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## NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **Martinsburg VA Medical Center nurse receives first DAISY Award**

MARTINSBURG, W.Va. – The Martinsburg Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC) Nursing Service proudly recognized staff nurse, Julia Houser, RN, as the first recipient of the DAISY Foundation Extraordinary Nurse Award.

Julia Houser is a Maryland native and has been a nurse for five years, working at the Martinsburg VAMC for the past three years. She works on the medical-surgical unit.

The DAISY Foundation award recognizes the extraordinary efforts of nurses on a daily basis. The DAISY Foundation is a non-profit organization established in memory of J. Patrick Barnes, who died of complications from a little known but not uncommon autoimmune disease, at the age of 33 in late 1999.

The care received from nurses while Barnes was ill inspired this unique means of thanking nurses for making a profound difference in the lives of their patients and patient families. This organization helps to fight diseases of the immune system through funding of nursing research and evidenced based practice projects.

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## 222 DAISY Award

Houser was nominated by her peers and as a last wish of a patient. She exemplifies the caring and compassion which is the standard for nurses at the Martinsburg VAMC. “I feel very honored and surprised,” said Houser. “I love my job and the people I serve so I feel blessed to receive this award.”

Houser received a certificate commending her for being an "Extraordinary Nurse." The certificate read: "In deep appreciation of all you do, who you are, and the incredibly meaningful difference you make in the lives of so many people."

Associate Director for Patient Care Services, Susan E. George, said “This award recognizes Ms. Houser’s clinical skill and especially the compassionate care that our patients, their families, and our staff recognize as an outstanding role model.” Houser received a beautiful, hand-carved sculpture by artists of the Shona Tribe in Africa called “A Healer’s Touch.”

Patients, visitors, nurses, physicians and staff members can nominate nurses for The DAISY Award.

*The Martinsburg VA Medical Center mission is to honor America’s Veterans by providing exceptional health care that improves their health and well-being. Located in West Virginia, the medical center offers a comprehensive range of services, including internal medicine, ambulatory surgery, audiology and speech pathology, dental, nursing home, nutrition, podiatry, prosthetics, women’s health, mental health, and rehabilitation medicine. With a service area of nearly 125,000 Veterans in West Virginia, Maryland, Virginia, and Pennsylvania, the medical center operates seven Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOC). Five of the clinics are VA-staffed and are located in Cumberland, Hagerstown and Fort Detrick, Md., Petersburg, W.Va., and Stephens City, Va. Two of the clinics are contracted and are located in Franklin, W.Va., and Harrisonburg, Va.*

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**Photo caption:** Julia Houser, RN, stands proudly as the first Martinsburg VAMC recipient of the DAISY Foundation Extraordinary Nurse Award.