

Biloxi VA Medical Center Celebrates 87th Birthday

BILOXI, Miss. – Gulf Coast Veterans Health Care System (GCVHCS) employees gathered in the Biloxi Veterans Affairs (VA) Medical Center Aug. 10 to celebrate the facility's 87th birthday with a brief ceremony and cake-cutting.

During the celebration, GCVHCS Director Bryan C. Matthews said the organization's dedicated staff, continued facility improvements and adherence to Veterans Health Administration (VHA) principles have all contributed to the facility's nearly nine-decade success.

"This facility has embodied the values we strive to uphold for thousands of men and women who have chosen to wear the cloth of our nation," he said. "For 87 years, the Biloxi VA Medical Center has been here to ensure our nation's Veterans continue receiving the care they deserve, regardless of race, gender, age or orientation, and the 2,500 staff members working here are continuing that tradition – to provide our Veterans with the respect, care and compassion they rightly deserve."

Matthews also led a cake-cutting during GCVHCS' regularly scheduled morning meeting, virtually attended by representatives from the GCVHCS' community-based outpatient clinics (CBOCs) in Mobile, Alabama; Pensacola, Florida; Eglin, Florida; and Panama City Beach, Florida.

Construction of the Biloxi VA Medical Center began in 1932 on an initial 640-acre site consisting of mostly undeveloped land with dense stands of oak and pine trees. He said that VA architects created a picturesque setting for the hospital campus by integrating the distinctive natural sub-tropic environment of the Mississippi Gulf Coast with elements of formal landscape and building design.

The Biloxi VA Medical Center is one of 50 medical centers constructed from the 1920s through the early 1940s through a prototype plan which VA architects adapted for each specific hospital site. In 1980, the Biloxi Veterans Medical Center Historic District was determined eligible for listing in National Register of Historic Places and was formally listed in 2002.

The Biloxi Veterans Affairs (VA) Medical Center, along with the Mobile, Pensacola, Eglin and Panama City VA Clinics are all part of the GCVHCS, which is headquartered in Biloxi, Mississippi, and provides a variety of medical outpatient services to more than 70,000 Veterans.

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