

What's News?

The National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans will be observed by the Wilkes-Barre Veterans Administration Medical Center beginning with an Open House to be held Sunday, Feb. 7, from 1 to 5 p.m.

The National Salute is designed to inspire citizens to visit and help lift the spirits of the hundreds of patients at the VA Medical Center.

Veterans service and community organizations have scheduled games, movies, and ward parties to be held on a daily basis from February 8 to 14. Valentines made by Campfire Girls will be distributed to all patients at the Wilkes-Barre VA Medical Center and other VA medical facilities nationwide.

Of special interest to visitors will be information booths where VA staff members will discuss medical benefits, take blood pressures, distribute literature concerning smoking, stress, and obesity and discuss nursing and allied fields of medical services.

The VA Medical Center can provide hospital care for medical, surgical, and psychiatric conditions if the veteran is eligible and the need for such care is determined by VA examining physicians.

Any veteran desiring information about medical services available and their eligibility may contact the VA Medical Center Medical Administration Service by calling (717) 824-3521 or visiting the Veterans Benefits Information Booth at the Open House on February 7. Veterans will receive comprehensive, compassionate, and considerate medical attention at the center. Veterans are urged to take full advantage of the medical benefits that they have earned in the service of their country.

It is important for the people in the Wilkes-Barre area to know when they should get in touch with Social Security, Thomas Lavelle, Social Security manager in Wilkes-Barre, said recently.

Not knowing when to contact Social Security could mean lost benefits which could never be recovered, Lavelle said.

A person should contact Social Security:
-Before getting his or her first job because a Social Security number is required. A person should apply for a number at least two weeks before the number is needed.

-After a death in the family to see if survivor benefits can be paid.
-When someone in the family is disabled to find out if disability benefits can be paid.

-At retirement - at age 65 for full rate benefits, or as early as 62 for reduced benefits.

A person should sign up for Medicare 2 or 3 months before 65 even if there are no retirement plans.

-Anytime a person has a question about Social Security. When a person calls Social Security, the people there can tell:

-How much work credit is needed to be insured for benefits.
-Who can get benefits.

-How to replace a lost Social Security or Medicare card.
-How to get a free statement of earnings reported to the person's Social Security record.

-What documents a person needs when applying for benefits.
A person can also start applying for benefits by telephone. Most Social Security business can be handled by telephone. Just call the Wilkes-Barre Social Security office at 826-6371. The office is located at Room 2227, Penn Place, 20 N. Pennsylvania Avenue.

The Veterans Administration has announced a 4.2 percent cost-of-living increase in VA disability compensation payments.

Administrator of Veterans Affairs Thomas K. Turnage said, "This increase will benefit some 2.2 million veterans and their dependents."

The rate boost, which will be reflected in VA checks issued March 1, 1988, resulted from legislation recently signed by President Reagan. The March check will include the new amount, plus increases retroactive to Dec. 1, 1987.

The rate adjustment means an increase from \$1,355 to \$1,411 per month for a single veteran with a service-connected disability rated at 100 percent. The new amounts for other disability ratings are: 90 percent, \$849; 80 percent, \$754; 70 percent, \$652; 60 percent, \$516; 50 percent, \$410; 40 percent, \$289; 30 percent, \$202; 20 percent, \$133; and 10 percent, \$71.

In addition to disability compensation, the 4.2 percent cost-of-living increase applies to Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) paid to spouses and children of service personnel who died on active duty and of veterans who died from service-connected illnesses or injuries.

Vet's Week proclaimed

The week of February 7 to 12 has been proclaimed "National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans". Veterans as patients in our Veterans' hospitals look forward to being visited.

Special events, beginning with an Open House, Sunday, Feb. 7, from 1 to 5 p.m., have been planned by veterans' groups and volunteers daily until February 12. The public is invited to attend the Open House and tour the facilities.

There are hundreds of veterans now patients at the Wilkes-Barre Veterans Administration Medical Center.



