

# VA Chief seeks top-notch doctors

VETERANS POST by Freddy Groves

To cut patient wait times, Department of Veterans Affairs chief Robert A. McDonald is touring the country to recruit doctors, dentists and nurses for the VA health-care system. He's looking for 30,000 more medical personnel.

So far, the VA secretary has made his pitch at Johns Hopkins, University of Vermont and UC Davis. On the schedule are Harvard, Howard and Tufts. Top drawer, all of them. To show he means business, at one recruiting location, McDonald even handed out his personal cellphone number and email address.

There are benefits to hiring on as a doctor with the VA.

• The first is the eye-catching sum of \$120,000

that will go toward paying student-loan debt, double the amount it used to be. The VA earmarked \$5 billion for just this purpose.

• New doctors and other medical staff will know they're practicing cutting-edge medicine.

• In September, it raised the starting pay rates for doctors dentists just coming in to the VA by an additional \$20,000 to \$35,000. That's a necessary step: Most private sector doctors make more than those working for the VA.

• Students can do clinical rotations and get a foot in the door that way. Former combat medics and corpsmen can hire on as clinicians. They'll add 1,500 residencies across the VA system.

Meanwhile, the VA isn't

waiting on hiring. In Maryland, a dozen physicians have been hired and a contract with outside health care will hopefully allow patients to be seen within a week for primary care. White River Junction, Vermont, has brought on more than 50 people and needs more for their new programs.

So, opportunities are there for graduating medical staff, and ideally better, faster health care is coming to veterans across the country.

Freddy Groves regrets that he cannot personally answer reader questions, but will incorporate them into his column whenever possible. Send email to columngroves2@gmail.com.

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## Ravenna Church of the Nazarene

Is Hosting Our Annual

# Public Servants Day

Sunday, November 2, 2014

At 10:45am

Lunch will be provided after the service!

Everyone Welcome!

All Public Servants will be recognized.



My name is W. J. Noland, and I am a candidate for Mayor of Irvine.

I have lived in Estill County all of my life and the last 38 years in the City of Irvine. I am married to Phyllis Gilbert Noland. We have two daughters, Lisa Brown (Tim) and Kim Prewitt (Greg). We also have four grandchildren, Ryan, Kelsie, Jake and Tanner.

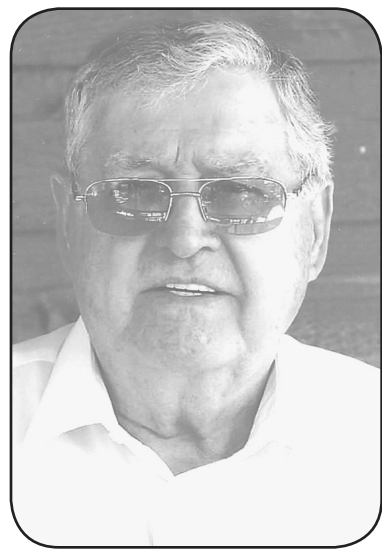
If elected, I will uphold the duties and responsibilities of the Office of Mayor. I will serve the citizens of Irvine with honor and pride.

I am asking for your vote on November 4th; so we can work together and continue to move forward in enriching our community.

I thank you in advance for your support.

Paid by W.J. Noland

W.J. Noland



ANDY BARR U.S. CONGRESS

You Are Invited!

Please Join

Congressman Andy Barr

and

Jimmy Rose

of 'America's Got Talent' Fame

for a free, family friendly

Rally and Hot Dog Roast

Sunday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>

2:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Natural Bridge Campground  
90 L & E Railroad Place  
Slade, KY 40376

Paid for by Andy Barr for Congress

Elect  
**Billy Arthur**  
Councilman  
City of Irvine  
November 4<sup>th</sup> 2014

Paid by Billy Arthur