

*NH Veterans Home's Shirley Ray, LPN, Admissions Coordinator, Receives "Above and Beyond" Award.*

TILTON, NH – Shirley Ray, LPN, Admissions Coordinator at the New Hampshire Veterans Home (NHVH) in Tilton, has received the Home's "Above and Beyond" Award for March 2009. The NHVH Above & Beyond Award was created to recognize employees who are committed to excellence and superior performance.

According to Melissa Milione, NHVH Human Resources Administrator, Ray was nominated by co-workers because "she has done many 'behind the scenes' kind and thoughtful acts as she works to make a new resident's transition from home to the Veterans Home as easy as possible. One great example was that when she was admitting a new veteran, she discovered that his adopted brother—currently a NHVH resident— had the only photo of their adoptive mother. The admitting veteran had always wanted a copy of the picture but never had a chance to get one. Shirley got the original, made a copy, and placed it in a frame so that upon his arrival, he would see it displayed in his new room."

Shirley has worked at the New Hampshire Veterans Home for nearly ten years. As an Admissions Coordinator, she reviews the medical histories of applicants, works with clinicians, and works with the veteran and his or her family—as well as the staff of the discharging facility if the resident doesn't come from home—to make the transition to the Veterans Home as smooth as possible.

Of her work at NHVH she says, "I hold a special place in my heart for all veterans, but working with the veterans with dementia is most rewarding."



Shirley lives in Northfield, NH with her husband, Allan, and their cat, Princess. Shirley and Allan have two children. Their daughter, Amanda Holland, lives with her husband, Eric, in Fargo, North Dakota. Shirley adds, "They recently blessed us with our first grandchild, Lauren Marie, born on December 17, 2008." The Ray's son, Jarred, is a member of the Third Armored Cavalry of the US Army, stationed in Fort Hood, Texas. Jarred recently returned home after serving his second tour in Iraq.

When she's not working, Shirley enjoys gardening, sewing, and craft projects.

Shirley Ray is one of many dedicated staff members who care for the residents of the New Hampshire Veterans Home, established in Tilton in 1890 as the Soldier's Home for Civil War Veterans. One of just four New Hampshire nursing homes to win the 2007 Quality of Life Award from the NH Department of Health &

Human Services, the modern facility is home to 200 men and women who have served their country and fellow New Hampshire citizens. The mission of NHVH is to provide high quality, professional, long term, resident-centered care to the Granite State's elderly and disabled veterans. NHVH is the only long term care facility in the Granite State that is dedicated exclusively to veterans.

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