Portland VA Medical Center

Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center 3710 SW U.S. Veterans Hospital Road Portland, OR 97207 (503) 273-5042





James Tuchschmidt, MD. MM. Director

Jan/Feb/Mar Fall Edition 2007

Kay Hilt, Chief, Voluntary Service

Date/ Events

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Upcoming Events:		
National Salute Week	2/12- 16/07	
George Washington's Birth- day- Office Closed	2/19/07	
VAVS Sale (Portland)	3/7 & 8/07	

FROM THE DESK OF THE CHIEF

DESK

Than Done"

-anonymous



FROM THE CHIEF'S not been 'saying more than doing'. The generous contributions of "After All is Said and your service, material Done, More is Said and monetary donaare extraorditions nary. The spirit of caring is evident in each hour, every item and This quote may dollar donated. Every true for some time you go into a pagroups of people but it tient's room with comis NOT true of our vol- fort items and a big In the first smile, every time you three months of Fiscal give a veteran a ride year 07 you have con- in from the parking lot the VA. Thank you so tributed a total of or from a distant com- much for caring! We 25,291 hours of ser- munity, every time are so fortunate to call vice and \$140,222 in you answer a phone you one of our own. donations or call a veteran to and \$5472 in cash. remind him/her of a You have, obviously, clinic appointment you are an ambassador for the VA. Veterans love you for your kind-

ness and the warmth you exude. You make people feel good about themselves and





Volunteers make a difference



Flu season is here! According **Common Flu Symptoms:** to the Department of Health and Human Services, "The flu usually spreads from person to person in respiratory droplets when people who are infected cough or sneeze. People occasionally may become infected by touching something with influenza virus on it then touching and their mouth, nose, or eyes.

Healthy adults may be able to infect others 1 day before getting symptoms and up to 5 getting days after Therefore, it is possible to give someone the flu before you know you are sick as well "Having these symptoms does as while you are sick".

INFECTION CONTROL

- Fever
- Headache
- Tiredness
- Cough
- Sore throat
- Runny and stuffy nose
- Body aches
- Diarrhea and vomiting

not always mean that you have the flu. Many different illnesses, including the com-

mon cold, can have similar symptoms" -Department of Health and Human Services

We ask those who have flu or viral symptoms, to please stay home, even if it is a minor sore throat or cough. This will protect the veterans with low immune systems and everyone in the medical center and prevent the spread of flu or other viruses.

By Barbara Parker



VANCOUVER NEWS

cial activities during National movies. Salute to Hospitalized Veterans Week. NSCU residents are were entertained with some fun, interesting activities: A visit from the Oregon Zoo-Mobile, a Super Bowl Tail-Gate Party with hot dogs, chips and dips and vegetable pening, building-wise, on the Communications trays, and the annual Fat Vancouver campus. Five of which is the small brick build-Tuesday Ice Cream Social on the old wood-frame, barracks- ing just south of the Vietnam February 20.

of the VCR's have been do- cupy the vacated space.

In addition to the spe- nated, as well as most of the



style buildings between B and Garden in which the proposed The week of St. Pat- C Streets, north of the D- Veterans Museum will be rick's Day (March 17) saw the parking lot, are being pre-housed. enjoyment of NSCU residents. pared for demolition. A new Movies can be checked out parking lot, approximately By Marjorie Varner along with VCR's for viewing equal in area to the existing in the patients' own room. All lot across the street, will oc-

After only that, 16 buildings of the old Barnes It is obvious that things Hospital will remain, and 13 of hap- them (plus the old chapel) will be removed in two phases during the coming year. The three buildings to be left standing are the Gym, Building D- and the former Army Building,



INCLEMENT WEATHER ANNOUNCEMENT

What to do in Inclement Weather

Not too long into the New Year we experienced a winter storm in the Portland area. Most volunteers opted to avoid the dangerous driving conditions by staying home. This was a good reminder that we should all know what to do when weather is severe. Here are some helpful tips to consider when such situations arise:

- 1) Call the Voluntary Service Department if you are not coming in for vour scheduled shift. The numbers are (503) 273-5042 for Portland, couver.
- 2)

at home.

