QUICK HISTORICAL FACTS

• The VA Medical Center opened October 15, 1924. The hospital at that time was referred to as Veterans Hospital, Number 100. The hospital was one of many built under the direction of the Veterans Bureau which was tasked by the US Congress to care for World War I Veterans.

• The dedication ceremony was attended by more than 2,000 dignitaries and visitors.

• The first Medical Center Director was Colonel Frank E. Leslie, who was appointed to be the Medical Officer in Charge by Brigadier General Frank T. Hines, United States Veterans Bureau.

• The hospital was built as part of an $18 million dollar appropriation that funded the building of five hospitals. Battle Creek successfully lobbied to have a hospital built here on 675 acres of land donated by the War Department which was part of Camp (Fort) Custer.

About Our VA

On November 1, 1924, the 68 member staff of Veterans Hospital Number 100 accepted their first patient. Situated on a 675 acre site that was part of Camp Custer, the original plans for the hospital included the construction of 22 buildings providing neuropsychiatric care to 500 patients.

Today, the Department of Veterans Affairs Battle Creek Health Care Delivery System provides comprehensive tertiary psychiatric care; primary and secondary medical care; and extended and long-term care for Veterans in 22 counties of southwestern Michigan with a dedicated staff of over 1,500 employees. The Healthcare Delivery System provides services to over 42,000 Veterans with 276 operating beds at the main Medical Center, Community Based Outpatient Clinics in Benton Harbor, Lansing, Muskegon, and the Wyoming VA Health Care Center.

We would like to welcome you to the Battle Creek VA Medical Center. Our staff is dedicated to providing the best care possible for the Veterans we serve. We are proud to be recognized by the PlaneTree organization with Bronze designation for meaningful progress in Patient-Centered Care. Please let us know if there is anything we can do to improve your visit.

Mary Beth Skupien, PhD
Medical Center Director
To care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow, and his orphan...