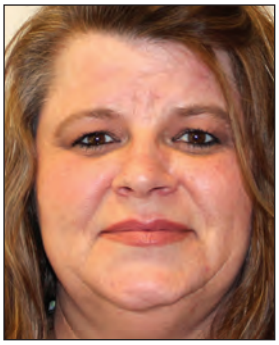
SAFETY FENCE

A black safety fence was installed around the perimeter of Lake Illinois, providing an added fall-prevention measure while helping create a safer environment for residents, staff and visitors.

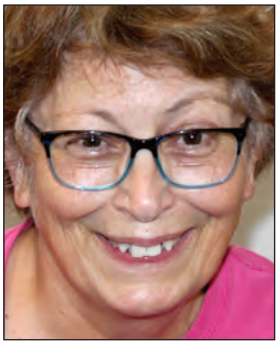


HANGING UP THEIR HATS

(from January 1, 2026 through July 10, 2026)



Nurse Michelle Hankins retired March 1, 2026, after 32 years



VNAC Kathy Wright retired May 1, 2026, after 19 years



Ivan Hicks retired from dietary on June 1, 2026, after 34 years



Nurse Peggy Johnston retired June 30, 2026, after 11 years



Steve Lindsey retired from the business office on July 1, 2026 after 14 years

JIGSAW JOY

Marine Corps veteran Bobby Whitten has a passion for jigsaw puzzles, and visitors to the Quincy Veterans' Home can often find him in Delta, carefully assembling his latest masterpiece. While Bobby works on a new puzzle, two or three of his completed creations are often displayed nearby for others to enjoy. Just as much as he enjoys puzzling, Bobby enjoys spending time in the lobby, where he is known for warmly greeting visitors and helping create a welcoming atmosphere for everyone who enters.



THE BEST OF THE BEST

(January 2026 to July 2026)



January 2026
Amy Green
Nursing



February 2026
Kim Niekamp
Business Office



March 2026
Brian Myers
Nursing



April 2026
Rachel Stuckman
Activities



May 2026
Tracy Ford
Nurse of the Year



June 2026
Tara Smith
VNAC of the Year



July 2026
Shelly Watson
Dietician





JOB FAIR

The Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs hosted a job fair at Lippincott Hall on Jan. 8 to recruit candidates for open positions at the Quincy Veterans' Home. The event, open to the public, attracted more than 80 people. Job seekers met with recruiting staff, human resources personnel, bargaining unit representatives and representatives from the Illinois Department of Central Management Services and the Illinois Department of Employment Security. Attendees also received assistance creating job profiles and applying for available positions. The job fair proved to be a successful recruitment effort, resulting in the hiring of registered nurses and helping to strengthen the Home's workforce.

SWEET TREATS





National Donut Day was celebrated June 5 in Smith Hall as residents enjoyed glazed donuts from Yummy Donuts. Salvation Army Development Director Matt Schmidt presented a slideshow on the history of the "Donut Lassies," courageous Salvation Army volunteers who traveled to the front lines in France during World War I to provide spiritual, emotional and physical support to American soldiers. The Donut Lassies rolled the dough with empty wine bottles and shell casings, then fried the pastries in soldiers' metal combat helmets. When servicemen returned home, they brought a love of donuts, sparking the pastry's popularity across the nation. The celebration featured entertainment by the Quincy Salvation Army Brass Band.



The Quincy University Choir, under the direction of Jonathan Stewart, performed at Hammond Hall in April, delighting residents who packed the dining room to enjoy an afternoon of music.

POWER OF SONG



CARING TOUCH

After 19 years at IVHQ, Tracy Alexander still loves serving people who served our nation



Director of Nursing Tracy Alexander gets a paws-on reminder that fun and laughter brighten every day.

Tracy Alexander, the new director of nursing at the Quincy Veterans' Home, was raised in an Army family and at an early age she learned the values of sacrifice, resilience and compassion.

Her father made a career of the Army and saw combat in Vietnam during the war, where he was awarded the Medal of Honor and the Purple Heart. Her mother also proudly served in the U.S. Army and Tracy experienced military life firsthand. She was born in France, and her brother was born in Germany during their parents' service, before the family settled in the United States.

Witnessing the lasting effects of war on her father profoundly influenced her future. From a young age, she knew she wanted to become a nurse and dedicate her career to caring for America's veterans. That calling led her to begin her nursing career in the Intensive Care Unit, where she developed the critical care skills that would prepare her for the work she was meant to do.

Nineteen years ago, Tracy joined IVHQ, where she has served in a variety of leadership and clinical roles such as registered nurse, nursing supervisor and now director of nursing. Throughout her tenure, she has remained

committed to ensuring veterans receive the highest quality care while fostering a culture of teamwork, respect, and excellence. She considers it one of the greatest privileges of her career to care for the men and women who have served our nation. She has watched her team overcome challenges with dedication and compassion, learning valuable lessons from both her colleagues and the veterans entrusted to their care.

Beyond her professional accomplishments, family remains her greatest source of pride. She and her husband have been together 34 years and built a family with two sons and two daughters. They also have seven grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Completing the household are her beloved dogs, Bella, Miley, and Rebel, whom she affectionately considers part of the family.

Tracy's adventurous spirit extends beyond the workplace. She enjoys painting, fishing, swimming, reading, traveling, binge-watching favorite shows and taking long walks with her dogs. She has tried bungee jumping and rappelling down a mountain. Her bucket list includes skydiving and driving on a professional racetrack. Tracy nearly joined the Army before choosing a career in nursing. She is a published poet and wants to work as a veterinary assistant after retirement to continue caring – this time, for animals.

She finds peace in the ocean, appreciates the beauty of thunderstorms, and enjoys every genre of music. Her favorite animals include dogs, hummingbirds, sloths, owls, and bears. Topping her list of dislikes are spiders and judgmental people. Tracy values treating others with kindness and respect and believes the world would be a better place if people accepted one another where they are in life's journey rather than judging them.

Her favorite quote, "I don't embrace excuses; I embrace solutions," reflects the mindset that has guided her throughout her career and personal life. She identifies with the wolf as her spirit animal, representing loyalty, resilience, and strength. Her Native American name, Doe Eyes, serves as a daily reminder to approach others with compassion, understanding, and kindness.



Tracy Alexander poses with her three dogs.

Service has been at the heart of Tracy's story. Whether leading a team, caring for veterans, spending time with her family or pursuing new adventures, she lives a life defined by service, courage and unwavering compassion. Her journey is a testament to the lasting impact that one person's dedication can have on the lives of so many.



Domiciliary resident Connie Bottorff, left, with Tracy Alexander

COUNCIL COUNSEL



The Quincy Advisory Council met in the classroom of the new skilled care building on April 11. Chairman Dan Lenane, Catholic War Veterans, led the meeting (photo above). IDVA Director Terry Prince provided an update on activities and initiatives within the agency, while executive staff members presented reports from their respective departments.