3) medical extension 51458 or visit kind. the hospital website at www.va.gov/portland for information regarding conditions and closures. The website has scrolling banner which will contain urgent instructions from the Executive Office during severe weather condi-

and 690-1842 or 696- buses will come up to the safely, stay home. We love our 4061 x 31842 for Van- medical center. If you are un- volunteers and want to con-Call your work station you can call Tri Met at (503) faces! supervisor to let them 328-RIDE (7433), Or visit the know you will not be website at www.trimet.org. It is By Amanda Silvers coming. Make sure you always a good idea to know have their telephone what you would do in severe

number available to you weather so when it happens you are not caught off guard. You may also call the Knowing your bus route or center Alert having an alternate plan can Hotline at (503) 721- help you transit more smoothly 1458 or (503) 220-8262, when mother nature is not so



tions. Click on the ban- Just remember that if you do ner to read the full text. not feel comfortable in your In most situations, Tri Met ability get to the medical center sure if the buses are running, tinue seeing all of your smiling

TB TESTING INFORMATION

Change in Policy Requiring already established in our sys-Annual Tuberculin Skin Test tem.

and performing routine annual tu- berculosis. berculin skin testing on healthcare workers and volunteers

Please note that all new em-Please disregard the TB notifi- ployees, volunteers and percation you received in the mail. sons exposed to active cases On January 4, 2007 Dr. of tuberculosis will continue to Tuchschmidt approved a rec- be tested as before. The new ommendation from Infection CDC guidelines continue to Occupational stress the importance of these Health for our facility to stop practices in the control of tu-

By Barbara Parker





NATIONAL SALUTE TO HOSPITALIZED VETERANS WEEK

was held during the week of ans. February 11-17. Country West-Reed was the national chair- Elks, were served to veterans during the week was provided man this year and led the De- in the hall outside the Primary by the Dickson Five, a talented partment of Veterans Affairs Clinic in Vancouver on Febru- family group from annual patient recognition pro- ary 9 and the Atrium in Port- Ground, WA, that entertains gram, inviting the public to visit land on February 15th. In Port- monthly at NSCU. and honor hospitalized veter- land, the VAVS Executive ans. Reed also served as na- Committee also supplied a Band, out of southern Califortional spokesperson for more cake that was served in the nia, closed out the week with than 140,000 volunteers serv- Atrium. ing veterans at VA facilities across the nation.

couver VAMC Divisions hon- at the Portland Division. ored its veterans with a week of special events.

ited by Camp Fire Girls and dents and staff. Boys. Using craft supplies furtine cards, which were distrib- of February 14. With Piano

Cakes, furnished singer-songwriter Jerry Rick Hansen of the Oregon

A visit from the Portland Trailblazer Dancers was a spe- alike hope that these activities Both Portland and Van- cial finale to this special week helped to cheer our hospital-

Week off in fine style in Van- are. On Saturday morning, couver, the Recreation Staff February 10, the Portland and served juice, coffee, fresh pas- By Marjorie Varner Vancouver VAMC's were vis- tries and bagels to NSCU resi-

Red Cross VA volunnished by the Longview-Kelso teers held a special National Elks, the Camp Fire members Salute Week-Valentine Party made hall banners and valen- for NSCU veterans the evening

The 2007 National Sa- uted by the children afterward Duet entertainment and memlute to Hospitalized Veterans during their visits to the veter- bers of Red Cross Youth Groups serving refreshments, it by was a festive evening.

> Musical entertainment

A section of the USAF an outstanding program.

Volunteers and staff ized veterans and let them To start National Salute know how special we think they





UPCOMING JOINT COMMISSION VISIT

THE JOINT COMMISSION IS curity. Should you be ap- safe manner. Even when we to you)

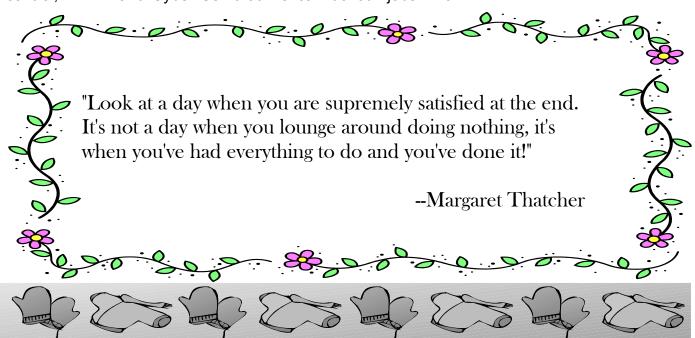
The Joint Commission don't that they will select a patient patients. and follow (or trace) that percontrol, HIPAA and Cyber Se- that we can do our jobs in a

