



Rhode Island Department Surgeon/Hospital Program Report

- Please continue to pray for the Department Commander Ray Blanda Sr. and his wife Margaret. Both are improving and doing well in rehab at the West Shore Health Facility in Warwick. If you want to help, you can drop off a gift at the door. His favorite is gummy bears.
 - Thank you Commander for this appointment. May we all keep Peter Smith in our prayers.
 - In November I attended the Providence VAMC MiniMac Meeting via teleconference. This is a meeting with all the New England VAMC leaders. Many of the required program regulations for veterans to participate have been relaxed due to the covid-19 worldwide pandemic. Over 500 homeless veterans have been given per diem or housing in the Rhode Island area via the Providence VAMC most recently.
- If you know a homeless veterans, please call 1-800-424-3838.
- Veterans have begun to receive the covid-19 vaccine. VAMC will contact veterans when the vaccine is available.
 - The Christmas visit with the Auxiliary to see Providence VAMC resident patients was rescheduled. Right now everything is tentative for February.
 - VFWRI Department Commander and VFWAUXRI Department President have agreed to host a joint blood drive for the hospital program. This is also tentative for February. If you are able, PLEASE DONATE BLOOD. Supplies are very low. I have been able to donate twice in the last 4 months, once in Middletown and once in Providence. Both sites have great covid precautions in place.
 - Every year VFWRI donates to VFWAUXRI for the hospital program. Please consider a donation, earmark your check HOSPITAL PROGRAM, and mail to

VFW Auxiliary Treasurer
Susan Barber
646 New London Tpke
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Respectfully,
Gina Marie Doherty
GinaMarie Doherty
VFWRI Dept Surgeon