



The

# BEACON

FOR THE EMPLOYEES of the SAN FRANCISCO VA MEDICAL CENTER • JUNE 2008

## A Goodbye from the Director...



Dear San Francisco VA Medical Center Employees: As you all know by now, I have been appointed the Network Director for VISN 21, effective June 8. It is with mixed emotions that I begin this new stage in my career. It has been a great honor to be a part of the San Francisco VA Medical Center for over 10 years and I am truly grateful to all of you who

have dedicated so much of yourselves to ensure the highest level of health care is provided to our veteran patients.

Together we have seen such dramatic changes in the Department of Veterans Affairs and in our Medical Center including:

- Our outstanding accomplishment to become the biggest--and the best--research program in the VA system. We truly are doing some very important work and continue to be in the forefront of modern medicine and science.
- Our exceedingly good customer service scores indicating that our veterans are satisfied with the care they receive.
- Our outstanding employee satisfaction scores are consistently the best in the country.
- We have significantly improved access to care for veterans and have worked hard to ensure they can receive appointments within 30 days in all of our clinics.
- Our resident training program continues to thrive and we have seen it grow over the years, with the addition of 30 new residency positions next academic year. Our trainee satisfaction scores have consistently been outstanding, validating that our residents and students are pleased with their experiences at our Medical Center.

- Expansion of the Cardiac Catheterization Program with the addition of a second procedure suite.
- Enlargement of the Emergency Department.
- Acquisition of expansion space in Sausalito.
- Extensive seismic retrofit of the hospital building while also improving patient privacy, which is nearing completion.
- Establishment of the state-of-the-art robotic surgical program.
- The creation of the National Center for Imaging of Neurodegenerative Disease.
- Establishment of the VA/DoD Center of Excellence in Neuroscience.
- Renovation and expansion of our operating room suite.
- The opening of new CBOCs and the enhancement of mental health services at all 5 clinics.
- Development of the Simulation Center, and so much more!

I am so appreciative of all of the hard work, dedication and commitment exhibited each and every day. We have so much to be proud of and so much to look forward too. We are poised to continue to make good clinical and scientific advances and our infrastructure will continue to be enhanced as a result of our robust engineering goals and plans.

I wish all of you the best and offer my fondest appreciation for your support. I look forward to continuing to work with you as the VISN Director.

My best,

Sheila Cullen

## Speaker Pelosi a Fan of SFVAMC

Representative David Obey (D-Wisc.), Chair of the House Appropriations Committee, visited the San Francisco VA Medical Center for the first time on May 28. He was accompanied by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.), a long-time supporter of SFVAMC.

Mr. Obey and Speaker Pelosi received a series of briefings on clinical and research activities at SFVAMC. **Charles Marmor, MD**, Chief of Mental Health and **Thomas Neylan, MD**, Director of the Post Traumatic Stress Disorders (PTSD) Program, reviewed the many clinical and research initiatives in diagnosis and treatment of PTSD. Chief of Medicine **Paul Volberding, MD**, briefed the two on AIDS research at SFVAMC, noting that the VA system is the largest provider of HIV/AIDS care in the U.S.

Speaker Pelosi noted the high quality of health care for veterans being provided at SFVAMC, and observed that SFVAMC's prominent position as a research center "can be attributed to the high caliber of clinicians and scientists here, which in no small way is a result of the strength of the collaboration" between SFVAMC, NCIRE and UCSF.

Following the briefings they toured the new 3D Imaging Laboratory, and received briefings on the latest radiologic and neurologic advances from Senior Scientist **Norbert Schuff, PhD**, Parkinson's Center Director **William Marks, MD**, and Chief of Radiology **Judy Yee, MD**. They concluded their tour with a visit to patients in the TCU, escorted by Nurse Manager **Cheryl Hubner, RN**.

Obey said that he was "highly impressed by all the great work" being conducted at SFVAMC. "This is why we've made veterans' health our first priority in Congress," he said. "I've been a fan of this place for many years," responded Speaker Pelosi.



Speaker Pelosi discusses health care advances with SFVAMC administrative and clinical leadership.

## Reinventing Nursing

In 2007, San Francisco VAMC joined the national initiative, Transforming Care at the Bedside (TCAB). TCAB's mission is to empower medical/surgical nurses to implement changes to ensure safe patient care, improve staff retention, and eliminate inefficient use of time.