FEBRUARY IS DENTAL HEALTH MONTH — In recognition of February as National Children's Dental Health Month, a banner which was donated by Benco Dental Supply Company will be displayed on Public Square. Shown with the banner are members of the Luzerne County Dental Society, the Auxiliary to the Luzerne County Dental Society, the Luzerne Dental Hygienists' Association and a representative of Benco Dental Supply Company. From left, to right, Dr. John Konicki, Forty Fort; Don Sullivan, Benco, Wilkes-Barre; Dr. Anthony Baloga, Exeter; Mrs. Bonnie Dombroski, Dallas; Ms. Jean Marie Berneski, Kingston; Ms. Julie Klaczany, Nanticoke; Mrs. Barbara Wende, Gouldsboro; Dr. Michael Callahan, Shavertown; Mrs. Tammy McMahon, Shavertown, holding her son Patrick while another son, Brian, stands in front of the banner.

Programs to promote healthy teeth

The local dental auxiliary is promoting Dental Health Month with many activities. Some of the programs to watch for are:

February 13, 1988 WVIA-TV 44 will have some representatives from the Lackawanna Dental

Society on "Call the Doctor" Wexmar, pedodontist. from 9 until 10 in the morning.

February 14, 1988 WBRE-TV 28 will have as their guests on "Crossfire" Dr. George Nahas, orthodontist and Dr. Ross

1988 Awards application now available

Persons wishing to apply for the 1988 Governor's Awards for Excellence in the Arts, Humanities and Sciences should do so by February 15. One award will be given in each of the following three categories:

The arts: the creative and performing arts in such disciplines as crafts, dance, literature, media arts, music theatre and the visual arts.

The humanities: The study of language, linguistics, literature, history, jurisprudence, philosophy, archaeology, comparative religion, ethics; the history, criticism and theory of the arts; and those aspects of the social sciences which have humanistic content.

The sciences: the systemized knowledge derived from observation, study and experiment in those disciplines representing both physical and natural sciences, and the translation of that knowledge into technological applications by the discipline of engineering.

Applications for these awards can be obtained by calling or writing: Sondra Myers, Cultural Advisor to the Governor, Governor's Awards, Box 1026, Harrisburg, PA 17108-1026, (717) 783-5281.

Event begins



ROBERT A. RODERICK
Robert A. Roderick of Lehman will serve as the First

Vice Chairperson of the Community Phase of the 1988 Campaign for King's, the annual fund raising event for King's.

The senior vice president, retail lending administrator of First Eastern Bank, National Association (N.A.), Roderick will be in charge of conducting regional campaign efforts in communities throughout north-eastern Pennsylvania. He, along with Chairperson Marilyn K. Snyder and six other vice chairpersons, will supervise nearly 250 volunteers in an effort to reach the Community Phase pledge goal of \$250,000. The Campaign will begin February 10.

A 1975 King's graduate, Roderick was a vice chairperson in last year's Campaign for King's. A member of Trinity United Presbyterian Church in Dallas, Roderick and his wife Helen have two children Robert and Ryan.

Seat belts save lives

Did you know that the number one killer of children in the United States is the trauma they suffer as passengers in motor vehicle crashes? Did you also know that the correct use of child safety seat is over 70 percent effective in preventing these senseless deaths and 67 percent effective in reducing the need for hospitalization? Tragically, less than half of the nation's young children are properly protected in their car safety seats.

February 7-13 is "National Child Passenger Safety Awareness Week". The Valley Automobile Club has joined together this week with local police, safety advocates and insurance companies to call on adult motorists to take heed to the timely reminder to "Be a Valentine for Life: Buckle-Up Your Family".

Parents and other drivers with children must be certain that the child safety seat is installed properly and used correctly every time the child travels in a motor vehicle. Carefully review the safety seat manufacturer's instructions on correct installation and use. There are many different types of child safety seats available to the consumer, and each has specific instructions.

It is equally important that both children and adult automobile passengers are protected. Not only is protecting our child passengers the safe and smart thing to do, but it is also the law. Every state has now enacted laws requiring young children to ride in safety seats. And 31 states and the District of Columbia have safety belt laws for adults.

Children depend on us for almost every aspect of their day to day living. This Valentine's Day should serve as a reminder of our responsibility to protect that which is most important - their lives.

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