COMING (and why it matters proached by a surveyor, think we know all the informa-**NEVER** answer a question tion, reviews are helpful. Volwith "I don't know". know the (formerly known as the Joint (sometimes the questions are unteers returning their manda-Commission on Accreditation vague or misleading) either tory training quizzes. We do of Healthcare Organizations) is ask for clarification of the need everyone's help though the organization that visits question or say "when I am so we can get to 100% and medical centers around the uncertain about things such as not be the cause of the medicountry to make sure that hos- this, I ask my supervisor. The cal center getting a "ding". pitals are meeting prescribed manuals regarding this are Thanks to all of you who have standards of operation so that kept in the ______ (know already turned in your quizzes! patients get the best care they where they are). If you place can. It is time for another sur- food in any of the Voluntary By Kay Hilt The Joint Commission Service refrigerators, please uses a system known as the date the food. All staff food "tracer method" to evaluate must be kept separate from medical centers. This means food which will be served to

The Joint Commission son's path throughout his/her will also look to see how many visit to the VA. Along the way, people have completed their they will evaluate, safety, envi- annual mandatory training. All ronment of care, staff and vol- employees and volunteers are unteers knowledge of emer- required to do this. It's a good gency precautions and their way to review such things a ability to demonstrate such emergency preparedness, fire things as, fire safety, infection safety and infection control so

If you untary Service is close to getanswer ting 70% compliance with vol-





HOLIDAY FOLLOW-UP

The Holidays-the aftermath

here I go.

giving the Christmas Trees their holiday party. Thank you, were put up and the decorat- to all that participated in these ing began. This felt like the donations. kick off to the 2006 Holiday through. There were over 200 memorial ornaments decorating the tree of honor in the atrium and it was beautiful. There were also a few dedicated volunteers operating a model electric train that ran around the tree each day. The train was a big hit with the patients, visitors and employees. The normal hussle and bussle in the atrium started to have a little holiday cheer.

I did have a little time to

to remind me of the holiday Santa took time out of his busy The day after Thanks- ings were distributed during good time.



season. I saw lots of stockings schedule and made an ap-The Holiday Season and phone cards that were do- pearance with gifts. From the has now come and gone and nated and passed out to veter-pictures, it looked like he what a holiday season it was! ans by different volunteers and dropped a few pounds this First I would like to thank each groups. This generosity really year. Now that I think about it, volunteer and all of the service brightened the days for the in- the party was early in the seaorganizations for making the patient population. We even son so he was just starting to season such a great success. had enough stuffed stockings get to the Christmas cookies There was so much giving and for the Day Treatment Pro- and cakes. I appreciate the caring shown by volunteers I gram to share with their pa- time that people took to help am not sure where to start, but tients. I heard this brought make this party a success and great joy to them as the stock- hope all in attendance had a

The American Legion Auxiliaries held their gift shops The Volunteer Holiday again this year. It was year 67 Season-my first in Voluntary party was also a lot of fun. So I for this awesome event. Way Service. I was a little nervous have been told. Unfortunately I to go American Legion Auxiliabut you all helped guide me was unable to attend, but there ries! In Vancouver there were is 2 bake sales held to raise money for the hospital. The Transplant lodging unit supported the sales by donating crafts. My hat is off to you. I am sure that I did not mention everyone that worked so hard to make the Holiday Season such a success, but know that

your efforts are appreciated by

the VA and especially the vet-

erans whose lives that your

generosity has touched.

get up to the wards and visit always next year. I did hear By Rich Maichle with a few inpatients. Each that there was great music, room I entered had something great food and great fun.

"I have not failed. I've just found 10,000 ways that won't work." - Thomas Alva Edison (1847-1931)



Holiday Train



Train brings back memories

PVAMC started to ask when swer questions. the model train would begin to run.

November 27, came and right on time the saw it running. It seemed to train rolled down the track on put a smile on everyone's face. By Bruce Gross its first trip around the medical

center's Tree of Honor.

unteers. This year seven ser- of those responses. vice organizations: American Legion, America Legion Auxil- of the train I rode across iary, American Red Cross, Air Europe during WWII." C. Tem-Force Sergeants Association, ple. good Non Commissioned Officers "Watching the train makes one

When Fall rolled around Wars provided volunteers to would do all well to remember past year, people at keep the train on track and an- those simpler times."

