

FISHER HOUSE

NEWSLETTER



February 2023

OPEN HOUSE & HONOR LUNCHEON

On January 20th, the Fisher House celebrated our 5-year anniversary alongside our annual Open House and Honor Luncheon. Over 150 members from the community stopped by to receive tours and experience all the wonderful things the Fisher House team and VA does for our veterans and their family members. During the Open House, the Fisher House also dedicated the new Ralph H. Johnson Biography alongside Ralph H. Johnson's sister and other family members. The Fisher House would like to thank the Friends of Fisher House Charleston and our volunteers for their help in making this event a success.



Guest Testimony

What a wonderful home away from home! It has been better than we could have ever hoped for. The staff are very accommodating and welcoming! Thank you from the bottom of our hearts. It is a blessing, especially with all our family is going through. We greatly appreciate it more than we can express!

- Kevin, Genie & Daniel Boissy

Did You Know?

During the Victorian Era and into the 20th century, those who didn't want the attention of certain suitors would anonymously send "vinegar valentines" or "penny dreadfuls," which could be purchased to insult just about anyone in your life.



PFC Ralph H. Johnson's Birthday

Pfc. Johnson was born in Charleston on January 11, 1949. In 1967 he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps and deployed to Vietnam in 1968 during Operation Rock. During an ambush, a grenade was hurled into Johnson's two-man fighting hole. Johnson selflessly threw his body onto the grenade and was killed saving his fellow Marines. For this heroic act, President Richard Nixon posthumously awarded Johnson with the Congressional Medal of Honor.

On September 5, 1991, the Charleston VA Medical Center was formally renamed the Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center in honor of one of Charleston's most heroic natives. When the hospital was renamed to the Ralph H. Johnson VA, Pfc. Johnson became the first African American soldier to have a VA named after him. The Health Care System and the Fisher House celebrated Pfc. Johnson's life and sacrifice on January 11, 2023 – what would have been his 74th birthday.



MEET OUR STAFF

Jessica is originally from New York but moved to SC to work with the Veterans on Deck program. She works full time at MUSC Hollings Cancer Center, and you can find her at the Fisher House on the weekends. She is the daughter of an Air Force veteran and is passionate about the needs of veterans and their family members.



MEET A FOFH CHARLESTON BOARD MEMBER

Kathy Talbot worked as a fund raiser/program specialist for a Non-Profit and volunteered at the Andrews AFB Fisher House before moving to South Carolina. Kathy and her husband have been the recipient of care and support of the Fisher House Family and because of the nurturing they received there, she developed a strong passion for the Fisher House Organization and the work they do for all our veterans.



HOW CAN I HELP?



FRIENDS OF FISHER HOUSE
DONATION LINK



MEAL TRAIN



AMAZON
WISHLIST



VA DONATION
LINK

DONATE

Items: Individually packaged food items/snacks and common household items such as toilet paper and cleaning supplies are always appreciated.

Monetary: Donations can be made online at <https://www.pay.gov/public/form/entry/101/50809435/> or at <https://friendsoffisherhousecharleston.org/donate.html>. Checks can be made payable to *Charleston Fisher House* or *Friends of Fisher House*.



VOLUNTEERING

Meal Train: We are always looking for volunteers to come and cook at the fisher house. You can register online at <https://mealtrain.com/986m8v>.

If you have any questions about donating or volunteering, please contact the Fisher House Managers at Erik.Zielinski@va.gov & Charity.Anderson@va.gov, or by calling 843-805-8200.