

July 2023



Ralph H. Johnson Fisher House

4,296

Families Served



\$3,068,640

Savings to Families

Honoring Chief Reynolds



During an Independence Day Luncheon at the Fisher House, Caroline Reynolds, wife of the late Luther Reynolds, received a Certificate of Outstanding Service. The certificate recognized Chief Reynolds' commitment and dedication to the veterans and families staying at the Ralph H. Johnson Fisher House. Chief Reynolds was the founder of the Annual Santa's Escort Ride held every December. During this event, Charleston P.D. escorts Santa as he rides through Charleston delivering gifts to the Fisher House and the Ronald McDonald House.

GUEST TESTIMONY

Fisher House staff are above and beyond what service I ever thought I would receive. I have been inspired by my stay. The staff are very attentive and have a great spirit of service. I felt safe, slept well, and was provided with a "no worries" experience. Thank you for ALL you did. The type of service provided by the Fisher House will be remembered and is greatly appreciated.

- Margo B.

DID YOU KNOW?

Americans consume a lot of hot dogs on July 4th? About 150 million, to be exact. If you laid out all of these hot dogs end-to-end, they would stretch from D.C. to L.A. more than 5 times over!





In May of 2019, Pat Sherrod-Elliott's 32-year-old son, Sean Victor, started showing troubling neurological symptoms.

The otherwise-healthy marine corps sergeant underwent extensive testing to determine the cause of his deterioration. After a few trips to Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland, Victor was admitted to Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center in Charleston, the closest hospital to the family's homes in Beaufort, South Carolina.

Victor was ultimately diagnosed with adrenoleukodystrophy (ALD), a rare genetic

condition that damages the myelin sheath, the membrane that protects the nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord. He died on April 12, 2021, at 34 years old.

Sherrod-Elliott refers to that two-year period as one of the worst times of her life—one she says was made more bearable by the Fisher House. She stayed at the foundation's Charleston house free of charge for three months while her son was at Ralph H. Johnson, saving her from having to drive 150 miles to and from Beaufort each day.

-Story courtesy of Southern Living Magazine

OBJECT HUNT

Somewhere in this newsletter, we have hidden the "Heart of the Fisher House." The heart can be big or small, and hidden in or behind other pictures, so keep your eyes peeled! The first person to find the heart and sends us an email at VHACHAFisherHouse@va.gov with a picture of them pointing it out, will not only receive a prize, but will be featured in the next newsletter as well.

Find  Me

FISHER HOUSE UPDATE

Let's celebrate! During the month of June, the Ralph H Johnson Fisher House was #1 in VA for occupancy maintaining just over 100% occupancy. Our Fisher House was also #1 in the VA in June for total number of Veterans families accommodated. The RHJFH is also part of the top 3 VAs for total number of families accommodated for the last 5 months in a row. Since opening in 2018, the RHJ FH has accommodated 4,296 Families and has accommodated more Veterans and families this year than any other VA Fisher House in the country.

LAST MONTH'S WINNER



Nolisa Welch was our June Object Hunt winner! Nolisa works in the Director's Office and is always eager to help anyone in need!

MEET A FRIENDS OF FISHER HOUSE BOARD MEMBER



Dr. James Elsey had a 30 plus year medical career in the Atlanta area while simultaneously serving in a US Army MASH unit as a reserve officer. His clinical specialty is Vascular Surgery and he recently served on the Board of Directors of the American College of Surgeons.

One notable honor was the opportunity to run the Torch prior to the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta. He recently moved to the Charleston area is looking forward to supporting the Fisher House mission.



MEET OUR TEAM



Sheldon recently moved to the Fisher House from the North Charleston RHJ clinic and has been working for the VA for over 15 years. He is originally from Michigan and has been in Charleston for the last four years. Sheldon is a US Navy Veteran of four years, where he served as a Petty Officer Second Class Radio Man in San Diego, CA. He enjoys talking with veterans and their families and scheduling events for everyone to enjoy.

FISHER HOUSE FUN FACT

Fisher House Foundation is best known for its network of 95 comfort homes where military and veteran families can stay at no cost while a loved one is receiving treatment. These homes are located at major military and VA medical facilities nationwide, and in Europe, close to the medical facility they serve.



How Can I Help?

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/986m8u>.

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.