A special presentation was made during the meeting when Director Prince recognized Chantel Baker, business manager of the General Store, with one of his challenge coins (photo at right). Baker was honored for her tireless efforts in procuring the supplies and equipment necessary for the successful opening of the new buildings. Her commitment and hard work played a vital role in ensuring the facilities were fully equipped and ready to serve residents.

The Advisory Council was established to offer perspective, counsel and innovative ideas to support the Quincy Veterans' Home. We are grateful for the continued dedication and support of these valued friends of the Home.



BINGO BLAST







The Tin Dusters hosted a lively Bingo event at Lippincott Hall in April, bringing residents together for an afternoon of fun, laughter and friendly competition. Residents love a good game of Bingo, and a great time was had by all.

At left is John Sass.
Above are Fred and Betty Still.

OPENING DAY

The Employee Recognition Committee hosted the Take Me Out to the Ballgame luncheon to celebrate Major League Baseball's opening day in late March. The event was held in the beautifully renovated staff breakroom in Nielson, where the dining room used to be. Ballpark favorites were served – grilled hot dogs, nachos, popcorn, ice cream, freeze pops and fountain soda. Staff dressed in their favorite jerseys and enjoyed mingling and visiting with friends across campus. The luncheon provided a wonderful opportunity to relax, enjoy great food, and strengthen friendships. The Employee Recognition Committee hit a home run with this event.



Above, Jen Cassens and Jesse Perrine packed and delivered lunch to their team at Schapers, ensuring everyone could enjoy lunch without leaving the unit unattended. Below, this all-star team hit it out of the park by planning, preparing, serving and cleaning up after the "Take Me Out to the Ballgame." luncheon. Their dedication made the event a grand slam for everyone who attended. The renovated





space in Nielson was a great place for staff to gather for the luncheon.





Connor Redington, Aaron Lubbert & Alyssa Lubbert man the grill.

NINE NEW ROOFS



IVHQ is reaping the benefits of a $9.2 million roofing project that includes replacing roofs on nine campus buildings plus a much-needed facelift for the Medical Staff Office (formerly the Chief Engineer's Home located next to Fifer). Henson Robinson of Springfield is serving as the project's general contractor. The improvements will help ensure the long-term structural integrity of the buildings while providing better protection from the elements. New roofs also are being installed on the Administration Building, Andrew, the bus stop near Private Joe, Fifer, Lippincott, Nielson, the Powerhouse and Schapers. Project planning included collaboration with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources' Historic Preservation Division to ensure the renovated buildings remain as true as possible to their original architectural appearance while preserving the character and history of the campus. The Administration Building is pictured above.

ALL ABOARD

Residents of Hammond Hall enjoyed an outing to the main campus with a visit to the Fifer building. Whittany Flambeau served as chauffeur for the trip, giving residents the opportunity to get out, visit with friends and enjoy a change of scenery. A special thank you to Whittany and the entire IVHQ Activities staff for going above and beyond to create meaningful experiences for our residents.





FESTIVE TOUCH

Reimbursement Officer Devyn Winters continues to share her artistic talents around campus with her creative window paintings. Betty Bradshaw is pictured above with Devyn's Valentine-themed design at Hammond Hall. Devyn spruced up the entrance to Schapers with a colorful spring scene (at right). These creations add a festive touch to the campus and bring smiles to residents, staff, and visitors alike.



MAY TRADITION



The American Legion District 22 sponsored the annual May Fest celebration in Lippincott Hall on May 3, continuing a tradition that began in 1981. The Legion members brought more than $1,000 in prizes for poker and bingo, along with homemade cookies and refreshments for everyone to enjoy.







Special $25 cash prizes were awarded to the youngest attendee, Billy McGahan, and to the oldest attendees, Charlie Doan and Vivian Henry, both 100 years young. Bingo winners received $3 per game, the coverall game paid $10, one-eyed jacks earned $1, and the best poker hands were awarded $2. Everyone had a wonderful time socializing, enjoying the games and celebrating this long-standing community tradition.









100 YEARS AND

World War II Army veteran Calvin Theile celebrated a remarkable milestone in May as he turned 100 years old. Family, friends, fellow residents and staff gathered in Hammond Hall to honor Calvin with a special birthday celebration.

The festivities continued with another meaningful recognition when Calvin was presented with a personal letter and commemorative coin from U.S. Department of Veterans' Affairs Secretary Douglas A. Collins. The letter expressed appreciation for Calvin's patriotism, honorable service and lasting legacy in helping defend democracy and shape the world we live in today.



FABULOUS



Vivian Henry celebrated her 100th birthday in April with a special party in the Hammond Hall Activity Center. A large crowd gathered to honor the milestone and celebrate "Vivian Henry Day," as proclaimed by Quincy Mayor Linda Moore (photo above).

Many of Vivian's family members joined the celebration, along with a room full of friends who came together to recognize her remarkable milestone. The afternoon was filled with joy, laughter, and warm wishes as everyone celebrated a century of Vivian's life and the many lives she has touched.

At left, Vivian joins Calvin for a photo at his 100th birthday party. Hammond Hall is fortunate to have two centenarians. These special residents have both celebrated 100 years, bringing a wealth of history, memories and wisdom to the home.

CREATIVE SPIRIT



Fred Kern



Betty Balzer



Betty Smith

The first Domiciliary Art Showcase was held April 11 from 2 to 4 p.m. in the Domiciliary dining area. Nearly 50 visitors attended the event, including a group of Dietary staff members who took time out of their day to stop by and admire the displays.

The showcase featured a variety of artwork and handcrafted items such as paintings, pottery, woodworking projects, jewelry, memory books and textile crafts. Residents, staff and guests enjoyed browsing the exhibits and celebrating the many talents and creative abilities within the Domiciliary community.

The event highlighted the artistic spirit of our residents and showcased a wealth of creativity at the Domiciliary. Special thanks to Shirley Daniels and Phyllis Self for organizing and planning this successful inaugural showcase.



