

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

# **Chili VFW Sparks New Veteran Bonds at MCH**

**ROCHESTER, N.Y.** — A new visitation program at Monroe Community Hospital (MCH) is bringing veterans together through shared stories, conversation and connection.

The program, launched in partnership with VFW Memorial Post 412 in Chili, creates a welcoming space where veterans living at MCH can meet with fellow service members in an informal, supportive setting. The initiative is designed to foster camaraderie, encourage open dialogue and strengthen a sense of community among residents.

“This program creates a space where our residents can connect with other veterans to share stories in a way that makes a difference,” said Mary McDowell, Director of Resident Programs. “There’s something powerful about being able to sit with someone who understands your background without needing to explain it.”

Six members of the Chili Memorial VFW Post, along with additional volunteers, recently spent time visiting one-on-one with residents with conversations about military service and veterans benefits, resources and ongoing support.

Post Commander Katherine Quiñones said the goal is simple: to visit, to listen and to share. Visits are intentionally relaxed, allowing veterans to connect in ways that feel natural and meaningful.

Following the success of an initial visit in March, the program is continuing on a monthly basis with visits planned on the second Tuesday of every month in 2026, providing residents with regular opportunities for engagement and connection.

For participating VFW members, the effort represents continued service to the veteran community. For residents at Monroe Community Hospital, it offers a powerful reminder that their stories are valued and that they are not alone.

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## **About Monroe Community Hospital**

Monroe Community Hospital is a skilled nursing facility located in Rochester, NY, offering long-term care along with Rehabilitation, Respiratory, Pediatric, Dementia/Memory and Palliative & Hospice services, a robust calendar of resident programs, and much more. With 200 years of service to the community, MCH continues to lead in innovation and compassion while offering essential care across the healthcare continuum for individuals of every age.

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