Wards 1A and 2A are participating in the project. To date, four San Francisco VAMC staff nurses participated in two national TCAB conferences. They took place in November 2007 and in February 2008 in Scottsdale, Arizona, and San Diego, California respectively. At these conferences, facilities nationwide presented their success stories. SFVAMC RNs introduced innovations such as Walking Rounds and an interdisciplinary TCAB pamphlet.

TCAB outcome measures include patient satisfaction, patient injuries, staff turnover, and staff satisfaction. The project lasts for 26 months and will end for SFVA in July 2009.

## Surprise Meeting at VA's Winter Sports Clinic

**Greg Andrews**, a veteran from San Francisco and an employee in the SFVAMC AIB Store, and **Lea Unruh**, DSS Site Manager, work at the same facility. But they traveled nearly 1,100 miles to meet for the first time.

This was the first year that Greg had attended VA's National Veterans Winter Sports Clinic and the second year that Lea had volunteered to work at what is the largest disabled ski clinic for military veterans in the world. While performing her volunteer duties as a "helper" on the Food and Beverage team, Lea was chatting with a visually impaired veteran as she helped him through the buffet line. Lea thought that Greg looked familiar and as they talked more, they were pleasantly surprised when they discovered that they both worked at the same VA Medical Center.

For Lea, who usually works in front of a computer all day crunching numbers and data, the opportunity to work with and help those who have "borne the battle" helps remind her of the reason she works at the VA Medical Center. Meeting and getting to know Greg was one of the highlights of her week.

## Hatch Act: Know Your Rights

The Hatch Act restricts the political activity of executive branch employees, which includes the VA. The act gets a lot of publicity during presidential campaigns, and because the 2008 campaign is expected to utilize the internet as never before, below is a refresher on what is allowed, and what is prohibited.

### Employees of the VA may generally:

- Engage in partisan political campaigning, such as distributing campaign literature, organizing campaign events and speaking on behalf of a candidate.
- Engage in partisan political management, such as holding party office, organizing party events and serving on party committees.
- Contribute money to political organizations.
- Attend fund-raising functions.
- Be a member of a political party.
- Be candidates for public office in a nonpartisan election.

### Employees of the VA may not:

- Participate in partisan activities listed above while on duty, in a government office (or utilize government equip-



ment), while wearing an official uniform or while using an official government vehicle.

- Use official authority or influence to interfere with an election. This includes using an official title for political purposes, or coercing subordinates to volunteer or contribute to a campaign.
- Solicit or discourage political activity of anyone with business before their agency.
- Solicit or receive political contributions, whether on or off duty.
- Be candidates in partisan elections. An election becomes partisan when a candidate receives the endorsement of a political party, uses political party resources, or announces candidacy on behalf of a political party. (Running in partisan elections is permitted for candidates in certain areas with high concentrations of federal employees, such as the Virginia and Maryland suburbs of Washington, D.C.)

If you have questions, please contact our Regional Counsel at (415) 750-2288 or the Hatch Act Unit of the U.S. Office of Special Counsel at 800-85-Hatch (854-2824).

## Rapid Response: A Big Success

In 2006, the San Francisco VA Medical Center joined other hospitals across the country in the Institute for Healthcare Improvement's 100K Lives Campaign, an ambitious initiative to save 100,000 lives a year by implementing practice changes proven to prevent avoidable patient deaths in the nation's healthcare system. A key component of the initiative was development and deployment of a Rapid Response Team (RRT) – a team of clinicians who bring critical care expertise to the patient bedside or wherever it is needed.

Under the expert leadership of Critical Care staff **Leslie Zimmerman, MD**, **Wendy Quek, RN**, and **Jeffrey Emrick, RN**, an RRT was launched at the SFVAMC. The team is composed of a critical care physician, nurse and respiratory therapist and is available 24/7 to respond to calls from most areas of the medical center. A specific telephone extension (4444) different from the existing emergency extension (2222) was assigned to the RRT.

The RRT has been a success from day one, responding to more than 200 calls to date. The implementation of a RRT is expected to have some effect over time on the number of Code Blue Team activations in the facility, as well as Code Blue outcomes. Development of an RRT-type team is also a new Joint Commission National Patient Safety Goal for 2008. Thanks to the enthusiastic response from RRT members and nursing staff, our facility has already been successful in meeting this goal.

## Be a Good Neighbor

As you all know, our Medical Center is located in a very nice, residential neighborhood. Please keep this in mind and do your part to be a good neighbor. Be considerate of the surrounding area by not parking illegally, littering, or being loud and disrespectful.