Jim & Shirley Daniels







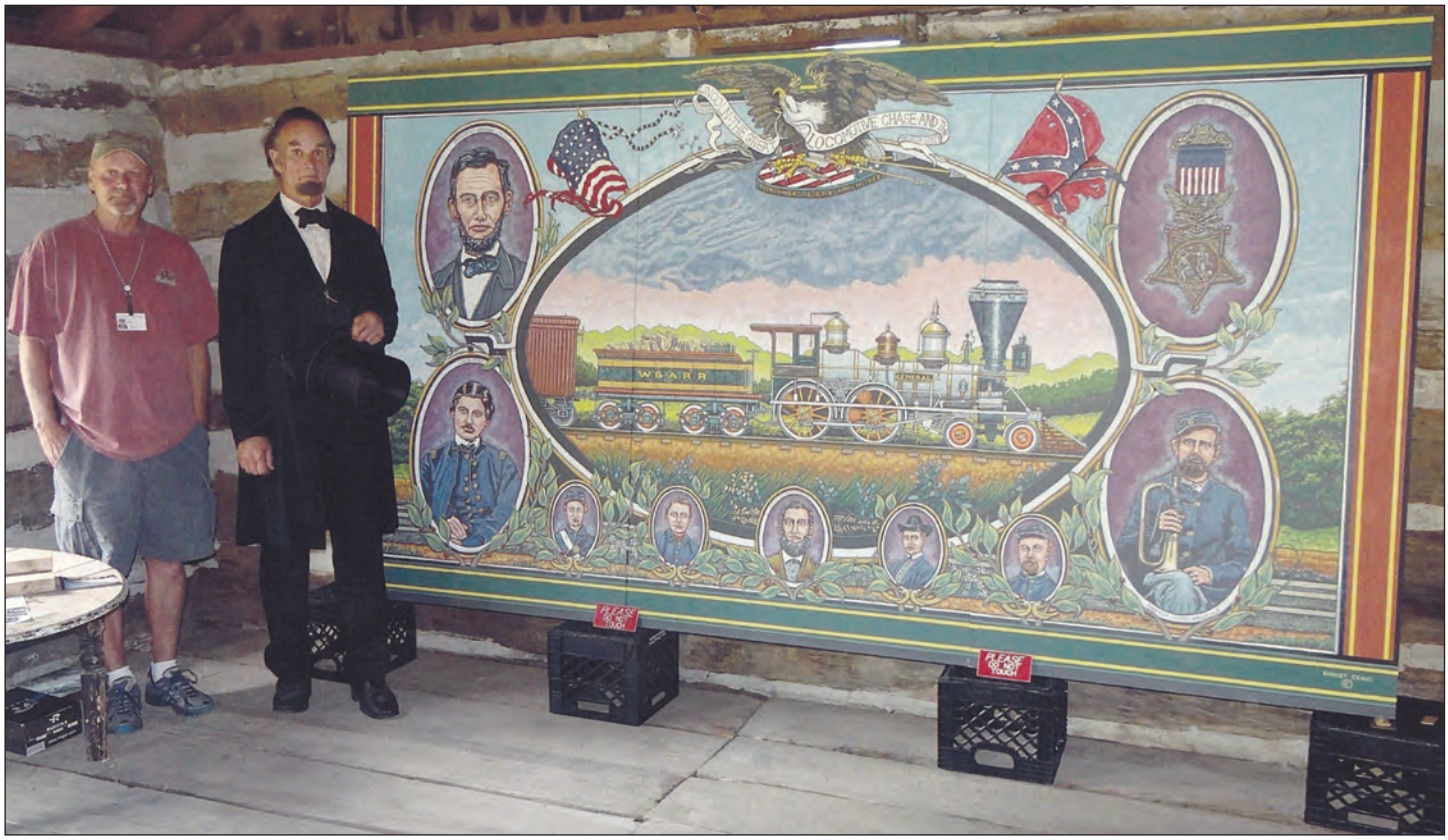
Middle row from left, Phyllis Self, Sharon Ervin and Franz Gavenia.

Bottom row from left, Judy Mittelberg and Connie Bottorff.





HISTORIC LIFE



Bob Craig, left, with a Lincoln impersonator and his mural titled "Abraham Lincoln, the Great Locomotive Chase and the Medal of Honor," which is permanently displayed in the All-Wars Museum.

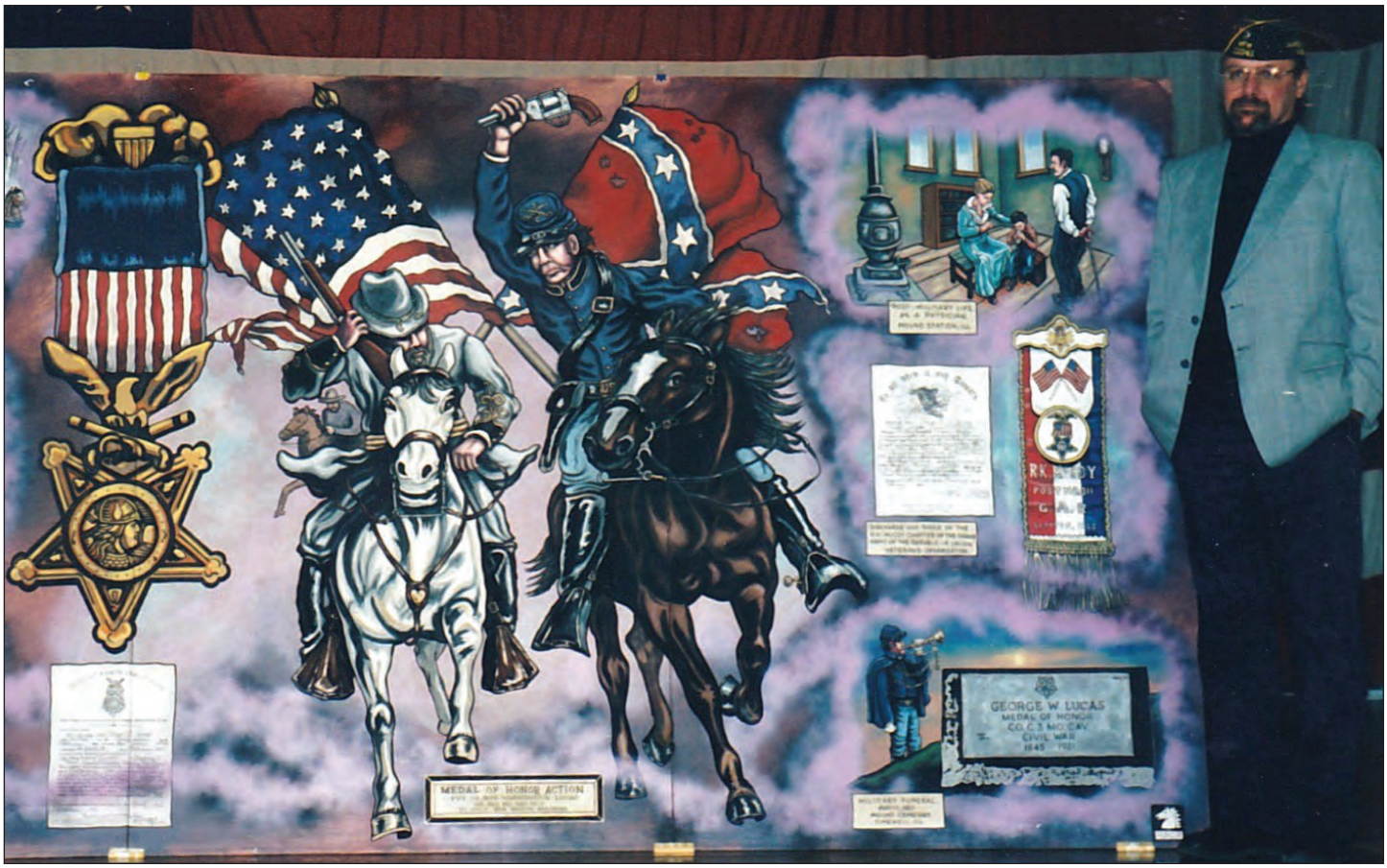
The Quincy Veterans' Home and All-Wars Museum lost a dedicated friend, historian, and artist with the passing of Robert "Bob" Craig. Bob served as Curator of the All-Wars Museum for 23 years, devoting countless hours to preserving the stories and sacrifices of America's veterans. He passed away at his home in Palmyra, Missouri, at the age of 77 on May 6, 2026.