> The Holiday Train bought back memories to will be needed during the 2007 2006 many and enjoyment to all who holiday season.

This season we asked

people who were interested in This holiday season, as the train to write their thoughts with the previous two years, in a journal and over fifty peothe train was operated by vol- ple responded. Here are two

"This train reminded me

Association, Unaffiliated Volun- think of a simpler time and or teers, and Veterans of Foreign simpler pleasures. Perhaps it signed.

> Remember volunteers

UNUSABLE DONATIONS

USELESS DONATIONS ROB cheted clothes, Harlequin and of un-usable items gets higher **VETERANS**

Service receives many dona- votive candle holders and a passed on in the form of retions to be used for the benefit plastic cup, draw string ditty duced services to veterans. of veterans. These donations bags measuring 1 inch by 2 ½ are made with the best inten- inches, 6 x 8 inch pocket, hem- through your donations and tions and most can be used for orrhoid surgery cushion, cathe- send only those things that can the intended purposes. There ters, an open bag of Depends, really be used and enjoyed by are, however, donations which a Tantra pillow book of sexual a hospitalized veteran. No vetseem to come from a closet, positions. Christian tracts, eran is desperate for more junk basement or garage without clothes with torn knees, but- and all veterans should be much thought as to how hospi- tons missing, used cosmetics given the respect afforded to talized veterans can use them. and personal care items. Try to imagine what you would do with the following list of ac- such as these are brought into tual donations if you were a the medical center, Voluntary By Kay Hilt patient here at the VA:

magazine with patterns for cro- of throwing out dumpsters full

Silhouette

Every time donations vice to America. Service has to throw them A hardback book com- away. They cannot be distribplete with cobwebs, a 1971 uted to our veterans. The cost

romance paper- every year; and since we can't backs, a clear plastic box of let this stuff pile up, it has to be Every week Voluntary artificial flowers, three used discarded. These costs are

> Please someone who has given ser-



PORTLAND VOLUNTEER PROFILES

Karin Bishop



She has two stepchildren, a veterans she sees on Mondays office is short staffed. son and a daughter, that she so well that she has been helphas known since they were tod- ing them write up Pharmacy include practicing Tai Chi and dlers. In 1983, Karin moved to employees to recognize the riding her new Harley Davidson husband Jim. through the dental field where they both worked.

Karin is a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) and has been a volunteer at the Portland VA Medical Center for 7 years. She first got involved through Karin agreed to bring the valen- jacket. tines, and enjoyed it so much she decided to get involved time as a dental technician in a with the volunteer program.

been coming to the hospital tal before her shift at the lab to every Monday without fail to make the coffee and visit with

make coffee for the pharmacy her guys. She says that "I enjoy

the Portland Metro Area for a outstanding service they have motorcycle on the weekends. job and soon after, met her received. These same veterans Karin is an amazing woman

> Karen'S RNINTOM PEPNOM COFFEE CLUB

volunteering at the hospital says "Karen's (sic) Monday program called Morning Coffee Club" that she "Valentines for Vets" where val- uses when she takes coffee. entines are made by the com- She also wears the pins repremunity and brought to the hos- senting the veterans she knows pital for inpatient veterans. very well on her volunteer

> Karin is employed full lab she co-owns with her hus-Since then, Karin has band. She comes to the hospi-

and clinics (occasionally start-coming up before work being the coffee for other organi- cause it starts my week/day zations who take coffee to the and gets me off to a good start" 8th floor clinics) and occasion- and mentioned that if she didn't ally bring comfort items for work she would donate much some other DAR chapters who more of her time. Karin keeps have been unable to make it to her eye out for veterans who the hospital. She takes a per- look lost and helps them get to sonal interest in the veterans where they are trying to go. calling them "her guys", and She is always willing to help Karin Bishop was born has gotten to know them very when needed- she even helps outside of Cleveland, Ohio. well. She knows some of the escort patients when the escort

> Some of Karin's hobbies They met have made a sign for her that who is very giving of her time to veterans. We want to thank her for all her hard work and dedication.

> > By Amanda Silvers

"The full use of your powers along lines of excellence."