# Highlights Around the Medical Center

SFVAMC played host to the Association of Perioperative Registered Nurses recently and offered an informative cardiac update workshop. There were speakers from various city hospitals, as well as a clinical display of the San Francisco VAMC's DaVinci robot, organized and presented by **Allyson Kuppens, RN** and **Arsenio Villarimo, RN**.



The research of **Ann Hayes, RN, BSN, CGRN**, charge nurse of the GI diagnostic center at the SFVAMC and **Janet Jule, RN, MSN**, nurse manager of the post-anesthesia care unit (PACU) was featured in an article entitled "Holistic Healing" in a recent edition of *Nurseweek*. Since 2004 they have been conducting a study to gauge the effects of peppermint oil in combating nausea in patients.



**Paul Heineken, MD**, is excited about the success of his son John, who is the second ranked American in the Olympic 49er sailing class. While his son is not going to the 2008 Beijing Olympics, because they only allow one team per

country, he will be one of twelve expert young sailors from the U.S., Brazil, New Zealand, Australia and the United Kingdom competing in the 42nd annual Governor's Cup International Junior Match Racing Championship from July 16th-20, 2008.



**Nilita Escobar, RN**, ran her first Dipsea recently and she had some extra responsibility. She guided Harry Cordellos, a 70-year-old blind runner from Novato, over the 7.5-mile course. The Dipsea is the oldest trail race in America. The scenic 7.1 mile course, from Mill Valley to Stinson Beach, is considered to be one of the most beautiful courses in the world.



The SFVAMC will inaugurate an HIV Medicine Postdoctoral Psychology Fellowship beginning July 1, 2008. This one year training program is the brainchild of **Peter Jensen, M.D.**, Chief, Infectious Diseases, in collaboration with **Russell Lemle, Ph.D.**, Director of Psychological Services, and is the first of its kind in the VA. **Bethany Ketchen, Ph.D.**, has been appointed as the fellow.

**Kenneth Covinsky, MD, MPH**, received the Edmund G. "Pat" Brown, Sr. Distinguished Professorship in Geriatrics at the University of California, San Francisco.



The National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans was celebrated during the week of February 11-16, 2008. Groups such as Soldiers' Angels, Blue Shield of California, Heart Warmer Pockets, and local Cub Scouts visited hospitalized veterans. Over 7,000 valentines were distributed by volunteers along with gift bags filled with comfort items.

Representatives from the Veterans of Foreign War Auxiliary and Non-Commissioned Officers Association also participated during the week. Thank you to all who participated in honoring our veterans.



**Sei Lee, MD**, Staff Physician, received the Hartford Foundation Outcomes Research Scholars Award. Sei is a graduate of our Medicine Residency and Geriatrics Fellowship. This is a prestigious and sought after career development award that supports emerging leaders in Geriatric Outcomes Research.



The Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory is proud to announce the return of their Journal Club and would like to invite others interested to participate. For details call x3929.



Two SFVAMC research fellows in the PTSD lab of Dr. Charles Marmar and one extern with the PTSD Clinic Team -- **Hui Qi Tong, M.D., M.S.** (also a predoctoral psychology intern), **Wang Zhen, M.D.**

and **George Hu, M.A.** (Psychology extern) -- were key players following the earthquake disaster in Sichuan, China on May 12, 2008. The fellows had been doing collaborative research in Shanghai, and George is currently doing an externship in Shan Xi, China, and they knew that first responders in China were in dire need of state-of-the-art information on how to provide psychological first aid. A day after the quake, they helped organize a translation of the 152-page *Psychological First Aid: Field*

*Operations Guide* (2006, 2nd edition) developed by the National Child Traumatic Stress Network and the National Center for PTSD as well as others involved in disaster response. Through the cooperation of over 40 volunteer translators from both sides of the Pacific Ocean, the translation was completed in four days and quickly made available for mass distribution to professional and lay volunteers working with quake victims and relatives.



Congratulations to **Jose Baez** who completed AIDS/Lifecycle, the 7-day, 545 mile cycling event from SF to LA to support HIV/AIDS.



**Brie Williams, MD, MS**, was selected as the winner of a 2008 Brookdale Foundation Leadership in Aging Fellowship. Her work has involved assessing the health, functional status, and healthcare needs of older adults in transitioning from incarceration to community health systems.



Congratulations to **Alan Wang**, Medical Support Assistant, who will be beginning Medical School at the University of Arizona School of Medicine in July.



**Sharon Farah, NP**, was selected as the city-wide "Cardiology Fellow NP of the Year." She was selected by UCSF Cardiology Fellows.



