



## Reflecting on Sept. 11

"I can't say enough about our doctors, nurses, mental health professionals and others who cared for the wounded and comforted the anguished.

"While the wounded were few, they were significant and we are now gearing up for the emotional and traumatic impact this event is likely to generate in the weeks and months ahead."

— James J. Farsetta, Network Director, VISN 3 (New York Area), quoted in *VHANOW*

## Jimmy Lee passes away

It is with my deepest regrets to inform you of the funeral arrangements for Jimmy Lee, Human Resources Officer, VA Central Office, Veterans Health Administration. He was known and respected not just in VHA but throughout VA.

Lee was formerly chief of the Human Resources Management Service at PVAMC.

The funeral will be held Oct. 13 at Evans Funeral Home, 16000 Annapolis Road, Bowie, MD. There will be a viewing from noon to 1 p.m. The funeral will be at 1 p.m. The phone number at the funeral home is 301-464-8836. After the funeral, there will be a gathering at 3005 Twisting Lane,

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## Mental Health to study bipolar disorder

The Portland VAMC Mood Disorder Center has recently been selected as one of 20 sites in the US and the only site in the Northwest for the Systematic Treatment Enhancement Program for Bipolar Disorder (STEP-BD).

"We are very pleased to be able to offer veterans within the state of Oregon and the Northwest optimal care for bipolar disorder.

"It is our goal to develop into a regional resource for patients and their families and this project will help us accomplish this goal," said Peter Hauser, M.D., Clinical Director of the Behavioral Health and Clinical Neurosciences Division and Chief of Psychiatry.

Hauser is also the principal investigator for the study. The research is funded by the National Institute of Mental Health at \$20 million. The study is a multi-center, longitudinal research project that is dedicated to improving treatment for bipolar disorder. The project will compare competing treatment strategies for patients with a history of the disease.

The program has established a network of 20 treatment centers, in which some 5,000 patients will be treated by specially trained



Peter Hauser, M.D.

psychiatrists and clinical specialists. The research is a large-scale public health study that seeks to include people from diverse backgrounds living in communities throughout the United States. According to Hauser, the program aims to improve treatment and outcomes for people with bipolar disorder.

If you are interested in learning more about STEP-BD, you can visit the national web site at <http://www.stepbd.org/>

In conjunction with the STEP-BD study funding, Hauser also hopes to establish an active research program, designed to test the most effective treatments for VA patients diagnosed with a mood disorder.

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## Mood disorder meeting

The Mood Disorder Center at the Portland VA Medical Center will be holding an educational Mood Disorder Meeting on the fourth Wednesday of every month in the VA auditorium. The meeting begins Oct. 24. It will run from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Everyone is welcome to attend and find out more about the center, and more about mood disorders and their treatment. Veteran patients and their family members are especially encouraged to attend.

If you are interested in participating in this meeting, or would like more information please call (503) 220-8262, Ext. 57429.

## Buy out news

Human Resources Management Service has posted a web site that can help you make a more informed decision on whether you should or should not request consideration for a buy out.

This web page has 27 of the most commonly asked questions as well as a link to the Severance Calculation Worksheet that will help you determine how much you could get from the buyout if approved. Should you have any other questions that are not covered by the guide we will be glad to help.

We appreciate your patience and ask that you use the guide before contacting us in order to better understand any questions you may have. You can find the guide at: <http://vaww/hrm/index.htm>.

## Flu shots coming

Influenza season is almost here! Influenza vaccination is an effective way to prevent patient and employee illness or complications from influenza.

Employees, students, and volunteers who work directly with patients should receive their annual flu shot in October. Flu vaccination is highly recommended for all other employees. Flu shots will be available the following times:

*Portland:* All sessions will be held in Auditorium foyer 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor.

Oct. 16: 6:30 to 8:30 a.m. and 2 to 4 p.m.

Oct. 18: 6:30 to 8:30 a.m. and 2 to 4 p.m.

Oct. 23: 6:30 to 8 a.m.

Oct. 25: 8 to 10 a.m. and 3 to 4 p.m.

*Vancouver:* All sessions held in Nursing Skilled Care Unit library.

Oct. 17: 7 to 10 a.m.

Oct. 23: 2 to 4 p.m.

Occupational Health will continue to offer flu shots in until the vaccine is gone. Don't delay!

## Lee passes away

■ Cont. from pg. 1

Bowie, MD (five minutes from the funeral home).

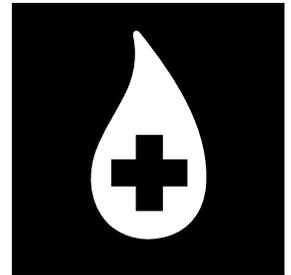
Checks should be written in her name: D'wanna Lee, 3809 Chesterwood Drive, Silver Springs, MD 20906.

## Blood drive slated

The Portland VA Medical Center will be hosting a special blood drive next Wednesday, Oct. 10, in the Portland Auditorium from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Due to the recent terrorist attacks, and the national call for blood donations, many have already donated.

Unfortunately, the waiting time between individual blood donations is eight weeks (56 days), with no exceptions, and many of you will not be eligible to donate because of the crucial need for blood donations these last two weeks.

The Red Cross is offering the opportunity for those employees, volunteers, and neighboring communities who have not been able to give to come and donate at this scheduled time. Please call Voluntary Service at Ext. 55042 to reserve a time, or feel free to walk in during the day of the event.



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