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Director
Timothy J. Cooke



[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.

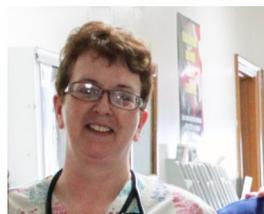
Our mission is to honor America's Veterans as heroes by providing the highest quality health care.

September 2014



Meet Your Team

Kathleen Huffman, RN Coordinator for Petersburg CBOC



Meet Kathleen Brake Huffman, RN Coordinator at the Petersburg Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) in Petersburg, West Virginia. Huffman has been living in Petersburg since she was 11 years old and she considers it her hometown. She served several years in the U.S. Army Reserves, and received her Bachelors of Science in Nursing from Alderson Broaddus College in Phillipi, West Virginia. Prior to working at the Petersburg CBOC, Huffman worked for the Louis Johnson VA Medical Center for 17 years as a staff nurse on the medical surgical floor. She enjoys playing with her dogs, photography, hiking, camping and spending time with her family. "I consider it an honor and a blessing to be able to serve the Veterans of my hometown," said Huffman. "If you would have asked me six years ago if this is where I would be now, I would have never believed it. It is good to be home, doing what I love."

Wes Colbert, Transition Patient Advocate for OEF/OIF/OND

Meet Wes Colbert, a Transition Patient Advocate for the OEF/OIF/OND Department and Post Deployment Integrated Care Clinic at the medical center. He obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree from Curry College in 2002 and a Masters of Social Work degree from Grambling State University in 2012. After obtaining his bachelors degree, he enlisted in the U.S. Army where he served until 2006.



In 2004, he was deployed to Iraq and considers it to be one of the most impactful experiences of his life. "My time in Iraq affirmed my passion for supporting those who gave it all for this great country," said Colbert. "I enjoy having the ability to assist Veterans with the transition from military to VA care."

Our Clinic Locations

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

Quick Tips



The Martinsburg VA Medical Center and Shepherd University will co-sponsor the 6th Annual Nursing Research Conference on November 6 from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

To register for the conference and to learn more about the event, click [here](#).



Youth Volunteer Award Ceremony



The Martinsburg VA Medical Center held its annual Youth Volunteer Award Ceremony this past Thursday, August 14, at the medical center. The ceremony was held for 44 active summer youth volunteers who served over 1,400 hours to Veterans and staff at the medical center and the Hagerstown Community Based Outpatient Clinic. “Colleges require volunteer hours,” said Cecil

Keel, III, a ninth-grade student at Spring Mills High School. “Volunteering helps me interact with others and makes me a better person.” Keel volunteered 100 hours in the Retail Store at the medical center. The youth volunteers were presented with service hour pins, certificates of appreciation, letters of appreciation and praises from the Medical Center Director, Timothy J. Cooke, for their participation in the youth volunteer program. “We truly appreciate the time and effort all of our youth volunteers have showed our Nation’s Heroes,” said Mr. Cooke. “You are a remarkable group of young people and you have brought a lot of smiles to our Veterans as you spent time with them.” Josiah Johnston, a 12th-grade student at Hedgesville High School volunteered the most with 500 hours. “I enjoyed helping out,” said Johnston. “I liked working with the other volunteers and helping out the staff.” To read more, please click [here](#).

Encouraging Water Safety

Every day about ten people die from unintentional drowning and the Martinsburg VA Medical Center (VAMC) is assisting in lowering that number by offering swim lessons to Veterans every summer. It took 33 year old U. S. Army Veteran Jader Rivas seeing the news story of a father trying to rescue his drowning daughter for him to realize he needed help. “I have two kids, I would do the same thing.” said Rivas. He decided to take the first step by attending swim lessons at the medical center pool. At first Rivas was hesitant because he was embarrassed for others to know he could not swim. Rivas had two incidents growing up where he almost lost his life to drowning. Those two encounters were so traumatic he had a hard time wanting to go back in the water. “All I remember is fighting the water.” said Rivas. Last week was the first time Rivas submerged under water without panicking. “It was awesome, I was so happy.” said Rivas. To read more, please click [here](#).



Flu Shot Information

Flu shots are coming soon to the Martinsburg VA Medical Center! The best time to get a flu shot is October through December, as the peak of flu season is January through March. All Veterans regardless of age should get a flu shot. Remember, you cannot get the flu from a flu shot! Stay tuned to our Facebook page and the medical center Flu Hotline at 304-579-2600 for more information on how you can get your flu shot this fall.



VA
HEALTH CARE
Defining
EXCELLENCE
in the 21st Century