

## MEMORIAL DAY PARADE CEREMONY

**V**A Connecticut and the town of Newington co-hosted the annual Memorial Day Parade Ceremony on May 28 in the Red, White and Blue Rooms at the Newington campus.

The program, presided by **Gloria Jorel**, Chief of Voluntary Service, featured remarks by VA Connecticut Associate Director **Karen Waghorn**, U.S. Congressman John Larson (D-1st), Newington Mayor Thomas McBride and Parade Grand Marshall and Vietnam veteran Michael J. Fox.

Music was performed by the Newington High School Music Ensemble and “Fiddles and Flutes” from the Sunset Ridge East Hartford School.

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After the ceremony, WWII Navy veteran Vincent Trigila (center) posed for a photograph with family members and special guests. Left to right (front row): Son-in-law **Jim Deschenes** (FMS), Mr. Trigila, and U.S. Congressman John Larson (D-1st). Back row: Associate Director **Karen Waghorn**, Mayor of Newington Thomas McBride and daughter, Angela Deschenes.

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## Events

### “MOVE”

Managing Overweight/Obesity  
for Veterans Everywhere  
Monday, June 7  
(Kick-Off)

### Rocky Hill Parade

Saturday, June 12  
Rocky Hill State Veterans Home



For more information on these and other events please see **Good Morning VA Connecticut**.

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## SHINING STAR AWARD RECIPIENTS...

The following VA Connecticut employees were recent recipients of the Shining Star Award. They are recognized for exceptional courtesy to fellow employees, patients and visitors. They have demonstrated enthusiasm and a willingness to “go the extra mile.”

### Newington Campus

*Eihab Hassanein, Phyliss Carlson, Cindy Yaconiello, Sergio Martinez, Pamela Moran, Donna Yopp, Margaret Guertin, Rolane Talleos, Evelyn Coughlin, Laura Watkins, James Murphy, Patricia Gauthier, Grace Peterson, Tammie Pucci, Barbara Derosier*

### West Haven Campus

*Nancy Merrill-Klatt, Leroy Shields, Lucia Payne, Joanne Falcone, Cathy Popp, Ardie Gooch, Cathy Hmurcik, Raymond Knox, Michele Avery, Yvonne Vitela, Robert Russo, Robert Keogh, Richard Marottoli, Kristen Harvey, Paul Mulinski, Kelly Finton, Annette Edwards, Carolyn Coleman, Iris Teasley, Evelyn Poole, Jeannette Ellison, Debra Finelli, Laurie Wingard, Shaynise Rose, William Conroy, Joe Lomena, Kim McGowan, Thomas Halligan*



### Baby Basket Donation

Newington staff collected and donated baby items to spouses of deployed members of the Connecticut Air National Guard 118<sup>th</sup> Medical Battalion based at the Newington campus. On May 19, the baskets were delivered to (left) Nancy Trouern-Tend with five-month-old Jennifer and son Christopher and Tracy Strickland with three-month-old Nicole. Sgt. Geanabelle Bermudez, 118<sup>th</sup> Med. Bn. Family Assistance Coordinator and **Joe Canzanella**, Voluntary Service, attended the presentation.



VISN 1 Network Director **Dr. Jeannette Chirico-Post** presented **Charles Lee** (HR) with an award for his work as VISN 1 Workman's Compensation Program Coordinator. The award was presented at a Town Hall Meeting on June 2 in the Donaldson Education Center at the West Haven campus.

in the **NEWS...**



The **West Haven Clinical Epidemiology Research Center (CERC)** contributed recently to an ongoing debate regarding the future of health care research, by publishing a commentary in the *Lancet*, a prestigious European medical journal. Drs. **John Concato** (Director of the CERC) and **Ralph Horwitz** (Dean at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine) co-wrote the article (*Lancet*; Volume 363; May 22, 2004; pages 1660-1661) based on their previous work involving methods of patient-oriented research (i.e., research involving patients, rather than experiments done in the laboratory). The article discusses problems with current approaches for assessing the quality of "evidence" generated by different types of study design used in patient-oriented research, and proposes a new approach that focuses more on patient preferences as well as judgments and decisions made by clinicians.

The Rehabilitation Strategic Health Care Group in the Office of Patient Care Services is pleased to announce the appointment of **Charles H. Crawford** as the National Program Director of Blind Rehabilitation Service. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs approved the appointment of Mr. Crawford as the new National Program Director on May 24, 2004. Mr. Crawford assumed his new position on June 1, 2004.

The House Veterans Affairs Committee (HVAC) Subcommittee on Health will host a congressional field hearing on June 7 at the Newington campus. The purpose of the hearing will be to highlight the "Connecticut model" of VA healthcare delivery. Congressman Rob Simmons (R-2<sup>nd</sup>) chairman of the Subcommittee on Health will chair the proceedings. **Roger Johnson**, VA Connecticut Director, **Jeannette Chirico-Post, M.D.**, VA New England Healthcare System Director, **Ricardo Randle**, VA Regional Hartford Director and **Karin T. Thompson, APRN, BC**, President AFGE Local 2138 are all scheduled to testify at the hearing which will be in the Red, White and Blue Rooms.

## **SPIRIT ONLINE**

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