THE VA & YOU Exploring Whole Health for Life

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CALENDAR

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How to Use This Calendar

- Schedule and record your appointments and other events.
- Note when VA clinics are closed for Federal holidays.
- At the start of each month, write down one Whole Health goal. It takes about 4-5 weeks to establish a new healthy habit.
- Keep a record, as advised by your health care team, of:
 - Minutes you exercise daily
 - Your daily blood pressure
 - Your daily blood sugar
 - Your weekly weight
 - **WEIGHT** (Write your daily weight, if advised.)

- Learn ways to take care of your Whole Health and how to work with your health care team to get the care you need.
 - Read and follow the monthly health tips, including the Whole Health Goal if it's a good fit for you.
 - Use the VA apps, programs, and websites listed.
- Use the section below to write down names and numbers for your health care contacts.
 You can also find contact information for VA resources on the back cover.



Access VA Services When You Need Them



ChooseVA is your one-stop for all the choices you have for VA benefits and services.

- Explore and apply for VA health care
- Learn about home loans, educational help and other assistance
- Access health resources

Learn more at **www.choose.va.gov**.



Your go-to for all VA services. Call this 24/7, toll-free number for all your VA needs: **1-844-698-2311**.



Confidential chat online at **www.VeteransCrisisLine.net** or text to 838255.



Sign up for a My Health**e**Vet (MHV) account at **www.myhealth.va.gov**.

- Access your personal health information and keep records of your health services.
- Order VA prescription refills.
- Send nonurgent messages to your VA health care team.
- Get email reminders of upcoming VA medical appointments.



Learn about your health conditions, medications, medical tests, and more at www.veteranshealthlibrary.org.

Within the online Veterans Health Library, you'll find:

- Over 1,500 health sheets
- Over 200 videos
- Go-to-Guides
- Flipbooks, and more!

NOVEMBER²⁰¹⁹

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--|---|----------------|-----------|---|--------|----------|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 Daylight Saving Time Ends (Turn clocks back one hour.) | 4 | 5 Election Day | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 | 11 Veterans Day Outpatient Clinics Closed | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 Great American Smokeout | 22 | 23 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 Thanksgiving Outpatient Clinics Closed | 29 | 30 |
| DECE | MBER | 2019 | | | | |
| CUNDAY | MONDAY | THECDAY | MEDNECDAY | THUDGDAY | EDIDAY | CATUDDAY |

DECEMBER²⁰¹⁹

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--|--------|----------------------|---|----------------------------|--------|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 Iraq War declared over, 2011 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 ^{Winter begins} Chanukah begins at sunset | 23 | 24 | 25 ^{Christmas Day} Outpatient Clinics Closed | 26 First day of Kwanzaa | 27 | 28 Operation Enduring Freedom ends, 2014 |
| 29 | 30 | 31 New Year's Eve | | | | |

Health Contacts & Phone Numbers

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE: 911 EMERGENCY CONTACT

| Name |
|---|
| Address |
| City/State/Zip |
| Phone |
| Fire / Police |
| Poison Control Center 1-800-222-1222 |
| |
| HEALTH CARE TEAM MEMBERS & OTHER HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS |
| |
| Primary Care Doctor |
| Nurse Care Manager |
| Clinical Associate |
| My Care Team Clerk |
| VA Facility |
| Name |
| Phone |
| Pharmacist |
| Pharmacy Refill |
| VA Tele-Nurse |
| Make an Appointment Phone # |
| Cancel an Appointment Phone # |
| |

Your Whole Health

How do you want to live your life? That's the big question driving VA's Whole Health model of care that empowers and prepares you to take charge of your health and well-being. All parts of your health – physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual – are connected. You receive high quality medical care and the support you need to make everyday, self-care choices that work best for you.



