

The Salisbury Bulletin

W.G. (Bill) Hefner VA Medical Center, Salisbury, NC – February 2014

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Department of Veterans Affairs, Federal, State and local officials break ground in front of the future site of the Kernersville VA Health Care Center January 24. Once complete, the Kernersville HCC will provide significantly expanded outpatient services over the current Winston-Salem Community-Based Outpatient Clinic and is expected to serve more than 30,000 Veterans annually as part of the Salisbury VA Medical Center's health care system.

Groundbreaking complete for Kernersville Health Care Center

By Michael Maddox

Department of Veterans Affairs, local government and contracting officials ceremoniously kicked off the construction of the Kernersville Health Care Center (HCC) during a groundbreaking ceremony Jan. 24.

Hundreds braved the chilly temperatures to turn out for the ceremony, which took place across from the Kernersville Medical Center, located at 1750 Kernersville Medical Parkway in Kernersville, N.C.

Once completed, the new Health Care Center will serve Veterans who currently receive care through the Winston-Salem Community-Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC), as well as Veterans in the Forsyth County area. Much like the Winston-Salem CBOC, the Kernersville HCC will only provide outpatient services, but with a significantly increased capacity for expansion of services in the future. The construction of the Kernersville

Health Care Center is yet another example of VA's commitment to providing the best care to North Carolina Veterans, said VA Mid-Atlantic Health Care Network Director Daniel F. Hoffmann.

"The VA has been in a very consistent and aggressive mode of operation to update our facilities so that we can offer state of the art medical care, and this is a giant step forward for us to offer outpatient care to well over 30,000 Veterans in this area," said Hoffmann. "The facilities that we have now have served us well for 15 plus years in the Winston-Salem area, but we've just about outgrown that capacity. We haven't been able to offer the full line of multispecialty services that we really wanted for this area, and that's what this facility will do. It will consolidate everything we currently have and then add to it."

Hoffmann added that demographics played a key role in choosing the loca-

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tion of the HCC.

“Kernersville was a geographic center for Veterans to the east, west, north and south, and it’s in a very good location in relation to roadways and access,” he said.

Salisbury VA Medical Center Director Kaye Green added that she’s proud of the strides the Salisbury VAMC is making to take care of the needs of local Veterans.

“I think this is a huge advancement in caring for Veterans in the area,” she said. “This facility will be more than three times larger than the existing Winston-Salem facility and will offer a full range of services, including day surgeries currently not available at Winston-Salem, and will also offer a couple of services we don’t even provide in Salisbury at this time.”

Those new services include a cardiac cath lab and dialysis services.

Lend Lease (US) Healthcare Development, LLC, in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla. is the contractor chosen to build



Members of local Veterans groups were among the hundreds of attendees at the Kernersville VA Health Care Center groundbreaking ceremony that took place January 24.

the four-story Health Care Center, which will be located on a 40-acre site.

When completed, the Kernersville HCC will have 280,000 net usable square feet of space and 1,914 parking spaces. It is currently scheduled to be

completed in Spring 2016.

More information on the Kernersville HCC and future construction updates can be found at <http://www.salisbury.va.gov/construction/new/KernersvilleHCC.html>

Words of thanks from our Veterans

I would like to thank Eulishia Carter, Kinesiotherapist, for being professional and knowledgeable. She ordered what I needed quickly and accurately. I appreciate her kindness. Dr. Park Yoosun, a physiatrist in Salisbury, was also very kind and well informed. I wanted to thank both of these people for providing me with excellent medical care.

Dr. Juliana Millan is my primary physician at the Charlotte clinic. I have enjoyed her expertise and compassionate spirit. She has always been very good to me!

The staff at the Charlotte clinic take good care of me, especially Dr. Daniel Rappaport. The customer service there is always great.

The Purple clinic staff have always addressed my concerns and issues with my health in a courteous and timely manner. They are always upbeat and convey a true concern for the well-being of each of us.

Housekeeping Aide Michael Keller was most attentive to me and the condition of my room when I was an inpatient. He was polite and went out of his way to make my stay pleasant.

