

Long Island State Veterans Home



AT STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY

100 Patriots Road
Stony Brook, NY 11790-3300
P 631.444.8500
F 631.444.8575
LISVH.org

December 31, 2020

Dear LISVH Family Member:

As the year 2020 is about to come to a close, we want to reach out to you with the latest information on our situation here at the Long Island State Veterans Home. Throughout the year, we stayed committed to providing all our family members and friends with the most current happenings at our facility. We feel that transparency remains critical as we continue to endure this unprecedented global pandemic. We will have the same commitment to communication throughout 2021 as well.

Today, we have 30 residents who are currently positive for the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). Eighteen are here at the Home, all properly cohorted and quarantined, and 12 residents are at Stony Brook University Hospital currently receiving treatment. This year has been extremely busy for all the clinicians at Stony Brook Medicine, and we would like to take this opportunity to thank the Stony Brook University Hospital staff for their unwavering commitment to all our veterans who may have received acute care services during 2020. We are tremendously fortunate to have a tertiary level academic medical center across the street from our Home; especially as they render V.I.P. service to our veterans. We would like to acknowledge Carol Gomes, the Hospital's Chief Executive Officer, for her hard work and dedication during this past year. Her actions are certainly keeping our community safe.

In regards to our employee status, there are currently 200 staff members who have tested positive for the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) since March 10, 2020. Thirty-five employees are quarantining at their homes, while 165 personnel have fully recovered and have returned to work. Since March, the virus has affected a number of our caregivers and ancillary staff; however, once fully recovered they have all returned to work providing the best care for your loved one. LISVH employees remain resilient and continue to stay laser focused regarding our fight against this wicked and elusive virus. Your confidence in our staff means a lot to us and we will remain committed to your loved one.

This past week was very exciting as the CVS Pharmacy team entered our Home to administer the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine to residents and staff. During this past Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, we were able to provide first dose vaccines to 183 residents and 231 staff members. A total of 414 first doses were given out. All eligible residents were accommodated as well as one-third of our work force. The CVS team returns in 21 days (January 18, 19 and 20, 2021) to administer second doses and initiate another round of first doses for newly eligible residents as well as the second third of our work force. We cannot say enough about the efficiency and professionalism of all the CVS pharmacists. We truly enjoyed working with them and deeply appreciate the service they have provided here at the LISVH.

Tomorrow, January 1, Chef Jeff and the Morrison's kitchen crew are preparing meals to welcome in the New Year. Lunch will include New England clam chowder, blue claw crab cakes, lemon rice pilaf, steamed broccoli, as well as ice cream for dessert. For dinner, we will serve brown ale braised chicken, pesto cauliflower and polenta, as well as apple compote for dessert. As always, our residents have a choice of alternatives based upon their diet.

In closing, we want to acknowledge you, our family members, most specifically your strength. Your endurance and patience have been remarkable, and we all desire to have you back in the Home as soon as possible. We remain committed to following all the guidelines as required by federal, state and local regulators. That being said, we will remain as advocates for our veterans and you – their family member. We will write to you again next year, on Tuesday, January 4. Until then, best wishes for a Happy New Year.

Sincerely,

Fred S. Sganga, FACHE
Executive Director
631-444-8606

Jonathan Spier, MHA, LNHA
Deputy Executive Director
631-444-8615

Frank Cervo, MD
Medical Director
631-444-8602

Rona Schlau, RN
Director of Nursing
631-444-8707

Jean Brand, MSW
Director of ADHC
631-444-8530