**Louise Walter, MD**, was elected President of the California Society of General Internal Medicine.



If you were watching a recent episode of "Jeopardy" you might have recognized one of SF-VAMC's own employees. **Kew-chang Lee**, Chief, Psychiatry

Consult, was a recent contestant on the popular game show. He was leading going into the Final Jeopardy round, but unfortunately didn't get the final answer correct. That's ok, we're still proud of you!



GEC Service Line Director **Helen L. Chen, MD**, received a letter from the sister of a patient who recently died at the Nurs-

ing Home, recognizing **Sei Lee, MD** and **Michael Steinman, MD**, who cared for her. "They were so loving and kind. The care and consideration that they give their elderly patients is far above the norm," she wrote.



**Anna Chang, MD**, Medical Director of the Nursing Home received the Betty and James E. Birren Emerging Leadership Award from the California Council for Gerontology and Geriatrics.



Patients and staff had the opportunity to meet Miss United States Ashley Kazian & Miss South Carolina United States Teen Rachel Law as they visited the San Francisco VA Medical Center. The two met with

patients and staff on 2A and 2B, the Parkinson's Center and the Community Living Center (CLC). Resident's at the CLC enthusiastically greeted the beauty queens and lined up to present them with flowers and pose for pictures. Pictured are Ashley Kazian (left) and Rachel Law with staff of 2B.

## CBI Bullets...

This is the first of what we hope will be a recurring Beacon column. The purpose is to communicate CBI hot topics, current events, and local activities. Since this is a new column, we need readers to help up come up with a catchy, appealing name. The person who comes up with the winning entry will receive a \$10 gift card to a restaurant or store of their choice. Please submit your suggestions to: **Yvonne Brooks via inner office mail (Compliance Office, routing 00C) or e-mail (Yvonne.brooks@va.gov).**

- On May 28, 2008, SFVAMC CBI and Integrated Ethics staff manned an information booth during Corporate Compliance and Ethics Week. Congratulations to the winners of the word games and e-scavenger hunt: Mega Prize Winner – Susan Pettitt (11SR); Grand Prize Winner – S. Pettitt (11SR) and G. Nagrampa (11C); 1st prize winner: L. Gabriele (90D) and C. Poblete (136); and 2nd prize winner: N. Lui (151NC) and M. Fong (111W1).

## Hoptel: Home Away from Home

In order to provide easier access to medical care for veterans traveling a long distance, the Hoptel offers overnight, shared lodging accommodations right here on campus. Hoptel is located in Buildings 9 and 10.

Veterans who have a scheduled clinic appointment and live more than 50 miles from the Medical Center, and are able to care for their own needs without supervision, are eligible for lodging. Reservations are made in advance by the clinic or provider, when scheduling appointment or procedure dates. Lodging for caregivers may be available for veterans needing assistance during their Hoptel stay, and must be pre-arranged by a medical provider.

Veterans with Hoptel reservations may present for check-in at anytime during scheduled office hours which are M-F, 8 a.m. - 10 p.m. and weekends 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.. Rooms are generally ready for occupancy by 11 a.m. If you haven't been to the Hoptel, please feel free to drop in for a tour.

## 2008 All Employee Survey: Outstanding Results!

Thank you to those of you who participated in the 2008 VHA All Employee Survey. Nearly 1,400 of our employees responded to the survey, which is more than 69% of all of our employees. This survey measured your perceptions in the areas of: satisfaction with key job features; satisfaction in your immediate work group, and perceptions of the general atmosphere of the facility overall.

So what did our results tell us? In the job satisfaction category, our scores improved significantly in the following areas: pay satisfaction, direct supervision, senior management, promotion opportunities, praise and overall satisfaction. For the work group satisfaction category, we improved significantly in the majority of areas including: cooperation, conflict resolution, diversity acceptance, coworker support, supervisory, leadership, rewards, employee development, work family balance, job control, retention, and civility.

And in the category of culture, SFVAMC rated the highest in the bureaucratic culture factor, where the motto might be: "Follow standard operating procedures." We showed an increase



*Victor Corchado, Medical Service was thrilled to win a Blue Ray Player.*

## It's All in the Name

The Nursing Home Care Unit has had a name change! It is now officially called the **Community Living Center (CLC)**. The name change is aligned with the VA initiative to implement culture transformation by providing resident-centered care in all VA CLCs. The name change demonstrates the commitment of VA to accommodate the age-specific needs of the returning combat veterans seeking long or short term care in VA CLCs.