A U.S. Marine Corps Vietnam War veteran, Bob served from 1969 to 1972 as a First Lieutenant with the 1st Reconnaissance Battalion and was in Vietnam from 1970–71. His lifelong commitment to veterans extended well beyond his military service. As a charter and lifetime member of VFW Post 11041 in Palmyra, Missouri, he dedicated more than five decades to supporting veterans and preserving military history.

Bob shared more than 47 years of marriage with his wife, Tamara. He is also survived by his son, Oliver, daughter-in-law Daphne, grandson Caysen, one sister, two brothers, four nieces, and five nephews.

Known for his meticulous attention to detail and deep passion for history, Bob was an accomplished military history artist and former professional sign painter. His work leaves a lasting legacy throughout the All-Wars Museum, where visitors continue to





Bob Craig unveiled his mural depicting Medal of Honor recipient George Washington Lucas in a ceremony in Lippincott Hall in 1997. The mural is on display in the All-Wars Museum. (Photo by the late John Gebhardt)

admire his large-scale murals and hand-crafted military miniatures depicting tanks, aircraft, military vehicles, soldiers, and historical scenes.

Among his most significant works are three Medal of Honor murals honoring local heroes: Private George Washington Lucas, Corporal Lester Hammond Jr., and Private Martin Jones Hawkins. All three murals remain part of the museum's permanent collection as a testament to Bob's artistry and his commitment to preserving the stories of those who served.

Bob often described the All-Wars Museum as "Quincy's best-kept secret." He believed every artifact in the museum—and every veteran who called the Quincy Veterans' Home home—had a story worth telling. That belief inspired both his artwork and his dedication to educating visitors about the sacrifices made by generations of service members.

One of Bob's most memorable reflections captured the purpose behind his life's work: "I do this because sacrifice is meaningless without remembrance. Every soldier has paid an awesome price to preserve our way of life, and this is my way of making sure we remember."

Today, the All-Wars Museum continues to honor the men and women who have served our nation through its collection of artifacts, historical exhibits, and personal stories. Bob Craig's vision, artistry, and unwavering respect for America's veterans remain woven throughout the museum, ensuring that future generations will continue to learn from and appreciate the sacrifices of those who served.

Bob Craig's legacy lives on in the All-Wars Museum in every mural, every carefully crafted display, and every visitor inspired by the stories he worked so diligently to preserve.

Sources:

Official Obituary of Robert D. Craig
Speaker Biography
Artist Biography
Arts Quincy Society of Fine Arts publications from 2016 and 2026

SING LIKE A BIRD

Volunteer Voices entertained a crowd in Markword 2 in May with an enjoyable performance that brought smiles to everyone in attendance. We are always grateful for this talented group and appreciate their continued generosity in sharing their time and music with our campus community.





EXTRA MILE

EXTRA – beyond what is usual, expected, or necessary; more than is needed, desired or required.

For Activity Aide BJ Spangler, this isn't just a definition. It's a personal commitment.

The word "EXTRA" is tattooed on his forearm as a daily reminder of the standard he strives to uphold while serving the veterans at the Quincy Veterans' Home.

The tattoo symbolizes the dedication of the Activity Department and the entire Quincy Veterans' Home team to go above and beyond in caring for those who have served our nation. Whether creating innovative programs, providing meaningful experiences or simply offering a helping hand, the goal is always the same: to do more than what is expected and ensure every veteran feels valued, respected, and appreciated.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

(from January 1, 2026 to July 4, 2026)

ACTIVITY FUND
AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary $292
Anonymous $2,000
Bethel Assembly of God $40
Brenda Ajster $50
Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association $5,000
CPT William Penny Chapter NSDAR $150
Daughters of the American Revolution $300
Deborah Brackensick $300
Department of IL VFW Auxiliary Inc. $77
Diane & Floyd Alexander $1,200
Eldred American Legion Poppy Donation $628
Friends of Illinois Veterans Home At Anna $912
Harrison Pub $1,000
John Vernon $550
LeRoy King Birthday Donation $75
Memorial Charles McDonald $30
Memorial Alvin Hunsaker $400
Memorial Benjamin James $1,190
Memorial Bill Postle $275
Memorial Bob McDonald $1,050
Memorial Donald Gorder $755
Memorial Donald Redner $135
Memorial Dr. Zorian Trusewych $200
Memorial Gary DeLong $100
Memorial Larry Schnelle $2,370
Memorial Marilyn Wort $1,070
Memorial Marjorie & Robert Cross $200
Memorial Marjorie Cross $25
Memorial Nancy Schaffnit-Hall $1,935
Memorial Randy Schlueter $555
Memorial Ray Hiland $85
Memorial Roger Kerberick $140
Memorial Vern Smith $2,155
Memorial Vincent Luttrell $895
Memorial William Hesse $1,680
Nancy Causey $200
Niemann Foods Inc. $1,945
NSDAR Christiana Tillson Chapter $500
Quincy Adams County Chapter No. 32 DAV $1,500
Quincy Service Club $97
Quincy Table Tennis $400
Ted Ridder $72
The Marine Corps League $800
VFW Brown County Mount Sterling $2,500
VFW Dept. Of IL 2149 Tioga Post $400
Wanda O'Hara $50

ALL-WARS MUSEUM
Donation Jar $824
Memorial Bob Craig $100
Memorial Tom Baird $275
Quincy Area Coin Club $50

ARMED FORCES PICNIC
Anonymous Donations $600

DUDLEY MANSION
Hap Northern Memorial $50

MEMORIAL DAY FAMILY PICNIC
Anonymous Donations $1,118
Claudia Malin $100
Deborah Lambeth $15
Jeann Morrison $20
JoAnne Wolkitt $25
Vicki Brewer $20

THE BUGLE
Grace Miller $20
Jane Brown $50
Wanda O'Hara $20

UTV – UTILITY TASK VEHICLE
American Veterans Post 401 $5,000
David Goodwin $5,000
Elks National Veterans Commission $1,800
Illinois Elks Association West Central District $1,000

BOOT CAMP

Boot Camp isn't just for soldiers, it's also an annual tradition for the Quincy Veterans' Home nursing staff to complete their required annual skills review.