Friends of Fisher
House
Donation Link



Meal Train



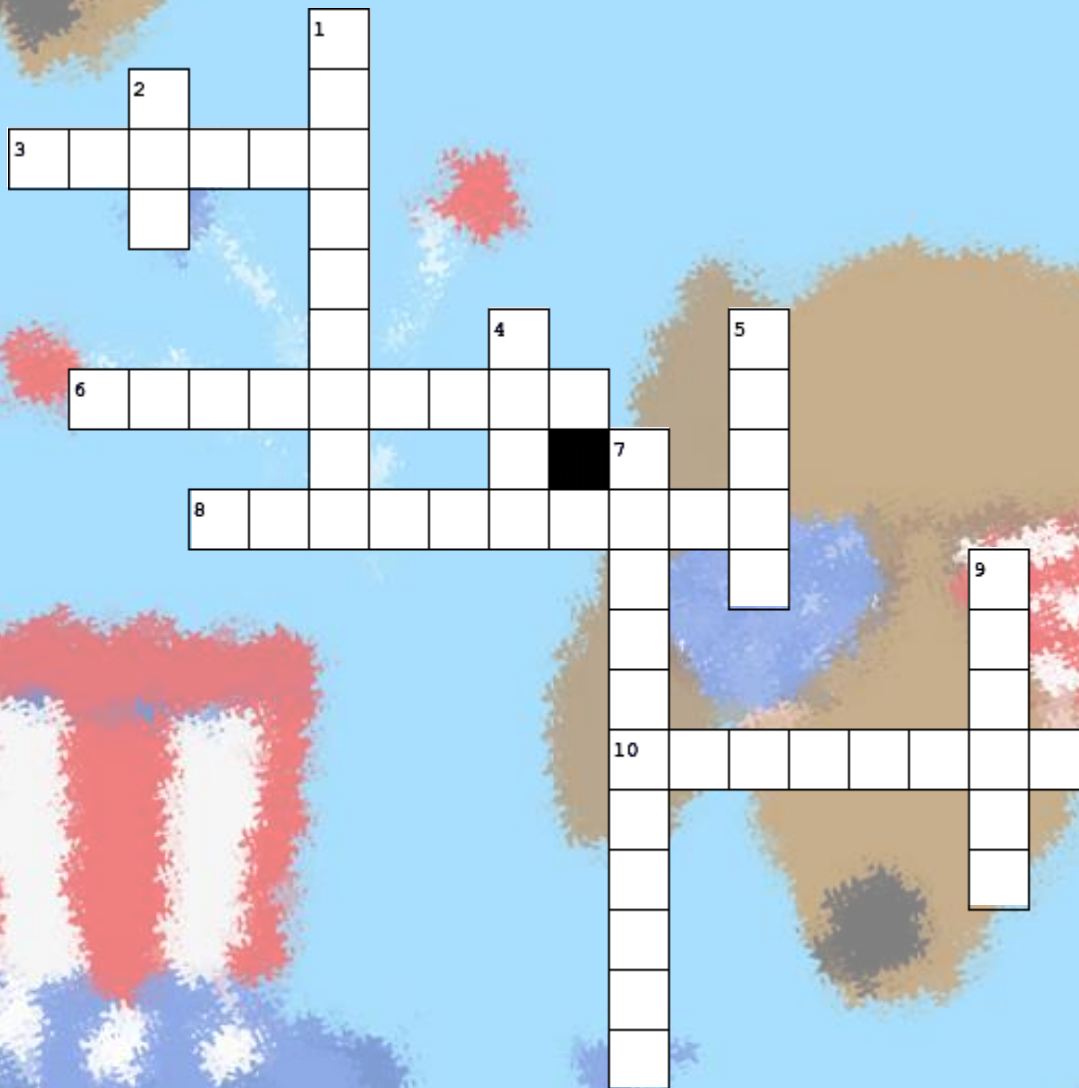
Amazon
Wishlist



VA Donation
Link



Who Let the Dogs Out?



Across

3.	Last month's Object Hunt Winner
6.	The location of the object hunt heart
8.	The number of Fisher Houses located globally
10.	Charleston's Police Chief who started the Santa's Escort Ride

Down

1.	Where you can sign up to cook meals for Fisher House guests
2.	Rare condition Marine Sergeant Sean Victor was diagnosed with
4.	Branch of the military our team member served in
5.	Dr. who ran the torch in the 1996 Olympic Games
7.	#1 in the country for June occupancy
9.	Famously eaten on July 4th