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**FOR  
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RELEASE**

**VA PITTSBURGH DIRECTOR RECOGNIZED FOR ADVANCING NURSING PROGRAMS**  
***Terry Gerigk Wolf selected as VA director who is most supportive of nursing***

PITTSBURGH – June 30, 2010 – Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric Shinseki recognized Terry Gerigk Wolf, FACHE, VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System (VAPHS) director, with the “*Secretary’s Award for the Advancement of Nursing Programs*” at a ceremony in Washington, D.C., today.

Mrs. Wolf was chosen from 153 VA hospital directors in the country as the director who is the most supportive of their facility’s nurses. This award recognizes that the attitudes and values of the director significantly influence the environment and relationships among health care professionals involved in ensuring quality patient care. Mrs. Wolf was selected to receive this year’s award because she has achieved distinction in promoting the VA nursing program, thereby enhancing VA’s quality patient care.

More than 1,100 VAPHS nursing staff (registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, health care technicians and nursing assistants) provides comprehensive, complex and compassionate care to our Nation’s Veterans every day.

Mrs. Wolf’s enthusiasm, ability to communicate and understanding of nurses’ contribution to patient care and excellence of patient outcomes have enabled VAPHS to significantly improve the quality of care and our Veterans’ health.

Mrs. Wolf, with strong leadership encouragement, invests both time and funding to advance VAPHS’ nursing program and encourages front-line nurses in developing changes to improve their delivery of care and daily work lives.

Mrs. Wolf also supports nursing education through a variety of programs. Since 2004, 52 VAPHS employees have received funding for diploma, associate degree and bachelor nursing programs. Twenty have graduated and 26 more are scheduled to graduate within the next three years. In 2009, VAPHS was one of five VA facilities selected to receive a grant that now allows VAPHS nurses to attend Waynesburg University classes to pursue a bachelor’s degree right on site.

Mrs. Wolf has also identified and facilitated maximum support services to enhance the effective functioning of nursing personnel. She supported the implementation of a nursing resource team, or registered nurse float team, as well as an alternative work schedule for the team. This has dramatically reduced the incidence of mandatory overtime. She also authorized the development of a sitter team to meet the growing demand of Veterans who require one-to-one staff observation and free up provisional nurses to provide care.

VAPHS is on a journey towards achieving Magnet accreditation from the American Nurses Credentialing Center. This process ensures that nurses will have a share in the governance of the facility. With the support of leaders like Mrs. Wolf, VAPHS certainly is a facility that attracts the best nurses.

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