Training topics were carefully selected through collaboration between nursing leadership and management, focusing on key areas identified for continued improvement. The comprehensive training is mandatory for all nursing staff and available as an optional learning opportunity for contract nursing staff.

This year's Boot Camp was held April 6–10 in the Bravo unit of the new long-term care building. Because the unit is not yet occupied, it provided an ideal setting for hands-on training stations that allowed participants to practice and refine essential clinical skills in a realistic environment.

A total of 202 nursing staff successfully completed Boot Camp, reinforcing the Home's commitment to ongoing professional development and ensuring residents continue to receive the highest quality of care.







Skill stations and trainers:

Hand Hygiene, PPE, Peri Care, Catheter/Urostomy Care – Lindsey Kelley & Linn Dingerson

Lifts, Splints, Foot Pedals, PPS, Alarms, Side Rails – Tori Dameron

Residents' Rights and Dignity in the Dining Room, Documentation, Shift Reports, Vitals, Dietary Intake – Jonita Brunier

ADL Coding for VNACs – Nathan Alexander

Documentation for Nurses, PCC Education – Amanda Tournear

Med Sled Training – Security Chief Mark Iseminger and Security Staff

Wounds, Dexcom Education, Pleurx Education, Tracheostomy Care, Suctioning – Tracy Ford & Dwayne Goodwin

IVs, Central Lines, Blood Draws from Central Lines/Ports – Robin Sonethongkham

Mask Fit Testing – Brad Florea



FURRY FRIENDS





"(Pets) are not our whole life, but they make our lives whole." – Roger Caras

Residents always look forward to visits from four-legged and furry friends. Olaf and Ranger, two gentle Newfoundland dogs owned by Bob and Sue Mitchell, are regular visitors, as is Phoebe, a beloved cat who visits Fifer with her owner, Activity Therapist Scott Alberts. These animals bring comfort, companionship, peace, and plenty of smiles to everyone they meet.

Above, Phoebe brings a big smile to Mike Hildebrand's face

Left, Fifer residents Roger Rupp, Walt Hubbert and Jim Gall with Olaf



Olaf visiting Markword residents James Missen, John Bradford, Chuck Vespa and Everett Terry.



Loretta Ferguson enjoys spending time with Phoebe and gently petting her.



Residents enjoy weekly visits from pet therapy volunteers Lynn Fleming (former IVHQ Librarian), Alexandria Miller and Peggy Pryor. Also part of the group are Phyllis Stewart and Jennifer Akers, who were not available for this photo.





Residents and staff gathered at the American Legion Pavilion on Lake Illinois on May 15 to enjoy the annual Armed Forces Day Picnic. The aroma of food cooking on the grills welcomed guests as representatives from veteran service organizations prepared hamburgers, hot dogs, and brats for everyone to enjoy.

PERFECT PICNIC







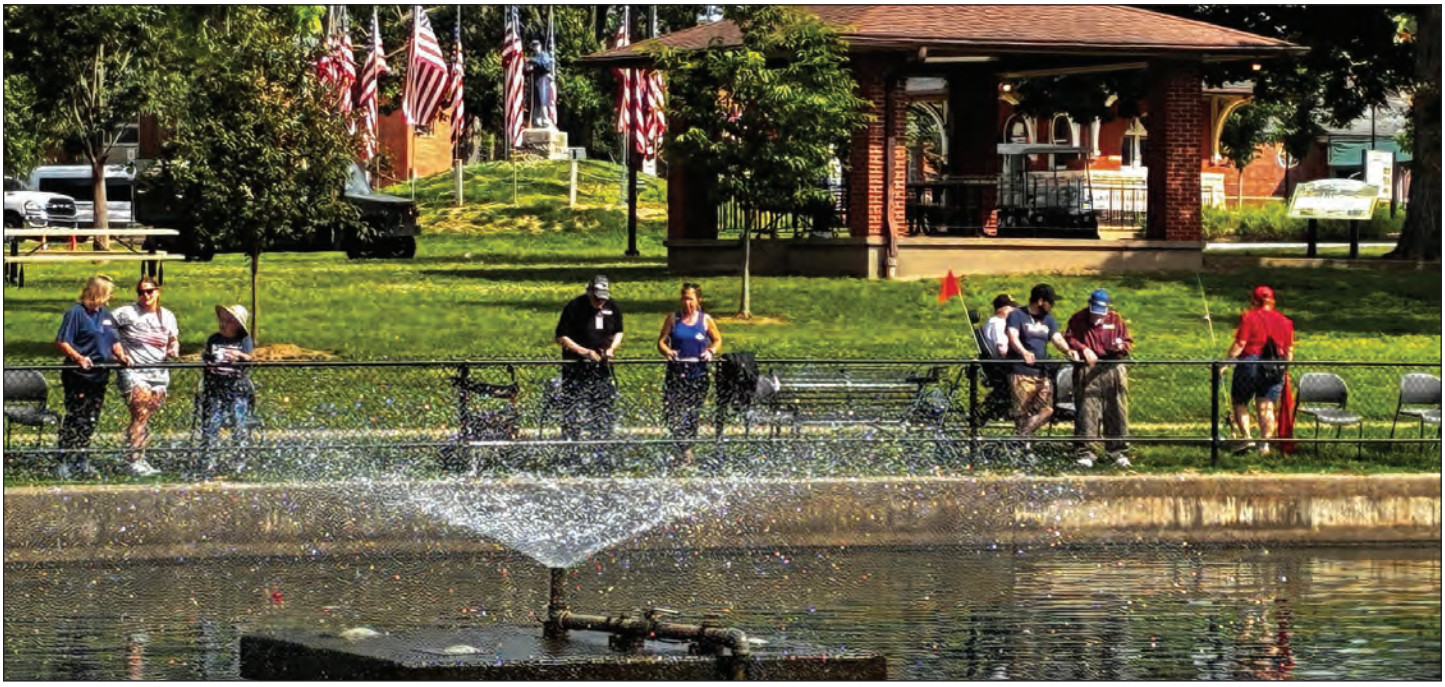




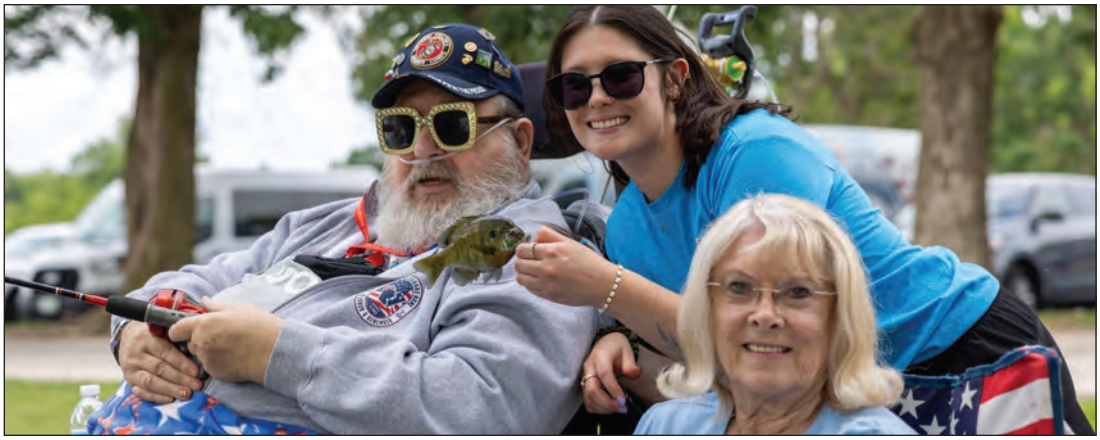


The picnic menu offered sandwiches, potato salad, baked beans, coleslaw and ice cream. With perfect weather and beautiful lakeside surroundings, the event offered a wonderful opportunity for residents, staff, and volunteers to come together in celebration.