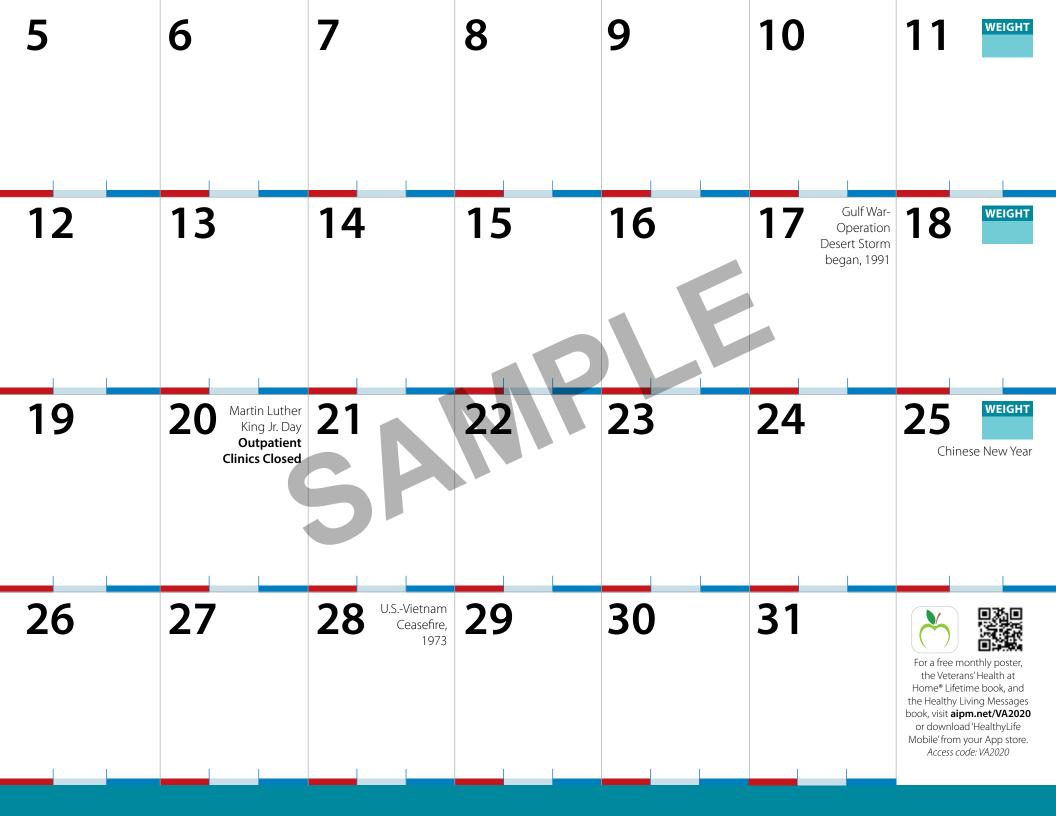
Journey

Have you participated in a Whole Health class to explore what matters most to you? Have you created your personal health plan? If not, take the first step. Talk with your VA provider about Whole Health options available to help you live your life to the fullest.

JANUARY 2020

Whole Health Goal: I will ask my VA provider where I can attend the Whole Health class within the next month.

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
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| RECORD minutes exercised, blood pressure & blood sugar and/or log these on My Health e Vet at www.myhealth.va.gov | Image: Second | FEBEVEVEVEVEVEVEVEVEVEVEVEVEVEVEVEVEVEVE | New Year's Day Outpatient Clinics Closed | 2 | 3 | 4. WEIGHT |
| | | | | | | |



Mindful Awareness

At the heart of your Whole Health is a set of techniques to help you become more aware of your thoughts and feelings in the present moment, without judging them. It's the opposite of being on auto-pilot. Instead, you learn to stay connected with what is most important to you. With practice, you will learn to notice small changes in how you are feeling – physically, mentally, and emotionally.



