

VETERANS UPDATE

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FOREVER GI BILL SIGNED INTO LAW



President Donald Trump signed the “Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act,” popularly known as the “Forever GI Bill,” into law in August.

The new law will bring significant

changes to Veterans’ education benefits, allowing more Veterans to use the GI Bill and more time to use it. Immediate changes include eliminating the 15-year time limitation for using Post-9/11 GI Bill

benefits for Veterans who left active duty on or after Jan. 1, 2013 and qualifying dependents.

For more details on the changes, visit <https://benefits.va.gov/gibill/forevergibill.asp>.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sept. 12, 8 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Mental Health Summit, 5th floor auditorium, main hospital building. Discussing Veterans’ mental health needs.

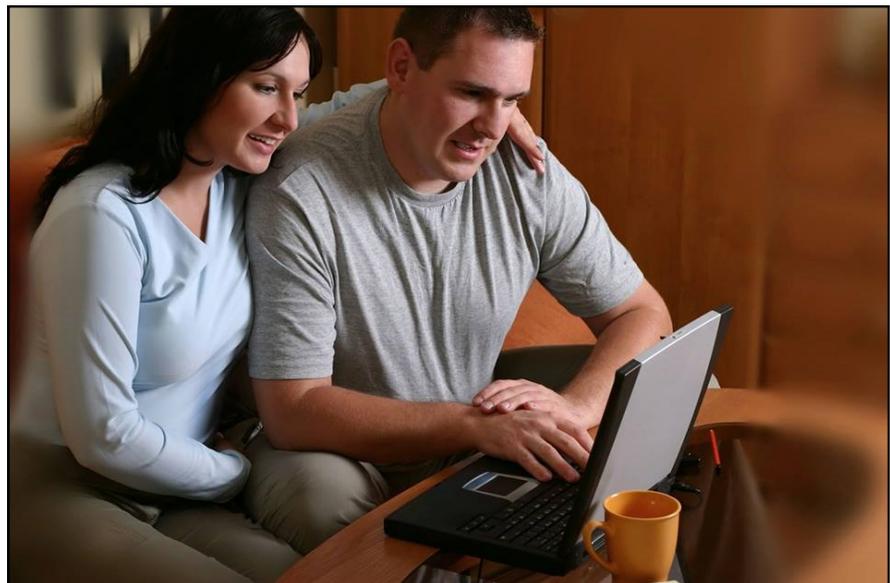
Sept. 15-17, Stand-Down Weekend with Operation Stand-Down Rhode Island, Diamond Hill State Park, Cumberland, R.I. Information for homeless and at-risk Veterans on available services from OSDRI, PVAMC and other partners. Call 401-383-4730 for more information.

RESOURCES FOR CAREGIVERS JUST A PHONE CALL AWAY

VA’s Caregiver Support Line is a great resource for any caregiver of a Veteran.

Wife or husband, mother or father, sister or brother, daughter or son, or loving family member or friend – if you care for a Veteran, you need support, too! Help is a phone call away at 1-855-260-3274. Caring, licensed professionals can provide information about available programs, access services through VA, and connect you with a local coordinator.

For more information visit https://www.caregiver.va.gov/help_landing.asp



NEW HEALTH & WELLNESS CENTER



A Tai Chi class exercises in the new Integrative Health and Wellness Center at the Providence VA Medical Center Friday, June 16, 2017. The class was the first to use the new center, which officially opened during a ceremony July 6, 2017. (Providence VA Medical Center photo by Winfield Danielson)

The Providence VA Medical Center opened a new Integrative Health and Wellness Center July 6, 2017.

"The new center provides alternative therapies and other wellness services to enhance Veterans' overall health and wellbeing," said Stephanie Proske, Patient Experience Officer at the Providence VAMC, and co-director of the center. "It exemplifies our commitment to provide the patient-centered care Veterans have earned through their service."

Located in room 243C, on the second floor of the Providence VAMC's main hospital building at 830 Chalkstone Ave., the center's offerings include Tai Chi, Yoga, mindfulness meditation and monthly workshops on integrative health and nutrition.

There is also a private room where Reiki, healing touch, group acupuncture, and massage therapy will be available.

The new wellness center came

to be after a year of pulling resources together. The Providence location is one of only a handful of VA hospitals offering such centers nationally, but other VA medical centers are considering similar facilities.

"Evidence shows that patients can benefit from taking care of both their minds and bodies, what we call 'Mind-Body wellness,'" said Dr. Marjorie Crozier, a psychologist at the Providence VA Medical Center, and the center's other co-director. "The Integrative Health and Wellness Center helps Veterans leverage body wellness to enhance mental health recovery, and leverage mental wellness to enhance physical recovery, depending on their needs."

The center is open to all Veterans enrolled at the Providence VAMC, but they must attend an orientation and sign up for classes in advance. Interested Veterans can call the center at (401) 457-3082 or ask their Primary Care provider for a referral.



Providence VA Medical Center

830 Chalkstone Ave
Providence, RI 02908
401-273-7100

Veteran's Crisis Line:
800-273-8255 press 1

Patient Call Center (PCC):
401-457-3336

Pharmacy Call Center:
866-400-1241

Community Care /
Veteran's Choice Office
401-273-7100 ext. 3015

Account Balances:
401-457-3344

Providence VBA Regional Office
401-273-7100 ext. 3107

Website:
www.providence.va.gov

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