



EMPLOYEE VETERAN SPOTLIGHT: Christine Polisensky is a trauma certified nurse specialist, CNOR-certified specialist in the operating room at the Phoenix VA. She has been in the Air Force Reserve for more than 20 years and is currently a lieutenant colonel at the 944th Air Staging Transfer Unit, where she helps make sure patients are stable and ready to fly. A few of her military titles include chief nurse, assistant chief nurse, chief of pharmacy and chief of vascular/GYN services. Her military awards include the Air Force Meritorious Service Medal, three Air Force Commendation Medals, five Air Force Achievement Medals, the Military Service Volunteer Medal, the Humanitarian

Medal for service in Jamaica and the Guam Commendation Medal. Lieutenant Col. Polisensky has been with the Phoenix VA for more than 18 years, and also works as the transplant coordinator. She said she loves serving Veterans and giving back. "I love that I get to interact with Veterans. I grew up as an Air Force brat and have remained true to the military service as my gift giving back."

SALLY LOUISE TOMPKINS AWARD: The 2013 winners are of the Sally Louise Tompkins Award are James Brezinski, RN and Cynthia DeCesare, RN. The award was presented by the Sons of Confederate Veterans (SCV). Sally Louise Tompkins served as a nurse in Richmond, Va., during the Civil War years. Under her supervision, although little was known about the cause of infections, her insistence on cleanliness is said to have been a major key to achieving the lowest mortality rate of any military hospital, Union or Confederate, during the Civil War. The Phoenix VA Healthcare System honored two nurses with the Sally Louise Tompkins Award for 2013. The award honors overall excellence embodying dedication, innovation and commitment to enhance the care of patients. In the top photo, from left, are Sharon Helman, Lori Steadman (UDC), Nancy Claflin, Lynn Crawford (SCV), and James Brezinski.



The bottom photo includes, from left, Sharon Helman, Lori Steadman (UDC), Nancy Claflin, Lynn Crawford, and Cheryl Roberts, who accepted the award for Cynthia DeCesare.

EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE WORKBOOK: *From HRMS* – As the end of the fiscal year approaches, employees should prepare a self-assessment. While the self-assessment is voluntary, it is a critical source of employee performance information and can contribute to improved communication between supervisors and employees. A self-assessment will help to provide your supervisor with a clear picture of your performance results and contributions. The self-assessment should be submitted to the immediate supervisor within 10 working days after the end of the appraisal cycle (Oct. 14, 2013). Please take the time to review [Managing Performance: An Employee Workbook and Assistance Tool](#). In this workbook, employees will find a worksheet and guidelines for writing a self-assessment.

IMEDCONSENT™ FOR RESEARCH: The PVAHCS is proposing to transform VA research by using iMedConsent™ for Research Consents. Why vote? iMedConsent™ for Research will 1) enhance Veteran safety (like clinical iMedConsent™ documents, the research Informed consent will be available to clinicians immediately upon signature), 2) eliminate the potential for Privacy and Information Security breaches (no more sending ICF's via interoffice mail for scanning), 3) conserve scarce resources (PI and Staff time copying, sending to scanning, sending to pharmacy, etc., administrative time fixing mistakes, decrease or eliminate the need for paper consents thus saving on paper, ink, etc.), and 4) eliminate the need to report informed consent breaches or errors to Central Office, ORO, OHRP, ORD etc.- errors will be eliminated using this technology.

Your vote is critical and takes less than 2 minutes. To vote, click [Vote for iMedConsent™ for Research](#) and then click the "I agree" line on the top of the page. If you haven't already registered with IdeaScale you will be prompted to register. This will take less than one minute. (If you have already used IdeaScale you will be prompted to enter your VA email and IdeaScale password.) There is also a place to add comments and the iMedConsent™ team encourages people to add a comment supporting this initiative. The iMedConsent™ for Research Initiative Team thanks you for helping with this transformation.

I-SCREAM, YOU SCREAM: We all scream for ice cream! PVAHCS is celebrating our staff again with an ice cream social! There will be the great music from Sounds at Work and three different ice cream selections from ice cream sandwiches to cones! The event will be from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Aug. 22 outside the new PMRS Clinic on the Jade/Opal Patio. Thank you all who serve our nation's heroes every day! Please call Jennifer Russoniello at ext. 6573 with any questions.

FEDS FEED FAMILIES: From Tricia Huss, campaign manager: Can you believe we are two-thirds of the way through our annual Feds Feed Families campaign and once again we are number one! Our local Phoenix VA family has done a tremendous job of surpassing our overall facility goal of 20,000 pounds – our official number reported to OPM July 31 was 24,187 pounds! A very special thanks to Kimberly Cork, our facility water drive coordinator, as much of our weight has come from water. Be on the lookout for our national "one can, one day" event to be held Aug. 15. We strongly encourage every employee to simply bring one can to work. Just one can will make a difference in someone's life. Our new goal as a facility is to break last year's impressive record of

29,000 pounds by reaching 35,000 pounds! Again, our last collection day is Aug. 27. This may seem like a push, but I believe we will make it happen. There have been some friendly competitions throughout the facility and we would love to hear what your units are doing.

WELLNESS IS NOW! August is National Immunization Awareness Month and the Wellness is Now program has many offerings for employees. [Check out this PDF to learn more!](#)

QUALITY EXPO UPDATE: The date changed for the PVAHCS Quality Expo – the event will now be Sept. 11. This gives everyone extra time to submit projects. Many thanks to those who have already submitted their projects. [Applications can still be submitted online.](#) Contact Page Kuhl (ext. 2870), Jill Friend (ext. 7785) or Dianne Bruns (ext. 6968) with questions or for more information. Let's show the world all the great projects everyone has been working on!

CATHOLIC MASS: The Catholic Holy Day Mass on for the Feast of the Assumption will be celebrated at 11 a.m., Aug. 15 in the PVAHCS Chapel.

FRYBREAD SALE: The Native American Program is hosting a Frybread sale as part of their efforts to raise funds for Adapt-A-Vet. The sale will be from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Aug. 16, on the Jade/Opal patio next to the new PRMS clinic. Call Virgin James, Native American Program Manager, at ext. 7007 or Louise Begay at ext. 6401. Please see the attached flier for more information.

VOLUNTARY LEAVE DONATIONS: The following individuals are on our open VLTP program recipient list. Please consider donating leave to help those in need.

- Connie Chan, 08/16/13
- Dana Biehler, 8/17/13
- Mary Sullivan, 8/23/13
- Andrew Griffith, 8/28/13
- Chris Hollingsworth, 9/6/13
- Heidi Van Skyhock-Picou, 10/1/13
- Donna Low, 12/13/13
- Roger McKee, 3/4/14
- Miriam Walton, 3/17/14
- Stacia Wenckus, 1/31/14

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Please send submissions for the Hayden Hotline or PA Update to prphoenix@va.gov. For questions, please contact PVAHCS Acting Public Affairs Officer Paul Coupaud at paul.coupaud@va.gov or ext. 2667.

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