

# The Eagle

Voluntary Service Central Office Newsletter

*Leaders in Volunteer Management*

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## *From the Director*

Recognition is very important to volunteerism. Whether the recognition comes in the form of a warm smile, a thank you, a pin or certificate. Everyone deserves to be told that the contribution they make is important.

Today is International Volunteer Manager Appreciation Day. On this special day, we celebrate the profession of volunteer management and the important work they do.

To the VAVS Managers, if you have not been thanked already, I take this opportunity to thank you for everything you do as a VA Voluntary Service (VAVS) Program Manager. I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to you for the dedication and commitment you demonstrate by serving as a leader in the volunteer management profession.

To National Advisory Committee Members, please take a few moments to ensure the VAVS Program Manger for your local cite (s) is thanked for their tireless efforts.

The work has a significant impact on the veterans that are served. Please know that your efforts make a positive difference, each and every day, in the lives of our volunteers and in the lives of our veterans and their families.

Thank you for your dedicated service to the VAVS program and for your service to our Nation's veterans.

This month we celebrate Veterans Day and Thanksgiving. There is much to be thankful for—to our veterans for serving to maintain our freedom; volunteers, for serving veterans and their families and to VAVS managers. Thanks to all.

Two words: Thank, You. Each strong in itself. Together they are powerful—Thank you.

*Laura B. Belen*





## Atrium Project Provides Year-round Enjoyment

By Kathleen Henson, VAVS Program Manager

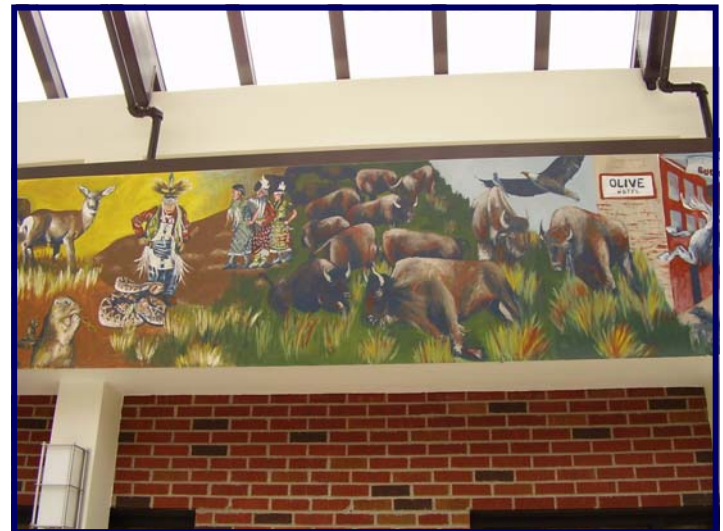
Miles City Nursing Home Care Unit residents are rekindling memories of the many facets of Montana life without having to leave the facility. A project to bring a more “home-like” atmosphere to the facility this past year included the conversion of an under-utilized courtyard into an atrium for the year round enjoyment of the Big Sky by the residents of the facility.

After furnishings were in place, the large open room still seemed to be lacking a final touch. Staff suggested that a local artist be contacted about the possibilities of painting some scenery on the wall space just under the atrium’s glass roof.

Keely Perkins, artist and Miles City native, created many of the panoramic scenes from ideas and memories shared by the NHCU residents. The railroad, the coal mines, the oil fields, logging, agriculture, livestock, hunting, fishing and wildlife as well as early day scenes featuring an Indian camp and buffalo on the plains are all part of the changing scenery painted on the previously blank white walls. Even the local Miles City Bucking Horse Sale is featured.

Painting primarily in the evenings after finishing up at her regular job, Keely would complete one scene and sketch an outline for another. The residents would eagerly watch and anticipate what new aspect of Montana life was going to be featured next. Even the heat vents were incorporated into things like the grill of an old pickup or a hay bale on the Montana prairie.

The project took most of the summer to complete but provided many hours of enjoyment for everyone as the scenes evolved into a chronicle of life in the west. The uniqueness and warmth of the atrium has made it one of the most popular spots for residents and guests to pause, reflect and enjoy some Montana “big sky”.



Above photos are of the new mural at the Miles City Nursing Home Care Unit. Residents enjoyed watching artist Keely Perkins create the mural.

*As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them.*

~John Fitzgerald Kennedy

### VAVS Program Manager to Serve as Grand Marshall of NYC Veterans Day Parade

By Marty Naugher

On November 11 Americans have the opportunity to recognize, thank, and salute the men and women who sacrificed so much for our freedoms.

This year, one of VAVS' own will be the Grand Marshall of the New York City Veterans Day Parade.

Ms. Yvette Cintron, VAVS Program Manager for the VA New York Harbor Healthcare System, has been selected to participate in this year's parade.

Congratulations Yvette!



Yvette Cintron, VAVS Program Manager, VA NY Harbor Healthcare System



National League Umpire, Jerry Layne, visits with patients at the Greater Los Angeles VA Healthcare System.



### AMERICA'S HERO

Crimson tears fall silently upon tattered lace,  
Echoes of a Mother's heart alone in this place.

Walking the darkness late into the night,  
Praying for the safety of a son who must fight.

Knowing with all that gives her life's breath,  
Her son so far away has met his death.

Fighting for what he believed was good,  
The threat of death always understood.

He will finally come home to be laid at rest,  
An honored soldier, one of America's Best.

Donna Simms  
Buffalo Woman



*This poem is in memory of Pfc. Sheldon Hawk Eagle, a descendant of Lakota warrior Crazy Horse, who was among 17 soldiers killed when two Black Hawk helicopters crashed in the northern Iraqi City of Mosul.*





### Internet Security Tips

- Protect your personal information. It's valuable.
- Know who you're dealing with.
- Use anti-virus and anti-spyware software, as well as a firewall, and update them all regularly.
- Make sure your operating system and Web browser are set up properly and update them regularly.
- Protect your passwords.
- Back up important files.



November

### American Indian & Alaska Native Heritage Month

				1 All Saints Day (O, P, RC)  International Volunteer Manager Day	2	3
4 Daylight Savings Time Ends	5	6 Election Day 	7	8	9	10
11 Veterans Day 	12 Baha'u'llah's Birthday (Ba)	13	14	15 Annual VAVS Narrative Due 	16	17
18	19	20	21	22 Thanksgiving Day 	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

### Daylight Savings Time Ends!

Turn your clocks back ONE HOUR on Sunday, November 4!

### The First Thanksgiving Proclamation

June 29, 1676, became the first official Thanksgiving with the proclamation made in Charlestown, Massachusetts by the town council.

*Let us remember that, as much has been given us, much will be expected from us, and that true homage comes from the heart as well as from the lips, and shows itself in deeds.*

~Theodore Roosevelt

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