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**Director**  
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[Click here for directions  
www.martinsburg.va.gov](http://www.martinsburg.va.gov)



## About us

Since 1944, the Martinsburg VA Medical Center has been improving the health of the men and women who have so proudly served our nation. We consider it our privilege to serve your health care needs in any way we can. Services are available to more than 126,000 Veterans living in 22 counties in Western Maryland, West Virginia, South Central Pennsylvania and Northwest Virginia.

Our mission is to honor America's Veterans as heroes by providing the highest quality health care.

## July 2014



## Meet Your Team

### Edwin Aponte-Rivera, Jr., Firefighter and Emergency Medical Technician



Meet Edwin Aponte-Rivera, Jr., a firefighter and emergency medical technician (EMT) for the medical center. A Winfield, Maryland native, Aponte-Rivera started working for the medical center in 2008 as an EMT driver and became a firefighter in March of 2010. He spends most of his free time with his daughter, Kennedy Mae, who was born last October. Aponte-Rivera furthers his education and certifications every year through new training programs. He also spends time as a volunteer firefighter, serving more than 17 years with the Winfield, Maryland Volunteer Fire Department and five years with the Clear Spring, Maryland Volunteer Fire Department. "What I enjoy most about my job is the everyday interaction with Veterans and staff," said Aponte-Rivera. "In this line of work you normally meet people at their worst hour, but having a positive impact on a person's life is the best part of the job for me."

### Megan Shickle, Care Manager at Stephens City CBOC

Meet Megan Yoder Shickle, BSN, RN care manager at the Stephens City Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC). Shickle is from Winchester, Virginia and started working at the Stephens City CBOC in April of 2010. She graduated from Shepherd College in 2000 with her bachelor's degree in nursing, and serves as a Unit Based Educator/Preceptor for the medical center's Nursing Education Committee. She also has three children and when she gets a moment to relax her favorite thing to do is kick back with a good book. Shickle is a big advocate of the Patient Aligned Care Team (PACT) model. "In using PACT we are able to get to know our patients better," said Shickle. "In return they know who we are and who they can come to with question and concerns."



## Our Clinic Locations

[Cumberland, Md.](#)  
[Fort Detrick, Md.](#)  
[Hagerstown, Md.](#)  
[Harrisonburg, Va.](#)  
[Stephens City, Va.](#)  
[Franklin, W.Va.](#)  
[Petersburg, W.Va.](#)

## Quick Tips

Ask your provider about Veterans Health Education classes!



Visit this [link](#) to check out all of the classes we have available this month.



## Wedding at Martinsburg VAMC historic chapel



Wedding bells were ringing at the Martinsburg VA Medical Center (VAMC) historic World War II chapel June 21 as two employees exchanged their vows. Dr. G. Robert “Bob” Smith, and Irine Smith, BSN, RN both served in the military and are currently employed at the Martinsburg VAMC. Bob Smith is a West Point and Uniformed Services University graduate and retired as a colonel from the U.S.

Army Medical Corps after 28 years. He is an ophthalmologist and the site director for the George Washington University Ophthalmology Residency Program at the medical center. Irine Smith served six years active duty in the Air Force, six years in the Air Force Reserves and has been serving in the New Mexico Air National Guard for the past 12 years. She has been with the medical center for over a year as a critical care nurse in the Intensive Care Unit. Their path to this wedding day began in 2010 at the Raymond G. Murphy VA Medical Center in Albuquerque, New Mexico during new employee orientation. Over the next several years they endured job transfers and long distance until Bob proposed and asked Irine to move to West Virginia with him. To read more, please click [here](#).

## Local Veterans compete in VA National Golden Age Games

Nine Veteran patients from the Martinsburg VA Medical Center (VAMC) headed to Fayetteville, Arkansas, June 28 to July 2 to participate in the 2014 National Veterans Golden Age Games (NVGAG). Exercise and training for the 2014 National Veterans Golden Age Games started last August, just a month after Veteran patients from Martinsburg VAMC won 12 medals and two of the



Games’ highest awards during the 2013 National Veterans Golden Age Games. Training for the NVGAG is done through the recreation therapy program at Martinsburg and at Shepherd University Wellness Center. “The target of our recreation program here and our involvement in the Games is to promote yearlong wellness and fitness,” said Darren “Chewie” Yowell, recreation therapy assistant and Golden Age Games coach. “The Golden Age Games is a perfect opportunity for Veterans to kick-start their yearlong wellness and improve their overall health.” To read more, please click [here](#).

## Connect with Customer Service!



The Martinsburg VA Medical Center Customer Service Office presents the first edition of Connections: Find a Way, a new electronic newsletter that bridges the gap between providers and patients. Connections will be a quarterly publication delivered straight to your inbox and will feature patient centered care initiatives, services in the spotlight and a “Dear Editor” box.

To read the first issue, please click [here](#).

If you would like to subscribe to this electronic publication, please send an email to [MWV-Connections@va.gov](mailto:MWV-Connections@va.gov).

For more information, please contact Sharon Gant, chief of customer service at 304-263-0811, ext. 2381.



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