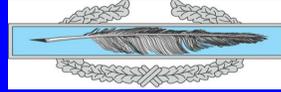


Putnam Veterans Newsletter



AN E-MAIL NEWSLETTER OF THE PUTNAM COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE AGENCY



The beat goes on, _____ the beat goes on.

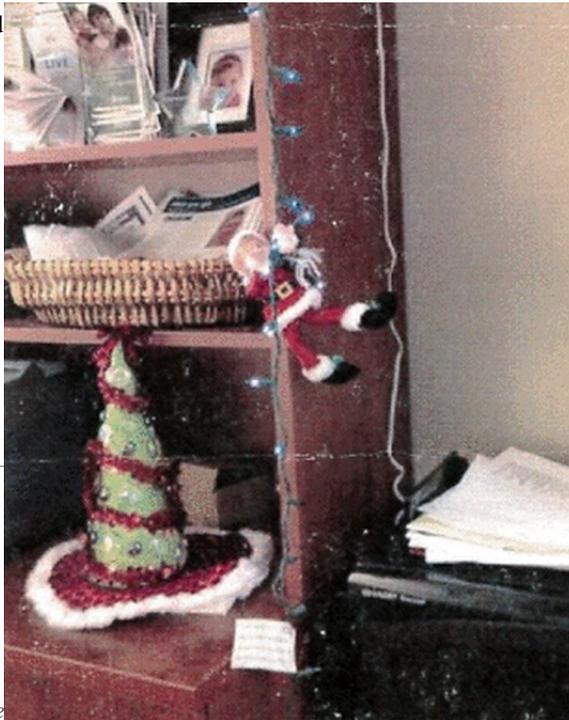
This is a "Special Edition" of the Putnam Veterans Newsletter. In the last issue I wrote about the dishonesty of the Secretary Veterans Affairs referencing that the song "The Beat Goes On" could be the VA's theme song.

**"The beat goes on, beat goes on
Drums keep pounding a rhythm to the brain."**

Read the following article: *Veterans Affairs hospital manager in Indianapolis is under fire for an email containing photographs that mock the suicidal tendencies of the veterans in her care, The Indianapolis Star's Tony Cook reports. The email sent by Robin Paul — a social worker who manages the Seamless Transition Integrated Care Clinic (STICC) at Roudebush Veterans Affairs Medical Center — contains photographs of a toy Christmas elf posing in one of the hospital's clinics under the subject line, "Naughty Elf in the STICC clinic."*

In one of the photographs, the elf is pleading for the anxiety and panic relief drug Xanax. "Out of XANAX — please help!" the caption to that photograph reads. "Self-medicating for mental-health issues when a CNS would not give him his requested script." In another, the elf is depicted as having committed suicide by hanging himself with an electrical cord. That photograph is captioned "Caught in the act of suicidal behavior (trying to hang himself from an electrical cord)."

According to the VA, 22 veterans commit suicide every day. When contacted by The Indianapolis Star,



Paul referred the paper to the hospital's public relations department, which replied on her behalf.

"I would like to sincerely apologize for the e-mail message and I take full responsibility for this poor judgment," the statement read.

"I have put my heart and soul into my work with veterans for many years. I hold all veterans and military personnel in the highest regard and am deeply remorseful for any hurt this may have caused."

Julie Webb, a hospital spokeswoman, added that "[t]he email is totally inappropriate and does not convey our commitment to veterans. We apologize to our veterans and take suicide and mental-health treatment seriously, striving to provide the highest quality."

Webb also said that Paul had been disciplined for the email, but declined to say how.

Reporting that followed has stated that MS Paul is on administrative leave with full salary. Now there is a punishment don't come to work and we will pay you. She claims "poor judgment" and is "deeply remorseful". Well that is not good enough. The VA says they will investigate the incident. What is there to investigate? Maybe the elf posted the e-mail. This vain attempt at gallows humor backfired. This is beneath contempt. In my opinion this woman should be fired, she should not be allowed to resign. Please contact our US Senators and Congressman and request that MS Paul be fired.

**"The beat goes on, beat goes on
Drums keep pounding a rhythm to the brain."**

Karl

(202) 224-6542
Sen. Schumer

(202) 224-4451
Sen. Gillibrand

(202) 225-5441
Congressman Maloney



PUTNAM COUNTY
VETERANS SERVICE AGENCY

DONALD. B. SMITH GOVERNMENT CAMPUS
110 OLD ROUTE 6, BLDG. 3
CARMEL, NY 10512

PHONE (845)808-1620 FAX (845)808-1940
KARL ROHDE, DIRECTOR
ART HANLEY, DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Lest we forget



DAVE SPANLINDO