MISSION: to ensure that military and veterans' family members can be with their loved ones who are receiving medical treatment in St. Louis. We accomplish this by raising money to build and then support ongoing needs of Fisher Houses in the area.

CONTENTS:
- Honoring 11 Years of Service
- Plans are Starting for a Second Fisher House in St. Louis!
- Walk-Run-Roll for Fun
- Thanks to our Donors
- New Memorials & Tributes
- Baby AvaMae and Vanniecia Brown are Winners!

SPECIAL ISSUE

"...because a family's love is good medicine."

Celebrating 11 Years and Building Big Plans for a Second House in St. Louis!

We are celebrating the success of the VA Fisher House at Jefferson Barracks, which has served more than 11,750 guests since it opened in July, 2010. We are Friends of Fisher House St. Louis, the non-profit organization which helped fund construction of this Fisher House, and has continued to help its VA staff serve hundreds of families of Veterans and active duty military personnel. Family members of hospitalized Veterans can stay at the house, free of charge, to support their love ones while they are being treated. We also provide food, transportation and hotel rooms to accommodate them, as needed.

Our big news is the Board of Directors of Friends of Fisher House St. Louis is ramping up exciting, long-term plans and fundraising to build a second Fisher House in St. Louis, alongside the John Cochran VA campus. The St. Louis VA provides specialty health care, and draws patients from eight states. Guests of the Fisher House in St. Louis have travelled more than 50 miles to be by the bedside of their loved ones. We serve them with belief in the motto: "...because a family's love is good medicine."
Many donors have made gifts to the Fisher House in St. Louis over the years in honor of individuals and organizations. The following list is of recent tributes. We hope to create and maintain a list on our website of commemorations of special people and events. This is a work in progress.

We cannot express our thanks sufficiently to all those who have honored their loved ones by supporting the many Veterans' and military families who stay at the Fisher House. If you have questions, or wish to find out about a memorial, please email FisherHouseStLouis@gmail.com or call (314) 621-6182. We wish you peace and joy in your memories.

Recent Memorials in Honor of:
- Bernice Mullins Austin
- Dr. Wm. Harold Bailey
- Dr. William C. Banton II
- Rebecca West Bird
- Gary Claspille
- Kevin Cramer
- David E. Davenport, Jr.
- James H. Dodds III
- Donald A. Doheny, Jr.
- Michael B. Doheny
- Kennneth Dale Fanger
- Betty Ford
- John "Jack" Fortner
- Glenn Glinder
- Emma Jones
- Daniel D. Kelly
- Bill McNamee
- George Melton
- Vanniecia Brown
- Baby AvaMae
- Robert I. Neuman
- Pfc. Michael R. Patton
- Robert F. Reilly
- Jewell "Scottie" Scott
- Lucille D. Shannon
- Joe Edd Smothers
- Iris Staudenmaier

Vanniecia Brown and Baby AvaMae are Winners!
The board wants to publicly thank Vanniecia Brown for the many gifts she has provided to the VA Fisher House at Jefferson Barracks during her nine years of gracious service as the House Manager! She has responded to being "on call" more times than anyone knows, and has treated all our guests with warmth and caring. Those guests included AvaMae’s parents (that's dad to the right). AvaMae was welcomed into the world in October 2020. Her parents rested at the Fisher House when they weren’t by her side. Vanniecia submitted this photo to the national Fisher House Foundation “A Day in the Life” contest, and it won by representing one of the many special moments that happen at Fisher Houses!

Our Volunt-HEROES!
Social distancing COVID-19 safety precautions have meant we haven’t had our wonderful volunteer teams cooking up dinners in the house for more than 17 months! Our guests are missing out on the warm, family style touch they bring to the house. But we thank Becky for continuing to deliver her beautiful cakes. We look forward to the time when we can reach back out to ask all of our volun-Heroes to re-engage!

Honors, Tributes & Memorials
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Recent Tributes in Honor of:
- Col. Kathleen Dennis
- John Doheny
- Jim Donahoe
- Connie Hawley & Family
- Bill Meirink
- Rob & Deidre Woods

Recent Memorials in Honor of:
- Michael B. Doheny
- Kennneth Dale Fanger
- Betty Ford
- John "Jack" Fortner
- Glenn Glinder
- Emma Jones
- Daniel D. Kelly
- Bill McNamee
- George Melton

Friends of Fisher House St. Louis
Volunteer Board of Directors

President:
John V. Doheny, Sr.

Treasurer:
James W. Kienker

Secretary:
Sandra Davenport

Board Members:
Michael Banton, M.D.
Kim Dixon
James B. Donahoe
Rose Epplin Garland
Walter "Bud" Guest, Jr.
Joyce Midgett
Kenneth R. Schieler
John Stieven
Kenneth A. Young

History
Since this is the Board’s first broadly-mailed newsletter, we want to acknowledge and thank the following former Board Members who graciously served Fisher House in St. Louis:

Wanda Good
David Hendrix
Lawrence W. Meyer
Janet Michel
Stanton N. (Nick) Nickens
Susanne Franza Valdez
Elliot P. Zucker

Fisher House in St. Louis, now doing business as “Friends of Fisher House St. Louis” is identified as a 501(c)3 non-profit organization by the IRS. EIN 01-0881719.
Join Us, or Create Your Own Party!