From The History Books....

100th anniversary of first woman employee's passing

One hundred years ago, on January 18, 1914, Mrs. Emma L. Miller, the first matron and female employee in VHA's early history, passed away.

She was a notable woman, not only because she was the first matron, but because her lifelong devotion and service to Civil War veterans drew admiration from the men whom she took care of, and won her enough respect from the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers' Board of Managers that they appointed her as the first woman officer in that organization — a rarity at the time.

Before the Civil War, Emma L. Miller lived a simple life as a young wife and mother moving with her husband from Pennsylvania, to Illinois, then settling in Ohio, as they chased the American dream.

All of that changed when she lost her husband during the American Civil War. She, along with thousands of her Northern "sisters" who experienced the same loss — be it brother, son, husband, cousin, or friend — joined forces and funneled their grief into compassionate and fervent causes that rendered care and aid to soldiers who survived the war's ravages.

She became very active in the Cincinnati and Cleveland branches of the U.S. Sanitary Commission, which was charged by Congress with providing medical care, support, and services to the Union's volunteer forces. After the war, in October 1865, when the State of Ohio established a soldier's home in Columbus for sick and injured discharged soldiers, she was appointed as its matron.

When the U.S. government established a branch of its National Asylum for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers (later named National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers) in March 1867, it initially took over the state home in Columbus, but later selected a site in Dayton as its permanent location for



the Central Branch home. Miss Miller became the first matron for the National Homes and brought 16 disabled "boys in blue" with her to the new Dayton site in the fall of 1867.

As matron, she helped at the hospital, oversaw laundry operations, ran the Home's hotel. Later she was promoted to Superintendent of the General Depot, where much of the clothing and supplies for all of the National Homes was manufactured and distributed.

This was a very rare position to be held by a woman in those days. In the 1880 National Home's annual report, she reported that the "Matron's Department" had washed, pressed, repaired, and reissued over 1,703,648 pieces of laundry and linens, averaging 32,762 pieces per week.

Worn out linens were condemned, then washed and reused in the hospital as bandages and dressings, in the engineer's department as wipers and wrappings for steam pipes, and as wipers and mops elsewhere.

Emma Miller was about 35 years old when she first became matron for the National Home's Central Branch in 1867.

When she was appointed as Superintendent of the Depot, effective January 1, 1895, she became an officer on the Board of Managers staff and remained so until her death.

She was a fixture of the Dayton home for nearly 50 years and she lived on-site, like other officers of the National Home. In 1870 she shared quarters with her three children—Anna (18), Joseph (16), and Henry (13)—and three Irish-born servants.

She spent her entire post-Civil War life at the National Home in Dayton and grew old along with many of the men whom she originally took care of during the war.

Emma Miller died in her quarters at the National Home on January 18, 1914 after a short illness and, at her request, was buried in the Dayton National Cemetery (formerly the National Home's cemetery).

Did you know there is one number to call for your healthcare needs and questions?

The Veterans Call Support Center at (800) 706-9126

The call center is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. until 4:15 p.m. (excluding Federal holidays).

If you develop a medical problem and would like to see your doctor before your next appointment, please call the Veterans Call Support Line.

If you need to call outside of normal business hours, you can leave a voicemail message to cancel an appointment or to request a callback to schedule an appointment.

For medical emergencies, dial 911.

You can also call the Veterans' Crisis Line at (800) 273-TALK (8255) if you need someone to help you deal with a difficult time in your life.

Minority Veterans Program - Providing equal access to all qualified Veterans

Established under Public Law 103-446 on November 2, 1994, the Minority Veterans Program is a coordinated effort to increase awareness of minority Veteran related issues and to develop strategies for increasing their participation in existing VA benefits and health care services.

The Minority Veterans Program serves all Veterans regardless of race or ethnicity, with a primary emphasis on minority

Veterans in the local community. Veterans of minority groups include: Asian American, African American, Hispanic/Latino and Native American, including American Indian, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islander.

For more information, you can contact Belinda Dublin, Minority Veterans Program Coordinator, at (704) 597-3500, ext. 7983.

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