

VA



**U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs**

Dayton VA Medical Center

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Dayton VAMC to honor employees who deployed to hurricane-affected areas

The Dayton VA Medical Center is hosting a “welcome home” celebration honoring ten employees who deployed to Houston and Puerto Rico in the wake of Hurricanes Maria and Harvey. The event will be held in the lobby of the Dayton VA Medical Center on Friday, February 2, at 1 PM.

Nine of these individuals, who were dispatched to the hurricane zones as employees of the Dayton VAMC, contributed more than 1,800 total hours of relief work for the VA Medical Centers in the affected areas. A tenth employee, medical support assistant Jennifer Bentley, will also be recognized for independently deploying on her personal time to Houston as a member of Team Rubicon, a Veteran organization, to assist with the removal of debris and identifying/coordinating areas of Houston that needed urgent relief.

In addition to Bentley, the other nine employees are staff nurse Teresa Morgan, pharmacy technician Kelly Laimos, pharmacy technician Whitney Beckwith, biomedical support specialist Bryce Hitchcock, nursing assistant Alexandria Thompson, carpenter Danny Hamby, electrician Ryan Crist, electrician Richard Cole, and electrician Joseph Moser.

These nine deployed as members of the VA’s Disaster Emergency Medical Personnel System (DEMPS). Whenever there is a crisis which requires additional VA staff to support, the Dayton VAMC receives a DEMPS alert specific which positions need to be filled.

In addition to these deployments, Dayton VAMC staff also collected and donated six pallets of water for the Dayton Foodbank, who shipped the water to the hurricane-affected areas.

This event is open to the public. Media are welcome to attend.

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