



VA Boston Healthcare System OEF/OIF Bulletin

"Your interest and participation is the strength of this bulletin."

April 2010



*****Welcome Home and Thank You for Your Service*****



OEF/OIF Bulletin Celebrates: One Year of Reaching Out



Hello Readers, the **OEF/OIF Bulletin** has been highlighting and showcasing interesting, timely and relevant Veteran information for the past year. Through my interviews with Veterans, Readers' submissions- along with Tracy Knowles' news from the Middle East- the past year has been very rewarding. I look forward to continue to gather/receive information from Readers/Supporters to make this Bulletin possible. Thank You.



Mel Golder

WW II Veteran Reflects on his Service and the Courtesy and Kindness of VA Staff

WW II Veteran **Mel Golder** always wore glasses. After the bombing of Pearl Harbor (December 7, 1941), Mel (like many other young men) was ready to enlist for military service. However, Mel's vision was a deterrence. Eager to serve his country, Mel eventually was accepted by the U.S. Maritime/Coast Guard. Born in Boston, Mel had good fortune to train and become stationed at Gallups Island (one of the islands of Boston). After his Basic Training, Mel received training in Finance and later became known as a 'Chief Store Keeper.' Mel's military financial training (along with his education) allowed him to progress forward in his civilian career in Bookkeeping. Approximately 20 years- Mel was a successful Chief Financial Officer for a local company. Mel first ventured to the **VA Brockton Campus** in 1960. Mel's visits are mostly for vision care, and he is very grateful for the treatment he receives at the Brockton Campus. He mentioned that his vision treatments assist him with the things he like to do (crosswords, e-mail). In closing, Mel shared, "The VA Brockton Vision/Administrative Staff is outstanding. They are always very courteous and kind."

VA Brockton Campus Employee and OIF Veteran Accepts Award For Best Photo

In a small ceremony, I presented the award for the **OEF/OIF Bulletin's Photo Contest** (past year 2009) to VA BHS employee and OIF Veteran, **Jeremy Shea**. Jeremy served in Iraq in 2004, performing Security Operations. At the ceremony, Jeremy received a 'Shining Star' and a **Certificate of Excellence** signed by the Director of the VA BHS, **Michael Lawson**. After the ceremony, Jeremy smiled and stated, "When I submitted the photo, I didn't think I was going to win, so it's a nice shocking surprise."



At my right: Jeremy accepts his award

Photo of the Month:

I welcome what you believe is a great photo. There will be a vote on the best photo from the past year. I look forward to receiving your photo. Again **congrats** to the past year's winner, Jeremy Shea.

Before sending a photo:

Please contact me for photo requirements and specifications.



This Month's Photo:

Submitted by **Charles 'Chuck' Bennett**. The photo features members of Chuck's Team before they head forth to complete a mission. Chuck or 'Doc' (nick-name from his Team Members) is in the front center.

Chuck- thanks for the photo. Readers, Supporters, again- thanks for a great year for Bulletin info and news. As always, I'm always looking forward to receiving Readers/Supporters' submissions for future Bulletins.

Tony Falvey

This monthly bulletin is published courtesy of the Latest Generation Committee. Its purpose is to show support for returning **OEF/OIF** Veterans among Employees, their Families and Friends. If you would like to submit (info/photos/etc.) or have a question/concern send an e-mail to: Anthony.Falvey@VA.gov

Visit the VA BHS at www.boston.va.gov