



News Release

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World War II Veteran to rehab at VA medical center

NEW ORLEANS – Revered World War II Veteran Lawrence Brooks is already making spirits bright among the nursing staff as he will be spending the Christmas and New Year’s holidays at the new Veterans medical center to rehabilitate after suffering a serious fall at his home just before Thanksgiving.

The 109-year old Veteran selected the new VA medical center for his rehabilitation following surgery to his right hip.

The Community Living Center is a 24-hour skilled nursing unit for inpatient residents with a mission to restore each Veteran to his or her highest level of well-being.

Brooks’ inpatient room in Community Living Center is already decorated with a Christmas tree, snowman, and balloons.

Brooks family members in New Orleans, Baton Rouge and Dallas, TX are already planning a Christmas celebration.

“Christmas doesn’t worry me too much,” said Brooks. “At my age, every day starts to look the same.”

Brooks’ health care plan is two weeks of inpatient physical therapy followed by an evaluation for possible outpatient therapy.

“I’m looking forward to you rehabilitating with us because I know you are an avid walker,” said Medical Center Director Fernando O. Rivera in welcoming Brooks to the Community Living Center. “We will do everything we can to get you up and moving around again and feeling well.”

“I’ve always been a walker, sometimes three to four miles a day,” added Brooks. “So, my focus now is to exercise well enough so I can go walking again.”

Brooks was born Sept. 12, 1909 and served in the predominantly African-American 91st Engineer Battalion, which was stationed in New Guinea and then the Philippines during World War II. He is one of the oldest surviving Veterans in the region.

For more information about the Southeast Louisiana Veterans Health Care System, clinic locations and other services available to Veterans in southeast Louisiana, visit the website www.neworleans.va.gov, visit our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/VANewOrleans Twitter at www.twitter.com/vaneworleans or Instagram at <https://www.instagram.com/vaneworleans/>.

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