

# NEWS RELEASE



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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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### **VA Nurse Named DAISY Award Recipient for Extraordinary Care**

**OMAHA**, Neb. – It takes an extraordinary nurse to care for America’s Veterans. Sue Needham, intensive care unit nurse manager at the Department of Veterans Affairs medical center in Omaha, Neb., earned a special recognition as the DAISY Award recipient Sept. 29.

The DAISY Award for Extraordinary Nurses was started in honor of Patrick Barnes who died at age 33 from an auto-immune disease. During the eight weeks he spent in the hospital, his family was touched not only by the nurses’ clinical skills, but by the kindness and compassion with which they delivered care.

“Everybody here at the VA is a DAISY nurse,” said Eileen Kingston, VA Nebraska-Western Iowa Health Care System’s nurse executive.

However, out of the 24 nurses nominated at the medical center for the award, the nominations were narrowed down to one – Needham. She had three nominations from co-workers.

Dr. Craig Piquette, ICU director, said Needham is the glue that holds their team together.

“She makes our job much easier ... and keeps the Veterans’ best interests in mind,” he said.

According to the DAISY Foundation website, the goal with the award is to ensure that nurses know how deserving they are of society's profound respect for the education, training, brainpower and skill they put into their work, and especially for the caring.” For more information about the DAISY Award for Extraordinary Nurses, visit [www.daisyfoundation.org](http://www.daisyfoundation.org).

The VA Nebraska-Western Iowa Health Care System’s mission is to honor America’s Veterans by providing exceptional health care that improves their health and well-being. VA NWIHCS employees serve more than 161,000 Veterans in Nebraska, western Iowa and portions of Kansas and Missouri. The system includes a tertiary medical center in Omaha and a Community Living Center in Grand Island, Neb. Community-based outpatient clinics are located in Lincoln, Grand Island, North Platte, Norfolk, and Bellevue, Neb., and Shenandoah, Iowa; and a contract outreach clinic in O’Neill, Neb. For more information, visit <http://www.nebraska.va.gov>.

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