



## Ring this bell, three times well!

Traditionally, ringing a bell means something noteworthy is happening. For our Veterans who complete their radiation therapy, it is a way to say, "I've made it."

The bell you see pictured below was donated to the radiation oncology department by the Jewish War Veterans. This bell will be rung by patients after their last radiation treatment. The bell will be mounted on a plaque with one of the following poems.

*"Ring this bell, three times well. Its toll to clearly say:  
My treatment is done! This course is run!  
And I am on my way!"*

*"Your day has come to strike the bell  
Your silent heart has much to tell  
And much to toll this proud new day  
Treatment done, you're on your way"*



Left to right Stephanie Graham, Dr. Debabrata Bhaduri, Pam Doherty, Marvin Denton, Dr. Eashwer, Reddy, Mike Katzman WWII, Sheldon Turetsky, Elizabeth Moutafis, Evelyn Higby.

The KCVA radiation oncology department in Johnson County sees about 30 patients a day. Currently, at the end of a patient's treatment they receive a certificate. Patients and VA staff look forward hearing the joyous ring of the bell after a Veteran has completed their difficult journey.

## Project Updates

### Limited Elevator Access

Due to remodeling of the elevator lobbies in the Main Tower.

**Starting Nov. 25th**, access to the **7th Floor** will only be available using the Main Building Freight Elevator or Freedom Pavilion Elevator.

**Starting Dec. 2nd**, access to the **5th Floor** will only be available using the Main Building Freight Elevator or Freedom Pavilion Elevator.

**Starting Dec. 9th**, access to the **10th Floor** will only be available using the Main Building Freight Elevator.

Remodeling in each lobby area will last approximately 45 days from the scheduled start date.

Please watch for directional signs posted in the facility. Thank you for your patience during this improvement!

Plans are in place for the newly remodeled **dialysis unit** to open to patients March 2014.



## Honor Annex

**Veterans to Receive 1.5 Percent Cost-of-Living Increase  
New Rates for Compensation and Pension Benefits in 2014**

Veterans, their families and survivors receiving disability compensation and pension benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs will receive a 1.5 percent cost-of-living increase in their monthly payments beginning Jan. 1, 2014.

“We’re pleased there will be another cost-of-living increase for Veterans, their families and their survivors,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. “The increase expresses in a tangible way our Nation’s gratitude for the sacrifices made by our service-disabled and wartime Veterans.”

Veterans and survivors will see additional cents included in their monthly compensation benefit payment. For Veterans without dependents, the new compensation rates will range from \$130.94 monthly for a disability rated at 10 percent to \$2,858.24 monthly for 100 percent. The full rates are available on the Internet at [www.benefits.va.gov/compensation/rates-index.asp](http://www.benefits.va.gov/compensation/rates-index.asp).

## Have a Safe and Happy Holiday Season!

### **Looking back at FY13 – KCVA rocked!**

**Served 47, 405 unique patients**

- 1.1 Million appointments

**Number of New Employees**

- 39 Administrative staff
- 18 RNs
- 12 Health Techs
- 11 LPN/LVN/Nurse Assistants

**Expanded hours in:**

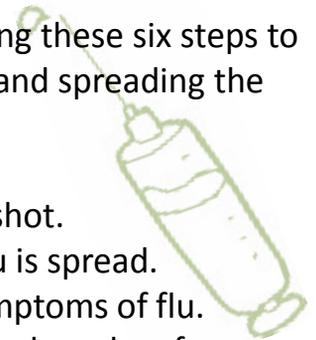
- Primary Care, Neurology, and Cardiology have Saturday Clinics
- Mental Health has evening clinics

**Homeless housed at 98.8%**

**Did you get your flu shot?  
If not, be sure to ask your  
provider at your next  
appointment.**

VA suggests taking these six steps to prevent getting and spreading the flu.

1. Get your flu shot.
2. Know how flu is spread.
3. Know the symptoms of flu.
4. Keep your hands and surfaces around you clean.
5. Cover your coughs and sneezes.
6. Stay home when you are sick.



**Kansas City VA Medical Center**

816-861-4700

[www.kansascity.va.gov](http://www.kansascity.va.gov)

**Veterans Crisis Line**

1-800-273-8255



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