

# THE VETERANS VOICE

May 2025 ★ Liberation Veteran Services Newsletter



## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Dear LVS Supporters and Friends,

Thank you for your continued support of LVS. As we all reflect on Memorial Day, it should unite us in acknowledging our Veterans' sacrifices. Those sacrifices are part of our "why." It reminds us just how deep our brave Veterans' commitment can go. And while some unfortunately lost their lives, many remain. Some may have survived the war, but possibly not the side effects.

That's where our work comes in. And that's why your support means so much. Whether you've served a meal, donated clothes, or made a financial contribution to our operations or Veterans Village, we are so grateful. Thank you for all that you do.

With gratitude,

**Jay Patrick**  
President & CEO  
Liberation Veteran Services

## VETERANS VILLAGE UPDATE

by Mark Chang, Senior Analyst | Construction Solutions | STRUCTR



Kelly DeVito and I are with STRUCTR, a construction consulting firm, and are honored to be a part of such an amazing project and mission. We are serving LVS as their Owner's Representatives to help chaperone the Veterans Village construction process to a resoundingly successful completion.

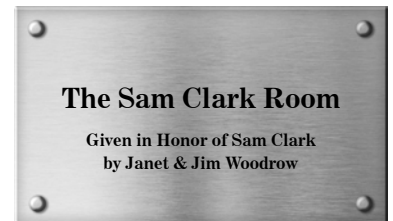
The Veterans Village project kicked off in November 2024 and is going full steam ahead. Utility connections (water, fire line, and electrical) are being buried and brought to the building. The vertical construction phase—exterior and interior structural framing and sheathing—which started in early April, will be close to complete by the time this newsletter reaches you. The next steps in the process are exterior finishes (building wrap, siding, and trim) and installing the infrastructure for interior mechanical, electrical, and plumbing services (a.k.a. "roughing in"). Interior finishes and fit out are expected to start in June. Again, the construction process is moving along nicely. When done—with all finishing touches in place—**Veterans Village will be exactly that: an inviting, comfortable, and safe place for Veterans to receive vital services and support.** Final completion is expected in Q4 2025, and we are looking forward to it!

## NAME A ROOM. HONOR A HERO.

Leave a Lasting Legacy at Veterans Village

With your generous sponsorship you will have the opportunity to **name a micro-apartment** and **dedicate it in honor or memory of a loved one, a fellow Veteran, or someone who inspires you.**

To learn more or reserve your naming opportunity, contact [LBerkness@lvsrva.org](mailto:LBerkness@lvsrva.org) or (804) 233-4064 x208



Example only, final design has not been completed



At Liberation Veteran Services we offer homeless Veterans the care, resources, and stability needed to rebuild their lives.

## ALUMNI CORNER



### **CORDELL TOLOR: VETERAN, LEADER, MENTOR**

**U.S. ARMY VETERAN (1969–1970)**

U.S. Army Veteran Cordell Tolor (1969–1970, Honorable Discharge) completed the LVS Program in 2018. Since then, he has secured and maintained stable housing and dedicated himself to supporting fellow Veterans. His resilience, leadership, and service continue to inspire us all. Now on staff as a valued LVS housing monitor, Mr. Tolor brings firsthand experience and empathy to his role, making a meaningful impact on our community.

*He explains his approach simply, “I tell them about me, about the things this program has done for me, and it can do the same for you.”*

Mr. Tolor recently joined the LVS Alumni Association — a welcome and valued addition to the group! Alumni Association members serve as important mentors to current residents, offering guidance and fostering a sense of community among all involved.

## CLIENT ACCOMPLISHMENT

### **DEANDRE STEVENS, A RESIDENT OF LVS, HAS A GOOD REASON TO SMILE.**

In July 2024, Mr. Stevens joined the LVS community and began working diligently to build a strong foundation to secure a new job and permanent housing.

Mr. Stevens found the right opportunity at Sheetz convenience store as a Team Member in November. Since then, he has thrived in his role, genuinely enjoying the daily connection with his friendly and supportive coworkers, as well as engaging with customers.

On April 21, Mr. Stevens provided such outstanding service that the customer submitted the following message through the company website:

*The cashier Dre was just exceptional. He greeted me as soon as I walked in the door, and when I asked him for a certain product he knew exactly where it was, and I was out of the door and on my way in a flash. His attentiveness is phenomenal because I have a tendency to speak quickly, and he followed me instantly. He really made my day!*

We salute Mr. Stevens for doing a great job!