At Jefferson Barracks St. Louis County Park on Saturday, October 30, or at the time & place you pick (it can be your sofa)!

Join us at Jefferson Barracks St. Louis County Park -- or on your own turf -- in a family-friendly, community building, fun-raising event for the Fisher House in St. Louis.

**Competitive 5K:** Ages 14 and up can Walk, Run or Roll in a 5K timed event on a slightly hilly, paved path suitable for wheelchairs, surrounded by nature.

**Relaxed 5K or 1/2 Loop:** Go the whole route or choose half of it, for a relaxed event for any age. Families - kids don't need to register for the run. And we have t-shirts in kids' sizes for sale at $10 so they can be part of the fun, and learn about caring for our Veterans at this historic site.

"Virtual" or In-Person at Jefferson Barracks St. Louis County Park, Gold Star Shelter

**Date:** Saturday, October 30, 2021
**Registration from 7:00 to 7:30 a.m.**
**Timed Race Starts at 8:00 a.m.**
**Casual Start:** anytime after 8, the event will conclude at 11:30 a.m.

**Or "Virtual" -- Anywhere, Anytime:** Pick your own location to wear your fantastic long-sleeved high-tech wicking 100% polyester shirt with the above color logo!

**Alternatives:** If you're far away from St. Louis, we encourage you to join us in spirit, get the long-sleeved shirt and build awareness of Fisher House in many ways! You may participate on your on time, in your own place, on your own, or with your own group! Register to get the shirt, and we can send it to you for the cost of shipping. Consider registering a group to participate, and we can ship shirts to you in bulk.

**Cost:** $30 registration per person to get the great shirt, race support, goody bag (for in-person pick-up), and more! Price goes up to $35 on September 20, 2021.

Off-site groups, please contact Laura at (314) 621-6182 to discuss remote group events and arrange for bulk orders.

**Shirt & Packet Pick Up:** We'll set up pick up times at the St. Louis VA Medical Center, John Cochran and VA-Jefferson Barracks locations (whether or not non-VA employees can pick up at these locations will depend on COVID restrictions at that time). Registrants will be emailed options in October.

Register at: [www.FisherHouseinStL.org/Events](http://www.FisherHouseinStL.org/Events)
Or call (314) 621-6182 if you would prefer to have a paper registration form mailed to you.
Help Us Stay in Touch with You!

We have improved our ability to communicate with you -- our wonderful community of volunteers, guests and donors.

We promise to not deluge you with mail, paper or email, ever. And we won't share your information. But we do want to keep you up to date on our plans to increase our service to Veterans and their families with a second house at JC.

Please go to our updated website:

www.FisherHouseinStLouis.org

and tell us how you’d prefer to receive messages from us.

- By mail?
- By email?
- Only once a year?
- Not at all?

And if this newsletter wasn’t mailed directly to you, we’d be happy to add you to the list! Call (314) 621-6182 if you cannot access the website.

Here’s a short version of our "Wish List" for the Fisher House

- Restaurant Gift Cards (prepaid MasterCard or VISA gift cards are ideal, as we are hosting some guests off-site due to COVID precautions.)
- Gas or Grocery Store Gift Cards (i.e. Walmart, Sam’s Club)
- Hard Candy (individually wrapped, regular or sugar free)
- Dryer Sheets, Laundry Detergent
- Snacks (individually packaged: chips, fruit snacks, cakes)
- Lip Balm, Tissue packets, Small Hand Sanitizer bottles

We have a longer "wish list" for the house at our website. Items may be shipped directly to: VA Fisher House, 1 Jefferson Barracks, Building #59, St. Louis, MO 63125. If you wish to personally deliver something, you must make arrangements in advance. Please call: (314) 894-6145 or email: Vanniecia.Brown@va.gov  Thank you!!

Highlights of Recent Support

Many thanks goes to Jim Sheets of JIMCO - promotional products company. Jim has chaired a big, annual golf tournament to benefit the Fisher House in St. Louis for nine years, and he’s started on #ten! If you're a golfer, save the date of June 9, 2022 to enjoy the lovely courses in Forest Park.

We appreciate every dollar that is donated to help our Veterans! The Home Builders Association of St. Louis donated funds through the Home Builders Charitable Foundation to update our big community kitchen with improved, accessible cabinets and other great features. Our guests celebrated the completion of this work in July. So far in 2021, more than 200 donors have contributed to the organization. Each of the following has given more than $2,000 as of August:

Anonymous
Erickson Trust
Hauk Kruse & Associates LLC
Inter-State Studio & Publishing Co.
Jay B. Smith Funeral Homes & Cremation
Knights of Columbus Council #3586
McCarthy Building Companies
Solerity, Inc.
Stieven Capital Advisors
Stifel Foundation
Veterans United Foundation
Willert Home Products

Eagle Scout candidate William M. Millard constructed four Adirondack chairs with two side tables for Fisher House. Will leveraged this big service project by engaging help from many of his peers in O'Fallon, IL.

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