BAIT THE HOOK



Fishing for Freedom was held at Lake Illinois. Lunch was served in the American Legion pavilion on Lake Illinois.



Marine Corps veteran Joseph Follis and his wife, Marcella, pose with the volunteer who helped remove Joseph's catch from the hook.

Residents enjoyed a successful day at Lake Illinois, reeling in 86 fish. Fifer resident Jim Garrison earned bragging rights by catching an impressive 14 fish, the highest total of the day. Jim's fishing skills also helped Team Fifer capture the traveling trophy for the most fish caught by a unit with a total of 27. While residents also managed to catch two turtles, no trophy was awarded for those unexpected catches.



Army veteran Bob Paden enjoyed the event and lunch with volunteers.

To commemorate the day, each participant received a Fishing For Freedom mug as a keepsake to remember the fun, fellowship and great day on the water.

The Quincy Fishing for Freedom Fishing Rodeo began at 9:30 a.m. on May 30 at Lake Illinois on the campus of Quincy Veterans' Home. The event opened with the National Anthem, performed by Emma McCleary, followed by a presentation of the colors by the American Legion Post 37 color guard. Approximately 40 residents participated in the fishing rodeo, receiving support from family members, friends and volunteers.



Navy veteran Bob Scott caught a big one.



100-year-old Marine Corps veteran Charlie Doan enjoyed the event.



Army veteran Ralph Torrance waits for a bite.

BUDDY SYSTEM











The Buddy Program wrapped up another successful year in May with its annual fishing derby at Lake Illinois and picnic lunch in the pavilion.

A heartfelt thank you to the Quincy Service Club for its continued sponsorship of this wonderful program. We also extend our deepest appreciation to Joann Ellerman of St. Dominic School, who started the Buddy Program more than 30 years ago and has faithfully led it ever since. Her dedication and commitment have created lasting friendships and meaningful experiences for our residents and countless students over the years.

Thank you to everyone who helped make this year's Buddy Program another memorable success.

SUNKEN SHIPS



The Quincy Veterans' Home Activity Department can always be counted on to provide residents with fun, innovative and engaging programs that encourage participation and social interaction. Activity staff members BJ Spangler and Rachel Stuckman, with assistance from Jessica Drish of Social Services, brought a life-sized version of the classic game Battleship to residents in the Delta and Echo units. The giant game created an exciting atmosphere filled with friendly competition, teamwork, laughter and plenty of smiles.

FIFER LEAF

The front entrance to Fifer recently received a fresh new look with the installation of new concrete, creating a smoother and safer entrance for residents, visitors and staff. As the concrete was setting, a falling leaf left its mark – a small, unexpected detail that adds a bit of personality to the project. Can you find it? Keep an eye out the next time you visit Fifer.



BAND ON THE RUN





The Nicollet (Minn.) High School Band and Choir Raiders visited Lippincott Hall on March 20 while traveling to a music festival at Universal Studios in Orlando, Fla. Residents enjoyed a special performance by the students, with the band playing Armed Forces March Medley, Stand By Me and Free Bird. The choir delighted the audience with I Hope You Dance, Flashlight from Pitch Perfect 2 and Thank You, Soldiers, earning warm appreciation from everyone in attendance.



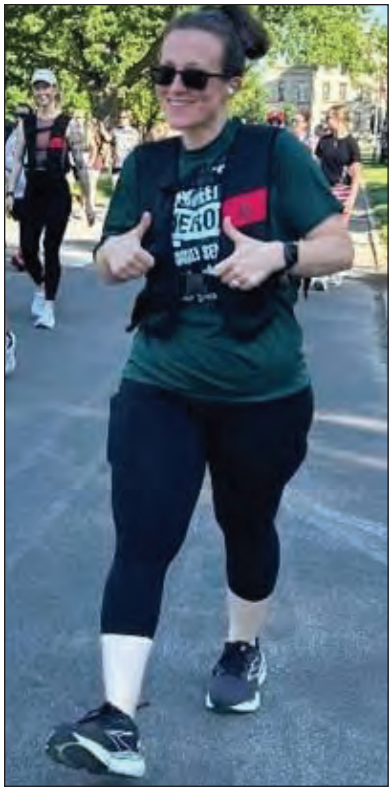
Participants test their strength at the pull-up station during the Murph Challenge.

HERO WORKOUT



IDVA Chief of Staff Jassen Strokosch, IVHQ Adjutant Amanda Bunch and IVHQ Dietary Manager Shawn Bunch are CrossFit fans.

The Murph Challenge and 5K Honor Ruck took place on Memorial Day. Hosted by the Quincy Family YMCA, the event was named in honor of Navy SEAL Lt. Michael P. Murphy, who gave his life in service to our country. The Murph Challenge is a popular Memorial Day tradition for the CrossFit community. Participants chose between the traditional Murph Challenge – a demanding CrossFit workout consisting of a 1-mile run, 100 pull-ups, 200 push-ups, 300 squats and a final 1-mile run – or the 5K Honor Ruck, a 3.1-mile walk or run completed with the option of carrying a weighted rucksack or vest. The event paid tribute to the men and women who have served our nation while supporting the veterans who call the Home their home. All proceeds were donated to benefit the residents of the Illinois Veterans' Home at Quincy. Organizers hope this inaugural Murph Challenge and Honor Ruck will become a Memorial Day tradition.



IVHQ Nursing Supervisor Amanda Tournear gives a thumbs up during the 5K Honor Ruck on the Boulevard.

Librarian Bobbi Mock created a fun and memorable experience for residents with the Nerf Gun Hunting activity in March. Bobbi reached out to Ross Anderson, a friend, avid hunter and Mississippi Valley Hunters and Fishermen Association board member, to create a simulated hunting experience. Bobbi's family loaned a variety of Nerf guns and pine trees to create the environment. Glenn Sanders, president of the Mississippi Valley Hunters and Fishermen Association, provided animal decoys and targets. Residents thoroughly enjoyed the activity. One resident became especially animated while successfully shooting the deer decoy several times. Another enjoyed aiming at the different targets, including knocking the cat out of the tree. A third resident hunted alongside his wife, teasing her about making too much noise and scaring away the animals.



