

Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary HOSPITAL BULLETIN

August & September 2026

www.vfwauxmi.org

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES

National Theme: Serving America's Heroes

Department Theme: Leading with a Patriot's Heart

Let's take a trip to the Upper Peninsula, as we enjoy the ride along Lake Michigan and Lake Superior. Our first stop is in Iron Mountain at the Oscar G. Johnson VA Medical Center.

With injured Veterans returning home from World War II, Iron Mountain was chosen in 1945 as a site for one of 100 VA hospitals being built. On March 14, 1948, construction began on 31.5 acres that had once been the site of a large sawmill and lumberyard. It was the largest building project to date in the Upper Peninsula. The six-story, 265 bed hospital with 360 staff was dedicated on March 5, 1950.

In 1950 when the doors opened to the Veterans it was named Iron Mountain Veterans Administration Hospital. In October 2008 it was renamed Oscar G. Johnson VA Medical Center to honor a local WWII Veteran & Medal of Honor Recipient. Mr. Johnson was a Foster City Mi native. In May 2013 the front circle drive was renamed the James D. Priestap Drive in honor of Sergeant First Class Priestap who was killed by a sniper's bullet in Iraq on Thanksgiving Day, 2006. He was an OGJVAMC police officer during the time of his deployment.



The VA offers Primary Care Outpatient Clinic and Urgent Care Clinics & Specialty Care Clinics in the following areas: Gladstone, Hancock, Ironwood, Manistique, Marquette, Menominee, Rhineland, and Sault Ste. Marie.

A NEW Service they offer is Electromyography (EMG) this has the ability to help diagnose the following conditions: Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), Carpal Tunnel, Neuropathy, Pinched nerves, Sciatica, nerve injuries and other inflammatory muscle diseases.

The Oscar G. Johnson VA Medical Center is proud to be ranked first nationally for Veteran permanent housing placement.

August 4th – US Coast Guard Birthday

September 2026

As we move further North to Marquette you will be at the Marquette VA Hospital D.J. Jacobetti Home for Veterans. D.J. Jacobetti opened in 1981, former St. Mary's Hospital which was built in 1954 with 2 later additions. The Home is named after Dominic Jacobetti, longest serving member of the House of Representatives, headed the House of Appropriations Committee and secured a lot of funding for the UP including a veteran's home.



For those that remember Past State Commander Dale Brubaker (1992-1993) he was a huge advocate for D.J. Jacobetti Home for Veterans, and they named a room after him.

D.J. Jacobetti is a long-term skilled nursing home and provides dementia and memory care, rehabilitation, domiciliary and palliative care. The veterans who call MVHDJJ home have honorably served our country. Service-connected veterans receive priority in admission. All honorably discharged veterans are eligible for admission, along with Gold Star Mothers and Fathers, spouses, and other eligible dependents.

They currently house WWII, Korean, Vietnam, Gulf War and Peacetime Veterans.

It's not too early to start thinking about the Holidays. For Veterans Day consider sending the veterans cards thanking them for their service. If possible, host a luncheon at your Auxiliary and invite Veterans from the VA Medical Centers or Veterans Home to attend.

Please visit our Hospital Facebook page to see a wish list of items needed for MVH D.J. Jacobetti.

September 18th – US Airforce Birthday

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