

NH Veterans Home's Sandra Miller, LNA II, Receives "Above and Beyond" Award.

TILTON, NH – Sandra Miller, Licensed Nursing Assistant (LNA) II at the NH Veterans Home (NHVH) in Tilton, has received the Home's "Above and Beyond" Award for August, 2009. The NHVH Above & Beyond Award was created to recognize employees who are committed to excellence and superior performance. When Sandy received the award at the monthly Commandant's update, she joked with her co-workers, "I have always regarded all of you as the arbiters of all that is good in our profession, and now that you have honored me with award, well, what can I say? I was right!"

Miller has worked at the Veterans Home for eight and a half years. According to Melissa Milione, NHVH Human Resources Administrator, Sandy was nominated by co-workers, who said: "Sandra has a special relationship with the residents on the Daniel Webster neighborhood. She sings, dances, plays cards and Trivia with them. If she's not there, they miss her and ask where she is."

As an LNA II in the Life Enhancement Dementia Unit, Sandy ensures the safety of residents and cares for their needs. She works on the second shift, so she and her co-workers help get residents ready for supper, then do an activity with them, give them a snack, and help them get ready for bed. She also completes paperwork, rounds, and makes sure the unit is neat for the next shift.

Of her work at NHVH she says, "It's an honor to be taking care of our veterans and sharing this time of their lives. They are wonderful! When I come back to work after taking some time off, the residents ask,



'Where have you been?' I enjoy working with the staff too. They are very caring and conscientious—we are the residents' advocates."

Sandy lives in Salisbury with her husband, Ellsworth "Smiley" Miller, their dog, Princess, and cat, Tomasina. Sandy and Smiley have four sons (David, a resident of Tennessee; Harold and his wife Diane, who live in Massachusetts; John and his wife, Lani, of Salisbury; Matthew, who lives in Dover;) and a daughter, Launa, of Rumney, also a Licensed Nursing Assistant at the Veterans Home. Sandy has a sister, Sally Hahn and brother-in-law, Cal, who live in Meredith; and a brother, Johnny Duval, and sister-in-law, Lillian, who live in Plymouth, MA.

When she's not working, Sandy enjoys yard sales, cooking, music, "picking" at the piano, watching movies from the 1930s and 40s, and most of all, getting together with family and friends.

Sandra Miller is one of nearly 400 staff members at 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 first Quality of Life Award from the NH Department of Health & Human Services, the NHVH campus 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 care services 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.