

NH Veterans Home Volunteer Receives Superior Service Plate Award



TILTON, NH - Ida Harris, a volunteer at the New Hampshire Veterans Home (NHVH), was honored recently at the Department of Veterans Affairs Volunteer Recognition Program at the Chateau Restaurant in Manchester.

Harris was presented with a 17,500 hour pin and a Superior Service Plate to recognize her twenty-one years as a volunteer at the Veterans Home and at the Manchester VA Medical Center (VAMC). She got started volunteering at the VAMC because, she explains, "I saw one young

man at the Medical Center who had been wounded in Vietnam and had lost both legs. I thought to myself, he could have been my son."

At the VAMC she volunteered every Wednesday in the pharmacy, and during the 21 years she's helped out at the Veterans Home in Tilton, she's been at the front desk four days a week for the last 17 or 18 years. She greets families, answers the phone, and welcomes residents when they return from trips. She says, "It makes you feel good to do something. I like helping the residents and their families."

Barry E. Conway, NHVH Commandant, said, "Ida is a great asset to the Home and a strong advocate for all veterans—she's an important part of our Veterans Home family and we're very proud that she's received this recognition."

Ida Harris is one of nearly 60 volunteers who work alongside almost 400 staff, serving 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 in 2007 from the NH Department of Health & Human Services, NHVH was recognized again this year for its continuing commitment to nursing home culture change and quality of life. 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.