- definition of "happiness" by John F. Kennedy (1917-1963)



VANCOUVER VOLUNTEER PROFILES



IN MEMORY Patricia Blair July 8, 1915 - December 13,2006

Pat Blair, Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary and Honorary Representative, passed away on Saturday, December 13, 2006. She was born in Widnes, Lancashire, England in 1915. She went to London for nurses' training at King's Cross Hospital and had just graduated

when World War II broke out in she distributed comfort items to WA. Shortly after moving here, luck that followed. her husband passed away. In Navy veteran.

Vancouver Division for over 33 VA. years with approximately 9,100 hours of service. In her early By Toni Davis vears of volunteering at the VA.

1939. She was a nurse with the the hospital wards and later to Royal Air Force and went to the NSCU. Patricia was well France after D-Day. She met known for her support and planher first husband who was a ning of the annual Veterans Day U.S. Army medic and they were and Memorial Day massing of married in England in 1944. In the colors. For approximately 25 1947 she joined her husband in years she worked closely with Michigan and a year later took the VAMC Chaplain's Service the oath of U.S. citizenship in sending out letters to the State Detroit. They traveled through Representative and local service several states and eventually, in organizations, plus mailing out 1969, ended up in Vancouver, the thank you letters for the pot-

Pat left behind 5 sons, 1 1970, Pat married her late hus- daughter, eight grandchildren band's brother who was a U.S. and 11 great grand children. She will truly be missed by all of Pat volunteered at the them and all of her family at the

Jo Ann Strickland

Pen and pad in hand, Jo Ann Strickland efficiently serves as the current secretary of the Vancouver VAVS Executive Committee, a group that is made up of one representative from every service organization that volunteers at the Vancouver VAMC. Jo Ann's minutes of these meetings are concise and include the consensus of the group on projects, policies and activities reached after lengthy discussions and exchange of ideas and opinions. She sends a Ann also makes "goodies" to sell in the Seabees showed up on copy of the minutes to the representatives and deputies of the service organizations, thereby keeping everyone informed. It is a big job involving a lot of time and effort but well worth it.

Jo Ann began her volunteer work at the Vancouver division five years ago after retiring from a 41-year career at Seafirst-Bank of America. A member they grew of the American Legion Auxiliary for 23 years, she visits the NSCU wards as a representative of that organization every Thursday, distributing comfort items to the residents. This is her second year as VAVS Executive Committee secretary and her second year as a member of the volunteer planning committee [awards banquet]. Jo at the quarterly bake sales for the VAVS Vancouver Executive Committee .

Volunteering is secondnature to her. Jo Ann has four sons from her first marriage and

was active in Boy Scouts, Little League and PTA as up. In fact, it was through volunteering that she met



her current husband 32 years ago. She had been the treasurer of her two older sons' Boy Scout troop when the Scoutmaster, a recent arrival from Michigan, Rod Strickland, veteran of four years in the Navy and four years the scene. Rod had been active in the American Legion and 40 et 8 in Michigan which is how the VA became so fortunate as to have Jo Ann as a volunteer. By Marjorie Varner

VANCOUVER VAVS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

As we begin the new Unit for the craft items they year, we hope that everyone made and donated to the Dehad a great holiday season, cember sale. We are setting We look forward to many new up a special committee that opportunities to help veterans. will schedule and administer

Our first ice cream sale our upcoming events. went very well considering it best ever. Thanks for all the ever. Thank you all. donated baked goods and craft items, and a very special

Because of the dediwas in the winter. The last two cated volunteers, the Vancou-Bake/Craft sales were the ver VA is in better shape than

thanks to the Liver Transplant By Michael J. Archer Sr.



PORTLAND VAVS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Portland VAVS Executive Committee

While cashiering for the ice cream at our last sale. I overheard someone say, "It just isn't an ice cream day". It was a cold day and there were snow flurries off and on all day. We took in approximately \$330, so some people think any day is an ice cream day. About 1:30, it was snowing heavily and the committee made the decision to close at 2 o'clock to allow a safe trip home. We made the decision that if there were a lot of ice on for National Salute to Veterans

Thursday morning, we would not come in. Some of the areas had several inches of snow on top of ice. Therefore, the second sale day was postponed to Wednesday, January 24.

At our last meeting, we voted to donate \$800 for coffee and supplies; \$165.75 to purchase new POW/MIA flags; a new coffee pot for the post-op area; \$500 for slipper socks; 4 step stools for the DAV patient transportation vans; and allowed for \$300.00 expenditure

week of February 14. This committee is so dedicated. I can't seemed to thank them enough, however I want to thank them again for being such a great team.

