

## New "Veteran's Care" Programs Unveiled At Desert Springs Hospital

### VETERANS CARE

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### DESERT SPRINGS HOSPITAL

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Thomas L. Koenig, Administrator of Desert Springs Hospital on East Flamingo Road, has announced the formation of two new programs called "Veteran's Care." The program will cover honorably discharged veterans who have Medicare and those personnel covered by CHAMPUS.

"Under the Medicare portion of the program," Mr. Koenig said, "any honorably discharged veteran who has Medicare is eligible to join, with Desert Springs Hospital providing general acute care services to them with no cost to the veteran. We will accept Medicare benefits as 100% payment. This new program will also serve to help eliminate the piles of paperwork a veteran usually encounters when checking into a private hospital." Mr. Koenig added that spouses and widows of veterans are also eligible providing they have Medicare coverage.

The "Veteran's Care" Medicare Program will cover all costs of emergency treatment, inpatient and outpatient care, but will not cover long term confinements. Mr. Koenig added that Desert Springs Hospital will reserve the right to bill supplemental insurance policies if the veteran has such insurance coverage. He further stated that while the program does not cover physician's fees, approximately 75% of the doctors with staff privileges at Desert Springs Hospital accept Medicare assignments, which means that the veteran's outlay for physicians will be minimal, if at all.

"As for the CHAMPUS portion of the program," Mr. Koenig stated, "we are instituting the following benefits providing the appropriate statement of non-availability has been obtained from the hospital at Nellis AFB. First, for retirees and their dependents, we are waiving 100% of the copayment required for inpatient and outpatient care, as well as the annual deductible for outpatient treatment, providing that treatment is received at our facility. With regards to dependents of active duty personnel, we will waive the subsistence payment required for inpatient care, and also the annual deductible and the full outpatient copayment, providing again, of course, that that treatment is received at Desert Springs Hospital. We are also extremely pleased with the cooperation shown by our physicians, both family practice and specialists, many of whom have agreed to waive up to 100% of the copayment required of the patient. Names of these doctors can be obtained by calling our Physician Referral Service at 369-7614."

As part of these programs, Desert Springs Hospital is making available to members an ID Card, called the "Veteran's Care Emergency Medical Card." This card, wallet-sized and

resembling a credit card sealed in plastic, contains the member's blood type, past and current medical history, relatives to be contacted in an emergency, etc., as well as optional authorizations for emergency medical/surgical treatment and organ donations. All of this information is reproduced on a tiny strip of microfilm enclosed within the card and can easily be read at any hospital or other medical facility. "In case of an accident or sudden illness," Mr. Koenig said, "this card can be a real life saver. We know from experience that every minute saved counts in the work of paramedical and Emergency Room personnel."

"Veterans have been unable to obtain their own VA hospital here even though there are approximately 92,000 veterans in the area," Mr. Koenig said. "We want to improve the quality and availability of medical care provided to these men and women who have sacrificed so much for the rest of us, and, in the case of active duty personnel and their families, who are currently sacrificing so much. I believe we are taking the first big step towards fulfilling our commitment to these men and women by introducing these programs. Our commitment is to give them the care they too often cannot obtain at short staffed and overcrowded VA hospitals, and to do this for little or no out-of-pocket expense."

Applications for the program and the ID Cards can be obtained by calling the Marketing Department of Desert Springs Hospital, 369-7748, in the lobby of the Veteran's Administration Outpatient Clinic at 1703 West Charleston Boulevard and at many veteran's posts and the Commission for Veterans Affairs, 2915 W. Charleston, Suite 8.

### Sen Chic Hecht Has 100% Voting Record In 1985

Nevada's Chic Hecht was one of seven United States Senators to post a 100 percent voting record in 1985, never missing one of the 381 roll-call votes, according to the Congressional Quarterly.

Voting participation is the closest approach to an attendance record for Congress, the publication said, noting that members of Congress last year missed fewer roll-call votes than in any of the 33 years records have been kept.

Joining Hecht for perfect records were Republicans Simpson of Wyoming; Warner of Virginia and Democrats Sasser, Tennessee; Hollings, South Carolina; Proxmire, Wisconsin and Byrd, Virginia.

On the average, members voted on 94 percent of the roll-call votes, two percentage points more than the previous mark recorded in both 1981 and 1983.

Congressional Quarterly, a bible of what's going on in Congress, noted that the high participation might reflect aftermath of several 1984 races in which an incumbent's attendance was an issue. Particularly bitter, the publication noted, was the Senate race in Kentucky in which Republican underdog Mitch McConnell defeated incumbent Democrat Walter Huddleston who had a 77 percent voting record in 1984. McConnell featured TV ads showing a bloodhound unsuccessfully trying to find the senator.

### Veteran Commanders Join In Journey To Israel



Albert Linden, National Commander of the DAV (left) and Harvey S. Friedman, National Commander of the JWV of the USA (right) place a wreath at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem.

National Commander Harvey S. Friedman of the Jewish War Veterans of the USA and Albert H. Linden Jr., National Commander of the Disabled American Veterans recently returned from a fact finding tour of Israel. The two commanders met with U.S. Ambassador to Israel, Thomas Pickering as well as several high ranking Israeli officials including Deputy Prime Minister Itzhak Shamir, President Chaim Herzog, and Speaker of the Knesset Sholomo Hillel.

Both Mr. Friedman and Mr. Linden were pleased with the results of the trip. "I was quite taken by the beauty and majesty of this extraordinary country and by the true dedication of its people. I want to thank Harvey Friedman and the JWV for allowing me the opportunity to experience Israel's rich history, culture and customs," Linden said of his first trip to Israel. Mr. Friedman added, "I feel we accomplished something important. We in America need to be aware of what is happening in one of the world's most critical areas -- the Middle East."

The two men placed a wreath at Yad Vashem, the Holocaust Memorial in Jerusalem, where they also lit a flame in memory of the six million Jews who were killed during the Holocaust. Their tour also included visits to the West Bank (Judea and Samaria), the Golan Heights, an Absorption Center for new immigrants, and Beir Halochem, a community center for disabled Israeli veterans.

The Jewish War Veterans of the USA, the nation's oldest active veterans organization, is celebrating its 90th anniversary this year.

### Hadass Appointed Israel Ambassador To Madrid

JERUSALEM (WNS) — The Israel government has formally announced diplomat Shmuel Hadass as Israel's first Ambassador to Spain. The announcement came after the weekly Cabinet meeting where

Ministers were told that Spanish Premier Felipe Gonzalez had already assured Peres of his country's agreement to Hadass' appointment.

In Madrid, the Spanish Cabinet appointed Pedro Lopez

Aguirrebengoa, who presently serves as Spain's Ambassador to Greece, as its first Ambassador to Israel. He is due to take up the appointment next month. A Spanish team is expected here shortly to seek suitable premises for an embassy and an ambassadorial residence.



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