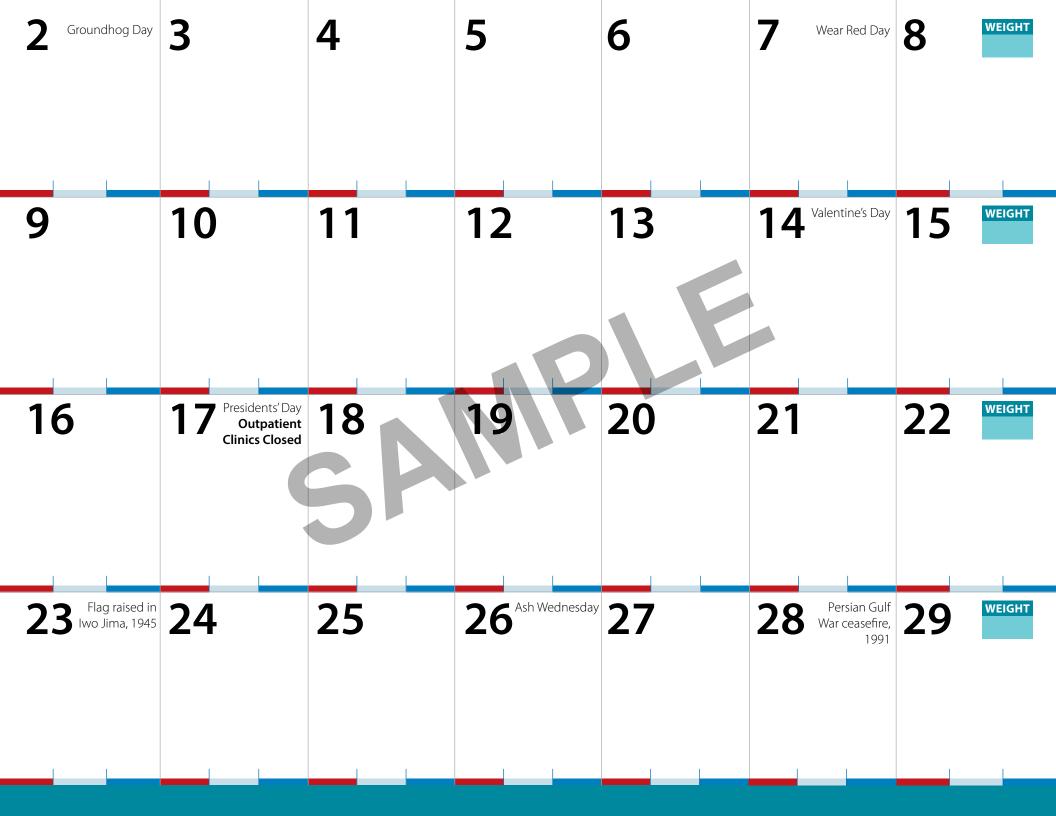
LEARNING Mindfulness

VA has many resources to help you learn these techniques, including the Mindfulness Coach app available at www.mobile.va.

FEBRUARY 2020

Whole Health Goal: I will ask my VA provider about learning to do a mental body scan in the next month.

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--------|--|--|---|---|--------|----------|
| | RECORD minutes exercised, blood pressure & blood sugar and/or log these on My HealtheVet at www.myhealth.va.gov | For a free monthly poster, the Veterans' Health at Home* Lifetime book, and the Healthy Living Messages book, visit aipm.net/VA2020 or download 'HealthyLife Mobile' from your App store. <i>Access code: VA2020</i> | I UIUIUIUIUIUIUIUIUIUIUIUIUIUIUIUIUIUIU | Image: Normal System Image: No | | 1 WEIGHT |



Mindful Eating

Have you ever looked down at your plate and found that it was empty, but you don't remember eating it all? Eating more mindfully with self-care can help you become more aware of every bite, so you taste more by being totally present. This can help cut down on large portions and reduce "stress eating," so you can focus on nourishing your body and your mind.



how to eat More Mindfully

- Ask yourself how hungry you truly are before you begin eating. Then, take a few deep breaths and give thanks for the food.
- 2. Remove or avoid distractions while eating, including all screens. Focus on the food and people who are enjoying the meal with you.
- 3. Chew each bite at least 20 times.