TAKING AIM





From left, Wayne Madson, SAL Commander; Ron Hoffman, National Executive Committeeman; Josh Thielen, IL Department Adjutant; Angie Simmons (front), IDVA Senior Home Administrator; Roy Smith, IL Department Commander; Dan Wiley, National Commander; Pam Ray, National Auxiliary President; Jill Layton, IL Department Auxiliary President; Terry Prince, IDVA Director, Jassen Strokosch, IDVA Chief of Staff; and Chuck Newton, Quincy Home Administrator.

LEGION TOUR

The Quincy Veterans' Home welcomed American Legion National Commander Dan Wiley, Illinois Commander Roy Smith and other American Legion dignitaries on February 10 for a tour of the new domiciliary and skilled care buildings. Executive staff members from the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs and the Quincy Veterans' Home were on hand to lead the tour, provide information about the new facilities and discuss services and care available to residents. The visit offered an opportunity to showcase the Home's newest buildings and to strengthen the partnership between the Quincy Veterans' Home and the American Legion, whose continued support of veterans remains invaluable.



Dignitaries in the lobby of the Quincy Veterans' Home (LTC) building.

LADIES' DAY







Navy veteran Betty Smith had the trip of a lifetime when she joined Great River Honor Flight 82 on June 11. This historic flight was the organization's second all-female veteran flight.

Betty was accompanied by Director of Activities Sara Colgrove, who served as her guardian for the journey. They visited some of the nation's most meaningful memorials – the Vietnam Veterans Memorial ("The Wall"), Lincoln Memorial, Korean War Veterans Memorial, World War II Memorial, Air Force Memorial, Marine Corps War Memorial (Iwo Jima), Women in Military Service for America Memorial, Arlington National Cemetery and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

It was a long and memorable day filled with reflection, gratitude and camaraderie. The experience was even more special when Chaplain Dave Hall and his wife Tammy welcomed Betty and the Honor Flight participants home as they returned to Hannibal, Mo.

Thank you to Great River Honor Flight who made this unforgettable experience possible for Betty and all the veterans honored on the flight.



WINDOW IN TIME

Thank you to the Dorothy Quincy Chapter National Society Daughters of the American Revolution for the Smith Hall window display celebrating America's 250th birthday.

FLOWER POWER



Students from Liberty Schools teamed up for a special community service project on April 23 that brought smiles to the faces of our residents. Thirty kindergarten students, accompanied by one-on-one 8th grade helpers, delivered flower bouquets to residents in Delta, Echo and Fifer. The bouquets were created by 7th grade students using flowers donated by Ruthie B's Florist. The flower deliveries brightened the day of many residents while giving students a meaningful opportunity to serve others and build connections across grade levels and within the community. Thank you to the students, teachers and Ruthie B's Florist for making this wonderful service project possible.

HORSE AROUND



The Mounted Patriots visited campus in April and brightened the faces of veterans everywhere they went. Above, Richard "Flea" Hatfield enjoyed a visit from Susie Weiss without leaving his room. A heartfelt thank you to Darla Pullins, Jennifer Weiss, Susie Weiss and Evie Ajdinovich for sharing your time, compassion and wonderful horses with our campus community.





Schapers residents enjoyed spending time with the Mounted Patriots during their campus visit, getting up close with the horses and sharing special moments with these gentle companions.

PERFECT DAY FOR A PICNIC



The Elks Picnic marked the beginning of picnic season with a fun-filled afternoon on March 25 in Lippincott Hall. Residents enjoyed a picnic lunch featuring grilled brat patties, potato salad, baked beans and refreshing soda and water. The beautiful weather, with temperatures in the 70s, made it the perfect day to gather and celebrate.

Adding to the festivities, the Elks Line Dancers took the stage with an entertaining performance that had the audience smiling and tapping along to the music.

Thank you to the Elks for sponsoring this wonderful event and helping kick off another great season of picnics and fellowship.






AIR FOR


ACTIVITY STAFF



Dietary Managers Shawn Bunch, left, and Darien Burcham, right, work with Ivan Hicks to prepare to serve lunch to the Memorial Day crowd.

REMEMBERING THOSE WHO SERVED



Anna McDonald laid the wreath in memory of her late husband, Charles, and all deceased veterans.



Director of Activities Sara Colgrove and volunteer Janet Franken.

The Memorial Day Program & Family Picnic on May 22 brought together residents, families, staff and volunteers for a day of remembrance, music, great food and fellowship.

A special thank you goes to guest speakers Brig. Gen. Roy Webb and IDVA Director Terry Prince for their Memorial Day messages. Domiciliary resident Anna McDonald performed the wreath laying in honor of her late husband, Charles, an Army veteran and Markword resident. Wonderful music was provided by Steve Bordenkircher and Jodi Myers, whose performances added so much to the celebration.

A memorable moment of the program came during Webb's remarks. He recognized Domiciliary resident Dorothy Decker, whom he met during the 2025 Fishing for Freedom event. After locating Dorothy in the audience, Webb stepped off the stage, crossed the room, presented her with his challenge coin and shared a hug before returning to the podium. He then reflected on the importance of remembering family, friends and all who have served, making the moment especially meaningful for everyone in attendance.

Residents in Hammond Hall and Schapers held separate Memorial Day celebrations. A large tent in the Hammond Hall parking lot provided a comfortable setting for residents and families to enjoy the picnic. Schapers residents gathered with loved ones in their courtyard for a festive time.

The Dietary Department served more than 650 meals with grilled pork chop sandwiches, hot dogs, street corn salad, loaded potato salad, fresh watermelon, red velvet cookies and drinks.

Events like this remind us of what makes our community so special – people coming together to share a meal, honor those who served our country, and enjoy time with family and friends.

Thank you to all who helped organize, prepare, serve, volunteer and attend. Your generosity and teamwork made this Memorial Day celebration one to remember, and we look forward to gathering together again next year.



Brig. Gen. Roy Webb gave his challenge coin to Dorothy Decker during his speech.



Residents enjoyed visiting before the start of the program and throughout the entire event.





Greeter Dale Hilgenbrinck, assisted by Curator Roger Schwengel, lead a school group in the Pledge of Allegiance before entering and touring the museum.

NEW LOGO

As reported in the May 2025 issue of "The Bugle," the All-Wars Museum adopted a new logo designed by Quincy University professor Gary Meacher, husband of Activity Therapist Mia Meacher, in collaboration with his Creative Citizens graphic design class.

The logo was unveiled this spring on updated signage along the Boulevard and above the museum entrance. Combining military symbolism with thoughtful design elements, the logo reflects both the achievements of those who have served and the solemn remembrance of their sacrifice – an ideal representation of the All-Wars Museum's mission.