## CORPORATE PARTNER SPOTLIGHT Patriots of Valor



Left to right: Lynne Berkness, Fletcher Johnson, John and June Hiller

Since 2023, the non-profit **Patriots of Valor** has generously donated backpacks and “going home” bags to LVS for our Veterans. This NJ organization’s mission is to minister to the needs of incarcerated or homeless Veterans. Each bag contains necessities such as personal toiletry items and socks.

June and John Hiller are local long-time volunteers and friends with Patriots of Valor, and they delivered another shipment to our office and visited with staff in April.

We thank Ellen and Bob Papa of Patriots of Valor and the Hillers for their dedication to our Veterans and all the Veterans they serve.

## COMMUNITY PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

# Capital Area Health Network (CAHN)



Rosalind Christian and Jackie Harris of CAHN meeting with our Veterans



Jackie Harris and Mr. Hunt



Mr. Brooks receiving health information

We are proud to announce that **Capital Area Health Network (CAHN)** has joined the LVS Housing Group. CAHN is a dedicated nonprofit organization providing medical and dental care to residents in the Metropolitan #Richmond area.

As part of this partnership, CAHN will be offering monthly educational sessions for LVS Veterans about understanding various health conditions and preventative care. Most importantly, Veterans will learn how to maintain their health and lead happy, fulfilling lives.

### A HEARTWARMING TESTIMONY

*In October 2023, our client Mr. Hunt was working on a computer at the nearby public library when a young lady from CAHN approached him and asked, "Can I take your blood pressure?" At first, he declined, but after several requests, he agreed. Mr. Hunt's blood pressure reading was very high, which led to his hospitalization. He was told if he had waited 24 more hours, he would have suffered a stroke.*

*During the April CAHN educational session Mr. Hunt was reunited with the very woman who helped save his life: Jackie Harris. It was a beautiful and emotional moment, especially as they discovered they were birthday twins!*

## A HOME RUN FOR FUN AND VETERANS



### SUPPORT LVS WHEN YOU PURCHASE GAME TICKETS

A portion of 2025 Flying Squirrels ticket sales will benefit LVS, just use this QR code or visit the website below:  
<https://www.gofevo.com/group/Liberationveterans>



### RICHMOND FLYING SQUIRRELS



# LYNNE'S LENS: INSPIRATION



I have been thinking a lot about the word “inspire” lately. It’s a beautiful word, a powerful word – a word that connects – If you are inspired by someone that’s an automatic connection – Who inspires me?

I don’t have to look far – It’s right here at 12th and Hull Street

Our Veterans may have fallen down, but they have not given up – I am inspired daily at their courage, resilience and fortitude. I stand in awe at their gratitude, and appreciation for the things most of us take for granted – a bed, a hot meal, clean clothing, a roof.

Let me share about Mr. Stewart – he arrived at LVS in December. Mr. Stewart served in the US Air Force for 22 years. He’s upbeat, positive and an all-around good guy!

It was always a treat when Mr. Stewart would stop in my office and share his updates on his progress.

Mr. Stewart also has a car and often drove his fellow Veterans to and from appointments – He is one who raises his hand to help.

Carol worked with him on finding his apartment and in late April he was so excited to get to his appointment to sign his lease and get his key.

While he was waiting to head out, he stopped in my office to share his great news. His apartment is actually just a few blocks down on Hull Street – I told him that I hoped he would stop by and he said that he sure would. He said that he still wanted to check on his buddies and us.

*Then he looked at me and said, “You know, when I first got here, I felt like I was walking in quicksand – today I feel like I am walking on air!”*

## NEED SOME INSPIRATION? COME AND VISIT US AT LVS!

Thank you to all who support us at LVS. I hope this note inspires you to continue to help our brave Veterans. We cannot do it without you!

*Lynne Berkness*

**Lynne Berkness**  
Chief Advancement Officer



**HOUSING. HEALING. HOPE.**

Mr. Stewart holding key to new apartment.



## LIBERATION VETERAN SERVICES

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🌐 [lvsrva.org](http://lvsrva.org) 📺 @lvsrva

## YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Give Back To Our Brave  
Veterans Today



### DONATE TODAY

Celebrate Our Freedoms by  
Supporting Our Veterans

Lynne Berkness

✉ [LBerkness@lvsrva.org](mailto:LBerkness@lvsrva.org)

☎ 804.233.4064 x208

[lvsrva.org/donate/](http://lvsrva.org/donate/)

*Envelope enclosed for your  
convenience. Please complete the  
form and return with your donation.*



### GET INVOLVED

Volunteer or Tour

Fletcher Johnson

✉ [FJohnson@lvsrva.org](mailto:FJohnson@lvsrva.org)

☎ 804.233.4064 x201

[lvsrva.org/get-involved/](http://lvsrva.org/get-involved/)

