

**Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary**  
**HOSPITAL BULLETIN**  
**June & July 2026**  
[www.vfwauxmi.org](http://www.vfwauxmi.org)

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES

*National Theme: Serving America's Heroes*

*Department Theme: Leading with a Patriot's Heart*

I would like to thank President Jason Manke for this appointment. I am looking forward to seeing all of you at the Hospital table.

As I stated on my Guide Sheet, I would like to emphasize all the VA facilities in Michigan. So, let's look back 102 years to our first VA Medical facilities that opened their doors to the Veterans in 1924.

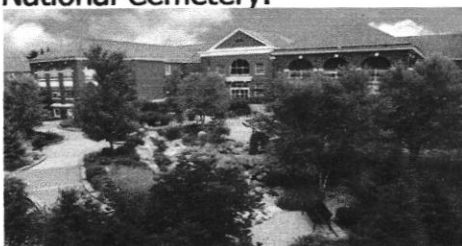
The American Red Cross was the first organization to volunteer. The VFW VA Voluntary Service Program was formally established in 1946, and this is how it all got started at the Battle Creek VA Medical Center.

On October 15, 1924, the red brick, neuropsychiatric Veteran Hospital 100 was open to the public. The first completely electronically equipped hospital in the country. Back then the hospitals were assigned a number, the Battle Creek VA Medical Center was number 100.

The Battle Creek VA campus is a perfect setting for Mental Health Recovery. Other VA Clinics in the area are Benton Harbor, Lansing, Muskegon and Wyoming. The Battle Creek VA offers specialized services including inpatient Mental Health Care, Palliative Care Unit, Community Living Center, and Women Veteran Events.

Throughout the year, the Women Veteran Program holds a variety of events in different locations to honor female veterans. These include candle making, crafts, horseback riding, kayaking and other events. Once a year the program also holds a Baby Shower for expecting mothers or mothers who recently had babies. This event has transformed into a drive through Baby Shower, delivering gifts to all clinics of the Battle Creek VA Medical Center area.

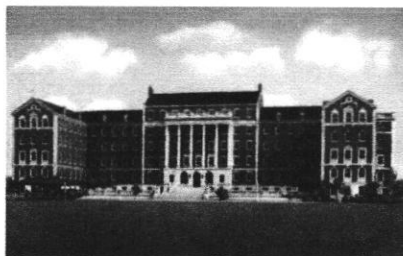
A variety of outpatient primary and specialty services are provided for the health of veterans served. As you drive around the campus you will pass the golf course, green house, it also has a bowling alley, swimming pool, gym, music and arts and craft rooms. The VA is centered between Fort Custer Air National Guard Base and Fort Custer National Cemetery.



JULY 2026

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY AMERICA! 250 YEARS!!

Let's continue our history lesson as we learn about another VA facility. A thirty-eight Acre site was donated to the Federal Government in 1937 by Henry & Clara Ford on July 27, 1937. Groundbreaking was the start of the Allen Park VA Medical Center in the Detroit area. It opened its doors to the Veterans in 1939. In 1980 it was listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



Allen Park VA Medical Center closed in 1996 due to aging infrastructure. It was replaced by the modern John D. Dingell VA Medical Center in Detroit. Allen Park VA was demolished in 2003/2004.

The John Dingell VA Center became operational in 1996; it is a 503-bed facility located in Detroit. The VA provides specialized health services including mental health, cancer treatment (oncology), and palliative care treatment.



Beyond the patient care the Detroit VA is a teaching hospital actively fostering the next generation of medical professionals through residencies and fellowships and is committed to advancing Veteran health and healthcare for all through its active and expanding research program.

Outpatient locations are in Downriver, Pontiac and Yale. Today the Detroit VA Healthcare system serves over 330,000 veterans in Wayne, Oakland, Macomb and St. Clair Counties

With the start of a new year start thinking about being a Volunteer at one of the VA facilities. It is our way to give back to the men and women who fought for us. Reach out to your Department Representatives at each of the VA facilities to start the process and see where volunteers are needed.

Fran Budzisch  
Department Hospital Chairman  
22494 P Drive S  
Homer MI 49245  
Email: [FrannieB706@outlook.com](mailto:FrannieB706@outlook.com)  
(586) 883-3902