



## Director's Message

I am glad to inform you that on August 16, 2008, between 11AM and 3PM, we will have our second annual "Welcome Home Celebration". Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom/Global War on Terrorism Veterans, their families and others concerned about care and services for GWOT Veterans are invited to this picnic celebration which will be held on our grounds. It will be a large-scale, food, fun, and entertainment event to both honor and inform GWOT Veterans about VA's comprehensive health care services. Last year's Welcome Home Celebration was a huge success. Over 250 veterans, family members, staff, volunteers and special guests attended. This year's turn out is expected to surpass that amount.

If you are a veteran (including activated Reservists of the National Guard) who served on active duty or in a theater of combat operations during a period of war after the Gulf War or served after 9/11/2001, please plan to attend our August 16th celebration. Your family and others concerned about your medical and mental health care are invited. If you can attend or would like more information about this celebration, please contact OIF/OEF Program Manager Debra Christian-Grandy at (610) 384-7711 extension 6840. For information about the Coatesville VAMC and this event, visit [www.coatesville.va.gov](http://www.coatesville.va.gov) and look under Current Events. I hope you can attend and learn how to take full advantage of your VA eligibilities.

Gary W. Devansky

# WELCOME HOME



# AMERICAN HERO

WELCOME HOME  
CELEBRATION

August 16, 2008

## OPERATION ENDURING/IRAQI FREEDOM

### Quarterly Focus Group

The OEF/OIF Focus Group enables returning service members and their families to openly and honestly talk about their feelings and opinions pertaining to VA's health care services. The focus of this group is to obtain and collect information, rather than give information. We would appreciate your involvement in this forum to discuss your experiences with obtaining and receiving VA health care services. We will meet in Building 57, Room 150 on August 20, 2008 at 5:30 PM. Refreshments will be served. Please call Alan Reiland at (610) 384-7711 extension 6820 to register or if you have questions.

## ENROLLMENT AND ELIGIBILITY

**ENROLL NOW- IT ONLY TAKES A FEW MINUTES!** You can inquire about your eligibility and enroll for benefits by visiting Room B10A in Building 2. You can also call (610) 384-7711 extensions 5008 or 5034, if you have questions. We have extended hours in some of our clinics for veterans who want to come after 4:30 PM, Monday-Friday.

## COATESVILLE VAMC'S OPERATION ENDURING/IRAQI FREEDOM STAFF

*Debra Christian-Grandy, Program Manager*

(610) 384-7711 extension 6840

*Stacey Castel, Case Manager*

(610) 384-7711 extension 6817

*Alan Reiland, Case Manager*

(610) 384-7711 extension 6820

*Wendy Sherwin, Enrollment*

(610) 384-7711 extension 5034

*Bettye Thomas, Enrollment*

(610) 384-7711 extension 5008

## EXTENDED BENEFITS FOR COMBAT VETERANS

Currently enrolled veterans and new enrollees who were discharged from active duty on or after January 28, 2008 are eligible for enhanced benefits five years after discharge. If you would like more information on how to obtain services, please call us at (610) 384-7711 extensions 5008 or 5034.

## TEAM RIVER RUNNER

Team River Runner (TRR), established in August 2004 by kayakers in the Washington, DC area, is an all-volunteer organization. Working in partnership with the Wounded Warrior Project and Disabled Sports USA, TRR helps veterans of the Iraq and Afghan wars. Local kayaking classes are being formed at CVAMC. Lessons will take place one evening a week and off-site events will take place once a month. No experience is necessary. A kayaking demonstration and TRR program information will be available during CVAMC's Welcome Home Event on August 16th.



**2nd  
Annual**

# GWOT/OEF/OIF WELCOME HOME CELEBRATION

# 2008

## WELCOME HOME



## AMERICAN HERO

Food, Fun and  
Entertainment  
for the entire family!

VA BENEFITS  
INFORMATION  
will also be available



**VOODOO  
DEVILLE  
BAND**



**The  
Porkroll  
Project**

Dunk Tank,  
Kayaking Demos,  
Moon-Walk, Face Painting,  
Volleyball, Basketball

**Saturday, August 16, 2008**

**11:00am - 3:00pm**

 **Coatesville**  
VA Medical Center

**Picnic Pavilion/Ball Field Area**

**Complimentary  
Picnic Lunch  
starting at 11:30am**

If you need additional information, please call:  
(610) 384-7711  
D. Christian-Grandy, ext. 6840 or  
Jeff Fitzsimons, ext. 2233



## MENTAL HEALTH CORNER

The trauma of war has the potential to create problems that combat survivors have been confronted with since the beginning of recorded history. It is important to know that there are ways that our nation's veterans can receive help for these problems and that recovery is not only possible but highly likely. The Coatesville VA Medical Center has programs that can address the needs of our traumatized combat veterans and we welcome the opportunity to serve those who have served their country with distinction. We are available to answer your questions and guide you through the process of accessing VA services. Listed below are important resources for support and mental health services.

**National Suicide Hotline**  
**1-800-273-TALK (8255)**  
"Press 1 for Veterans"

**Philadelphia Vet Centers**  
801 Arch Street  
Suite 102  
215-627-0238  
9101 E. Olney Avenue  
215-924-4670

**National Mental Health  
Association (NMHA)**  
**National Mental Health  
Information Center**  
1021 Prince Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314-2971  
1-800-969-6642

**Trauma Survivors  
Anonymous**  
2022 Fifteenth Avenue  
Columbus, VA 31901  
706-649-6500

**Military One Source**  
(a 24/7 counseling  
service and website)  
[www.militaryonesource.com](http://www.militaryonesource.com)