Whole Health Goal: I will practice mindful eating for one meal each day.

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
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| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | |
| | | | | | | |

MARCH 2020



A Healing Mind

There is a constant "dance" or connection between your mind and body that has power to improve your health. More evidence is emerging that mindbody approaches may help with many physical health conditions, including headaches, high blood pressure, some types of pain, and more. Mental health conditions may also improve, such as anxiety, depression, and PTSD.

APRIL²⁰²⁰

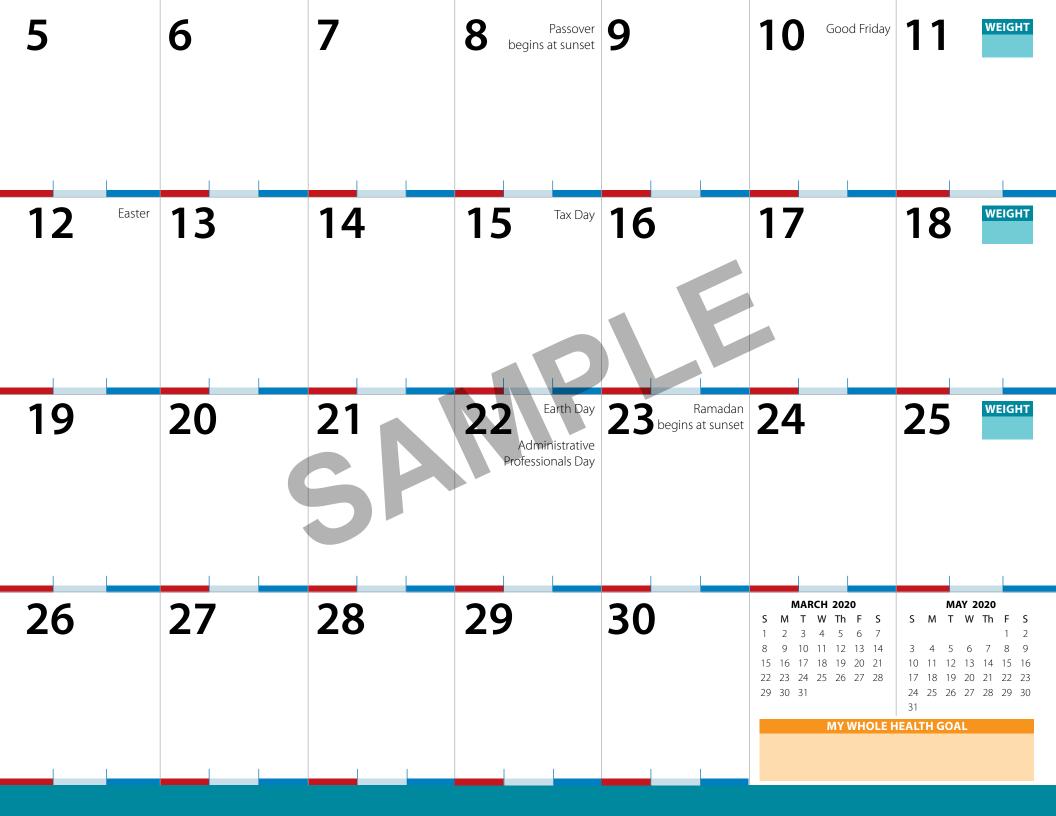


Power of the Mind therapies

- Biofeedback Changing breathing, heart rate, and muscle tension by using body signals
- Progressive muscle relaxation – Relaxing muscles, one group at a time, by first tensing, then relaxing them
- Cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) - Noticing and replacing negative thoughts with more positive and helpful thoughts

Whole Health Goal: I will ask my VA provider within the next month which mind-body therapies are best for me.