By Nita Lucht

"Try to learn something about everything and everything about something." - Thomas Henry Huxley (1825-1895)



VAVS COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULES

2007 VAVS Quarterly Meeting Schedule - VANCOUVER and PORTLAND Combined

February 6, 2007 11:00am Portland Auditorium

May 1, 2007 11:00am Vancouver Columbia Room

August 7, 2007 11:00am Portland Auditorium

November 6, 2007 11:00am Vancouver Columbia Room

2007 VAVS Executive Committee Meeting Schedule - VANCOUVER ONLY

February 13, 2007	1:00pm	Vancouver Columbia Room
April 3, 2007	1:00pm	Vancouver Columbia Room
June 5, 2007	1:00pm	Vancouver Columbia Room
August 14, 2007	1:00pm	Vancouver Columbia Room
October 2, 2007	1:00pm	Vancouver Columbia Room
December 4, 2007	1:00pm	Vancouver Columbia Room

2007 VAVS Executive Committee Meeting Schedule - PORTLAND ONLY

February 21, 2007	9:30am	Building 101 Room 106
April 18, 2007	9:30am	Building 101 Room 106
June 20, 2007	9:30am	Building 101 Room 106
August 15, 2007	9:30am	Building 101 Room 106
October 17, 2007	9:30am	Building 101 Room 106
December 19, 2007	9:30am	Building 101 Room 106

Upcoming VAVS Sales

March 7 & 8 2007 8:30am Portland Atrium



What is stress?

Familydoctor.org defined stress as "what you feel when you react to pressure, either from the outside world or from inside yourself. Stress is a normal reaction for people of all ages. It's caused by your body's instinct to protect itself from emotional or physical pressure or, in extreme situations, from danger".

Things to help reduce stress:

- Eating well-balanced meals regularly.
- Try to watch caffeine intake
- Get a good night's sleep
- Exercise
- Meditation
- Find a hobby

How can I deal with stress?

- Find the source that is causing your stress and change what you can to reduce the cause.
- Don't be so hard on yourself. Can't make everyone happy all of the time.
- Keep in mind that mistakes now and then are ok.

HEALTHY LIVING

- Find a friend or family mem- Hobby Ideas: ber to talk to.
- Work with your hobby at least once a week. It is a • great outlet.
- Most important! Remember to have fun! Take a day and do something you really en- • joy!



- Outdoors (camping, hiking, canoeing, kayaking, etc)
- Fishing
- Scrapbooking
- Card Making
- Rubber Stamping
- Coin, Stamp, antique, cars, etc collecting
- Knitting, crocheting, crocheting, sewing, quilting, etc.
- Jewelry Making
- Painting
- Photography
- Wood Working
- Musical Instrument (s)

There are many hobbies to choose from. If you are interested in additional ideas, a list is available at www.about.com.

By Barbara Parker

"Attitude is the way you mentally look at the world around you. It is how you view your environment and your future. It is the focus you develop toward life itself".

Author Unknown



RECIPES

Beef, Bean and Barley Stew (allrecipes.com)

INGREDIENTS

- 1 pound cubed beef stew meat
- 1 small onion, chopped
- 1 pinch salt
- 1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 3 cloves garlic, crushed
- 2 (14 ounce) cans beef broth
- 3 1/2 cups water
- 1 cup peeled and diced tomatoes with juice
- 1 potato, cubed
- 2 carrots, chopped
- 1/4 medium head cabbage, shredded
- 1/3 cup quick-cooking barley
- 1 (14.5 ounce) can great Northern beans, rinsed and drained
- 1/4 teaspoon dried oregano
- 1/4 teaspoon dried basil
- 1/4 teaspoon dried rosemary
- 1/4 teaspoon caraway seeds



DIRECTIONS

Coat a large pot or Dutch oven with cooking spray.

Place over medium heat and cook beef until brown.

Stir in onion and cook until translucent. Drain fat. Stir in salt, pepper and garlic and cook 1 minute. Pour in beef broth, water and tomatoes.

Stir in potato, carrots, cabbage, barley and beans. And season with oregano, basil, rosemary and caraway. Bring to a boil, then reduce heat and simmer 20 minutes.





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PORTLAND VA MEDICAL CENTER