The museum also welcomed several school groups this spring, providing students with the opportunity to learn about our nation's military history through its extensive collection of artifacts and exhibits. Volunteer museum greeters continue to play an invaluable role by leading tours, sharing historical insights, and answering visitors' questions, helping ensure every guest enjoys a meaningful and educational experience.





American Legion Post 37 member and veteran Les Lair works to place flags at each stone in Sunset Cemetery.

SUNSET FLAGS

Sunset Cemetery was breathtakingly beautiful on Memorial Day, thanks to the dedication of volunteers, staff and residents who came together to honor our nation's veterans. In the days leading up to Memorial Day, volunteers worked together to place an American flag at each of the more than 8,200 grave markers throughout the cemetery. Although rain fell during the flag placement, it did little to dampen the volunteers' spirits.

After Memorial Day, Domiciliary residents Anna McDonald and Judy and Danny Mittelberg joined fellow volunteers to remove the flags. Despite the hot and muggy weather, they worked alongside the team until the task was completed in about an hour. Their willingness to serve reflects the community spirit and respect shown each year to those laid to rest at Sunset Cemetery.

To prepare for future needs, a new two--acre section near the shelter was removed from agricultural production and seeded this spring. The area will become future cemetery Divisions 26 and 27 as Divisions 24 and 25 near capacity, ensuring space is available to serve families for years to come.





At left, Isaiah Aschemann and his daughter, Charlie Brocksmith, place flags on the graves at Sunset Cemetery. Isaiah is an RN at Hammond Hall and Charlie belongs to a local cub scout unit.

NEXT CHAPTER



Kathy Wright, VNAC at Hammond Hall, retired May 1 with 19 years at IVHQ. Pictured above are Hammond Hall Nursing Supervisor Jonita Brunier, Kathy Wright, Director of Nursing Tracy Alexander and Administrator Chuck Newton.

Ivan Hicks retired June 1 after serving 34 years in the Dietary department. Pictured below left, Director Terry Prince presents Ivan Hicks with a challenge coin in recognition of Ivan's 34 years of dedicated service to the Quincy Dietary Department.

Steve Lindsey retired July 1. Steve worked at IVHQ for 14 years, starting as a VNAC and then as the property and supply clerk. Pictured below right, Steve Lindsey accepts a retirement certificate from Administrator Chuck Newton.







Above from left, Director of Nursing Tracy Alexander, Tracy Ford, John Goehl and Tori Goehl Dameron after the presentation of the Patty Goehl Award for Excellence in Nursing. Below, Tracy Ford poses with her congratulatory cake.

FORD TOUGH



Tracy Ford received the 2026 Patty Goehl Award for Excellence in Nursing and was named May Employee of the Month in a presentation during Nursing Week festivities in Smith Hall. She was selected based on four nomination letters, each one highlighting consistent demonstration of the compassion, dedication and professionalism that define exceptional nursing care. The impact she makes is felt not only through her actions but in the meaningful differences she makes every day at IVHQ.

Tracy is known for her positive attitude and for treating every resident with kindness, respect and concern. She understands their needs and values each individual. Her interactions with colleagues reflect that same spirit. She is considerate, supportive and always willing to lend a helping hand. She fosters teamwork, offers encouragement and leads by example. Tracy has been a valuable member of the IVHQ team since 2015. She has served with distinction as a charge nurse and is a dedicated patient advocate, eventually discovering her passion. As a wound care specialist, she demonstrates exceptional clinical expertise, a commitment to evidence-based practice and a focus on resident-centered outcomes.

Tracy's dedication, leadership and compassion set the standard for excellence in nursing. We are incredibly proud to have her as part of the IVHQ nursing team. Congratulations to Tracy Ford!

CARE PACKAGE



Tara Smith receives the VNAC of the Year Award, above, from Administrator Chuck Newton. Below, Fifer's Dana Herring congratulates Smith.



Congratulations to Tara Smith, a Veteran Nursing Assistant Certified (VNAC) in the Fifer Unit, on being named VNAC of the Year and June Employee of the Month. Tara was recognized during an early morning presentation in the Fifer dining room.

As noted in her nomination, Tara is an outstanding, dedicated and compassionate caregiver who goes above and beyond to ensure every resident is treated with dignity, respect and care. She is attentive to residents' needs and takes time to build meaningful relationships that enhance their comfort and well-being.

Tara's positive attitude, strong work ethic and willingness to support both residents and co-workers make her invaluable. Whether stepping in to help during busy times or maintaining a calm, professional demeanor in challenging situations, she exemplifies excellence in resident care every day. Congratulations, Tara, on this well-deserved recognition!

WHAT'S ON TAP

- September 19 – Walk to End Alzheimer's
- October 2 – Advisory Council meeting
- October 2-3 – Illinois State VFW Auxiliary meeting at Lippincott
- October 19 – 140th Founder's Day, program in Lippincott
- October 25 – Tri-State Warrior Run
- November 7 – Quincy Veterans Day Parade in downtown Quincy & IVHQ campus
- November 11 – Veterans Day observance and program at Lippincott
- November 25 – All-Wars Museum closes for the season
- December TBD – Resident & Family Christmas Party

TAKE THE FIFTH



For generations, the Fifth Street entrance has welcomed veterans, families, employees and visitors to the Quincy Veterans' Home. Beneath its canopy of trees, the road leads to a place rich in history, service and tradition.

NURSES POWER



Nursing supervisors



National Nurses Week was celebrated May 6–12 with a luncheon in Smith Hall honoring our nursing staff, sponsored by the Quincy Local Illinois Nurses Association. This year's theme, "The Power of Nurses," was a fitting tribute to the dedication and compassionate care our outstanding IVHQ nursing team provides every day.

At left, Paula Goodwin, Reece Harmon and Maddie Jezierski enjoy a sip from their creative drinkware.



Fifer nurses

"We're Unbelievable" was the theme of National Nursing Assistant Week, celebrated June 11–17 with fun dress-up days and special activities to recognize and celebrate our team.



Hammond Hall nurses



One of the special days during VNAC week was "drink from anything but a cup." Above, Sylvia Mowen's Mountain Dew was a fitting drink for the vessel.



Delta and Echo nurses



Markword 2 nurses



Schapers nurses



Fifer VNACs



Markword 2 VNACs



Schapers VNACs



Delta and Echo VNAC



Hammond Hall VNACs

SNOW OR SUN





Sunset Cemetery is beautiful in every season, whether blanketed in snow during the winter months or covered in flags honoring the more than 8,200 men and women laid to rest there.





Holidays are always a cause for celebration, and staff often have just as much fun as residents! Activity staff hosted a festive St. Patrick's Day party in Fifer, top, while staff in Markword gathered for a little St. Patty's Day fun and a group photo, bottom.

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BLUE SKIES SMILIN' AT ME



On a beautiful summer day, Lake Illinois reflects the natural beauty and peaceful surroundings of the Illinois Veterans' Home campus.

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