Speaking of name changes, did you know that in 2006 a directive was passed requiring all emergency care facilities be referred to as an "**Emergency Department**"? This was determined to be needed to ensure that patients seeking emergency care in any VHA facility can readily identify the appropriate location for such services. Many still refer to our emergency care area as E&A, which stands for Emergency & Admissions. To help ensure there is no confusion for our veteran patients, we ask that you no longer use this name but use its proper name -- **Emergency Department**.

in the group culture factor where the motto might be: "Our people are our most important asset."

So what's the bottom line, the SFVAMC improved in nearly all categories. The results for our Medical Center were overwhelmingly positive and we thank you for your efforts to complete this survey. As an extra incentive, employees from those services that had a 75% or higher completion rate were entered into a drawing for a chance to win a great prize. The winners of the All Employee Survey prize drawing were:

- 32" Television: **Sharlyn Navarro** – Nursing
- 32" Television: **Myla Tuason** – Nursing
- Video iPod: **Thelma Zerna** – Nursing
- Video iPod: **Edna DePadua** – Nursing
- Video iPod: **Benjamin Reynolds** – Mental Health
- Blue Ray: **Victor Corchado** – Medical Service
- Blue Ray: **Lori Pietila** – Nursing
- Compact: **Mary Julian** – Lab Medicine

## Robotic Partial Nephrectomy Performed at SFVAMC



*Pictured left from right: Dr. Thomas Chi, Dr. Badrinath Konety, Dr. Mark Dall'era, and Dr. Matthew Cooperberg.*

Urologic surgeons at the San Francisco VA Medical Center (SFVAMC) performed a robotic-assisted laparoscopic partial nephrectomy, the first such operation in the city of San Francisco or anywhere in the VA system.

As more kidney tumors are detected at small sizes due to widespread use of abdominal CT scans and ultrasounds, nephron-sparing surgery – i.e., procedures which allow removal or ablation of tumors while sparing the rest of the kidney—has become an increasingly important option for patients. Partial nephrec-

tomy, removal of a tumor and repair of the kidney, is the gold standard in this area, allowing complete excision of the tumor and pathologic analysis of the tumor type, grade, and stage. However, the procedure is traditionally performed through a relatively large incision under or next to the ribs, which can result in postoperative pain and a slow recovery.

Laparoscopic partial nephrectomy allows the procedure to be done on a video screen through small incisions, but it is technically challenging and not suitable for all small tumors. Our group at the SFVAMC has built a strong experience in robotic-assisted laparoscopy through our prostate cancer program, and we are now applying that experience to partial nephrectomy. Using the DaVinci robot improves our ability to remove the tumor precisely and to repair the kidney, especially when the tumor is in a location which is challenging to reach with standard laparoscopic instruments. Our hope is that this technology will enable more patients with small kidney tumors to enjoy the faster recovery offered by laparoscopy.

The surgical team included **Dr. Badri Konety**, the chief of Urology at SFVAMC, **Drs. Marc Dall-era, Matt Cooperberg, and Tom Chi**. The surgical nursing team was **Arsenio Villarimo, Thelma Vetvitoon, Allyson Kuppens, and Criselda Navarro**. The patient had an uneventful recovery. — by Dr. Matt Cooperberg

## Social Focus Cohort: A Beneficial Program

In December 2007, the Social Focus Cohort (SFC) at SFVAMC NHCUC opened. It is designed for voluntary treatment of veterans who have skilled nursing needs and psychosocial problems that make living in other environments challenging. The SFC's mission is to serve veterans who can benefit from specialized interdisciplinary expertise, comprehensive therapy and psychological/behavioral management in a therapeutic environment informed by psychosocial rehabilitation principles.

One of the veterans served is a 59 year old female and retired Army career officer. Following the death of a deeply committed partner in 2001, she began drinking heavily, experienced exacerbation of bipolar affective disorder, and consequently her medical condition deteriorated. She was hospitalized acutely for both medical and psychiatric problems. In January 2008, after vascular bypass surgery at SFVAMC, she transferred to our NHCUC for physical and social rehabilitation. Initially, withdrawn and staying in bed with

blankets over her head, she was unable to engage in the most basic daily functions including bathing, dressing and mobility.

The SFC team worked to develop rapport allowing for gradual engagement into SFC programming including: community meetings, cognitive skills, anger management, leisure skills and exercise classes. With encouragement and support, her interactions increased; ultimately she became a leader among her peers. She engaged in individual psychotherapy, and occupational, recreational and physical therapies. With these intensive, structured, coordinated services her mood returned to a healthy baseline, her medical condition stabilized, and functional independence was maximized. Examples demonstrating progress included self-directed community trips and her decision to become a bereavement counselor.

