

EXPEDITED HOUSING DURING A PANDEMIC

U.S. Army Veteran Kenneth Piper was living with a group of Veterans as part of a community homeless program when the COVID-19 pandemic struck. Given the circumstances, the Butler VA's homeless team worked quickly to find a more permanent, secluded housing option to keep him safe.

Veterans experiencing or at risk for homelessness are particularly vulnerable to COVID-19 because of limited access to health care, pre-existing conditions, and lack of access to basic infection prevention and control methods. VA is committed to taking every possible precaution to protect the health and safety of these Veterans.

"A HUD-VASH voucher was expedited for me, and the landlord let me move into a sleeping room until a one-bedroom apartment became available," shared Kenneth. "Now, I'm moved into my apartment and love it!"

HUD-VASH, a collaborative program between HUD and VA, combines HUD housing vouchers with VA supportive services to help Veterans who are homeless

find and sustain permanent housing. In addition to HUD-VASH, VA's specialized programs for homeless Veterans serve hundreds of thousands of homeless and at-risk Veterans each year. Independently and in collaboration with federal and community partners, VA programs

provide Veterans with housing solutions, employment opportunities, health care, justice- and reentry-related services, and more. Learn more about these programs at www.va.gov/homeless/for_homeless_veterans.asp.

"The Butler VA team also delivered an air conditioner for me to help with my chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), and has been very helpful," Kenneth added. VA is committed to protecting the health and safety of the nation's most vulnerable Veterans—those who lack stable housing. Veterans who are homeless or at risk of homelessness should reach out to the Butler VA's homeless program. Call 1-800-362-

8262, press "0" for the operator, and ask to speak to a member of the Homeless Team. More information is available at www.butler.va.gov/services/homeless/index.asp.



“A HUD-VASH voucher was expedited for me... [The Butler VA team] has been very helpful.”

- Kenneth Piper, U.S. Army Veteran



Choose VA

The Butler VA wants all Veterans to know what choices are available to them, and the full range of health care services and programs they have access to when they ChooseVA. Watch videos, listen to Vets and employees, and discover why Veterans ChooseVA: www.choose.va.gov



MAKE THE CALL

Access VA's services for homeless and at-risk Veterans, available 24/7: **Dial 1-877-4AID-VET (1-877-424-3838)**



BUTLER VA SURPASSES 5,000 VIDEO VISITS

The COVID-19 pandemic has dramatically altered the daily lives of Veterans across the country. This includes how they are connecting with their VA health care teams. VA recently announced that video telehealth appointments to Veterans' homes increased over 1000%, as Veterans increasingly chose virtual care through VA Video Connect during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In addition to VVC, Veterans also are increasingly using VA technologies such as My HealtheVet, VA's online health portal, and VA's Mobile App Store.

- **VA Video Connect** allows Veterans and their caregivers to meet virtually with their VA care teams on any computer, tablet, or mobile device with an internet connection.
- VA's online patient portal, **My HealtheVet**, lets Veterans request VA prescription refills, review their medical records, and connect directly with their health care providers through secure online messages.
- Using **VA's Mobile App Store**, Veterans can download apps that offer assistance with pain management, self-care reminders, and more.

The goal of these services is to make VA the health care system of choice for Veterans, and provide services that make access to care more convenient. Now with COVID-19 necessitating increased precautions for in-person interaction, the services provided by Connected Care are more popular than ever. While not all care can be delivered remotely, all care can at least start with a virtual discussion. Veterans, talk with your Butler VA care provider to learn what connected services are available, or visit www.connectedcare.va.gov for more information.



STAYING COOL IN YOUR MASK

This summer is not only bringing some hot temperatures, but also the continued need to wear face coverings in public. If you have trouble breathing, or you overheat wearing your mask in warm weather, think of your mask like you think of the rest of your clothing. Lighter colors reflect heat rather than absorb it, keeping you cooler. Different fabrics have differing levels of sweat absorption, breathability and thickness. Do your research or ask your doctor for more tips to help you enjoy your summer while staying COVID-safe.

BE ACTIVE YOUR WAY

You can be active your way daily by choosing activities that are best for you and your lifestyle. Start at a level that is comfortable for you.

Increase your activity gradually and safely. Find out more about getting started, for example how to set goals, how to track your progress, and how to continue with physical activity that will help you feel great and also benefit your health by visiting www.myhealth.va.gov.

You also can tune-in weekly on the Butler VA's Facebook page for a Facebook-Live Fitness Class. Join us every Monday at www.facebook.com/VAButlerPA/ #NeverMissAMonday

SALUTE YOU

Thank you for your service
ROBERT "BUCK" RODGERS
U.S. Army Veteran



1940 to 1945
28th Division/
112th Regiment
Infantry and Anti-Tank
Company

Purple Heart and Bronze
Star Recipient

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration
Butler VA Health Care System



353 north duffy road . butler pa 16001

Let us "Salute You!" Contact the Butler VA Public Affairs Office for more information.



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