Prior to returning home, she stated the SFVAMC staff provided support that was "kind, caring and compassionate" and that her peers offered "continued encouragement." — by Karen Leigh OTR/L, Michael Drexler PhD, Pamela Low LCSW, Cindy Chan CTRS

# Service Awards

Congratulations to the following employees who have been honored for their years of service between December 2007-May 2008.  
[SOURCE: SFVAMC Human Resources]

## •10 Years •

Linda Anastasi  
Benjamin Apawan  
Alice Atkinson  
Evelyn Badua  
Michelle Bosuego  
Harry Breeze  
Kenneth Castellano  
Jean Clark  
Frank Ermon

Daniel Ganoza  
K. L. Harris-Collet  
Richard Heilman  
Sherry Ledford  
Joseph McAfee h  
Florita Macaraeg  
Nathaniel Patrick  
Patrick Porter  
Nancy Rainwater

Stephen Rigdon  
Daniel Roberts  
Irene Turman  
Terrie Tzeng  
Reginald Wilson  
Walter Wu  
Rita Yee  
Debra Yelvington  
Kenny Yu

## •15 Years •

Marianne Addington  
Jonas Alano  
Monica Allison  
Erin Butler  
Fred Contreras  
Francis Durant  
Richard Fontenot

James Geracimos  
Bobby Gray  
Susan Hallahan  
Rhoda Johnson  
Susan Karpenko  
Hon Leong  
Michelle McAnanama

Laura McGill  
Bonnie O'Brien  
Rebeka Silva  
Douglas South  
Arthur Wallace

## • 20 Years •

Hussam Alkhadra  
Remy Balonon  
Candice Crider  
Darryal Cooper  
Don Donati  
Christine Frank  
Susan Hway  
Brian Kelly

Tom Lue  
Mary Mannix-Cantillon  
Gaudencio Martinez  
Rene Ruiz  
David Saloner  
Sue Schanbeck-Shuffer  
Linda Stubler  
Cheryl Tuckerman

## • 25 Years •

Harold Clumeck  
Charles Crawford  
Frances Fong  
Robert Hepplewhite  
Ronald Isom  
Mary Julian  
Mirafflor Kaihara  
Eileen Kennedy  
Candace Kim

Kerry Mark  
Denise Schmidtgall  
Douglas Schmucker  
Phillip Scott  
Mary Beth Tomasco  
Lourdes Torres  
Charles Watson  
J. Williams-St Paul  
Thressa Winn

## • 30 Years •

Asteria Acosta  
Rodante Angeles  
David Canlas  
Doris Chan  
John Dekutoski  
Anita Eickenhorst  
Jan Garcia  
Robert Goldware  
Roy Herren  
Diana Hidalgo

Catharine Holden  
Shu-Jan Huang  
Charlene Nason  
Nicole Oswald  
Garfield Powell  
Bruce Roberts  
Paul Simon, Jr.  
Victorina Socorro  
Betty Yee  
Anita Yoskowitz

## • 35 Years •

Jeffrey Joseph  
Marian Kerbleski  
Anna Rouge

## • 40 Years •

Pepito Mallari

# In Memoriam

**Mark Cybulski**, Timekeeper Extraordinaire for Nursing Service, died suddenly at his home on March 2, 2008. He was known by many for his love of life and laughter he brought everywhere he went. He was a detailed oriented perfectionist, with an infectious sense of humor who was committed to excellence. These traits are exactly what made him so good at his job! He got the job done, even under the most stressful situations. Those that knew him can still hear his familiar

refrain "They're killin' me!" (said with a smile), coming from his office. Mark cared about others. Few knew that he volunteered as a basketball coach for kids in the Tenderloin, and loved every minute of it. His knowledge of sports of all kinds was unsurpassed! Mark Cybulski was a man who touched many lives and yet was unaware of the difference he made. A man now gone; never forgotten. May he rest in peace. *[Submitted by Candace Crider]*

*The Beacon* is published by the Office of Public Affairs, for the employees of the San Francisco VA Medical Center. Please address suggestions, comments or story ideas to Judi Cheary, Public Affairs Officer (OOP) at judi.cheary2@va.gov or (415) 750-2250. The editor reserves the right to make changes and/or edits to any submission chosen for publication.

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