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--|--|---------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|
| RECORD minutes exercised, blood pressure & blood sugar and/or log these on My Health e Vet at www.myhealth.va.gov | For a free monthly poster, the Veterans' Health at Home® Lifetime book, and the Healthy Living Messages book, visit aipm.net/VA2020 or download 'HealthyLife Mobile' from your App store. <i>Access code: VA2020</i> | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |



Move Your Body

Are you thinking about being more active or want to revisit your current exercise routine? It may help to first reflect on whether you can physically do most of the things you want to do to live your life to the fullest. For example:

- How is your strength, flexibility, and balance?
- Does your emotional health affect how you move your body or how you exercise?

MAY 2020



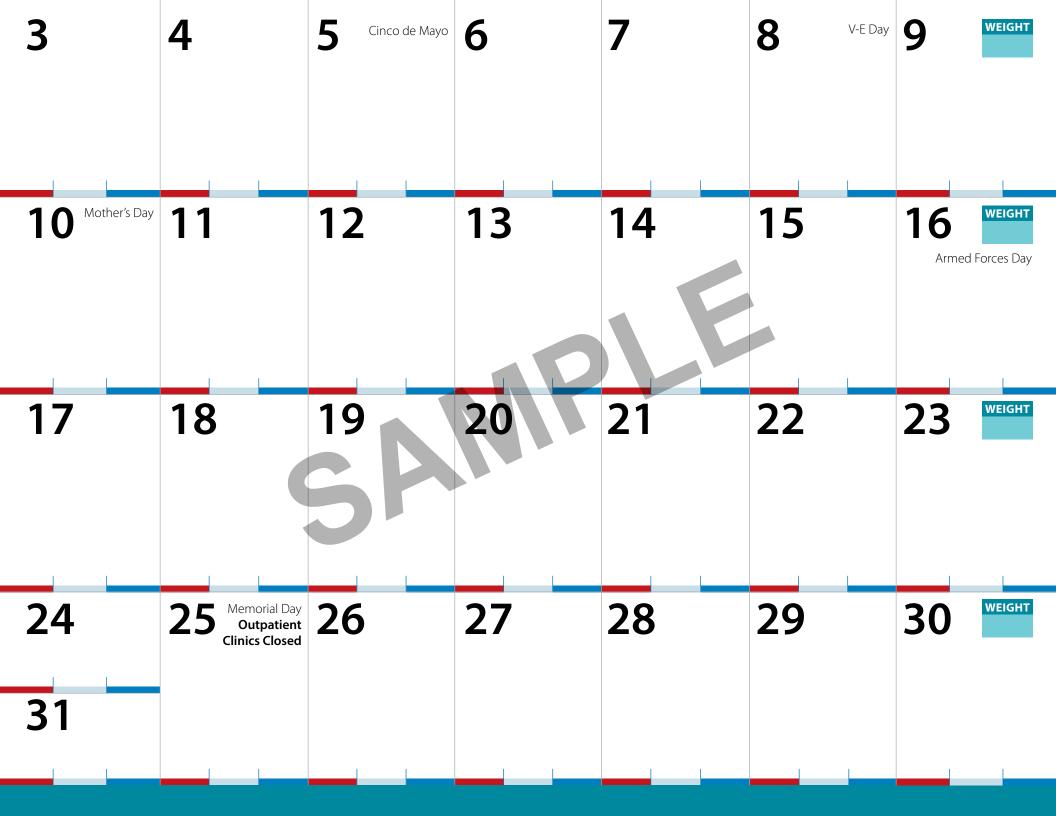
Whole Health Goal: I will sign up to attend a weekly tai chi class within the next month.

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
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Move your way

Your physical activity plan may include:

- Working out at a gym
- Starting a walking
 program
- Accessing Veterans
 sports clinics
- Taking a tai chi class
- Getting off the bus one stop early
- Having regular family dance parties



Healthy Relationships

Having positive relationships with family, friends, and co-workers is good for your well-being. It's important to feel connected to the people in your life. Think of these relationships as valuable resources that help create joy and positivity for you, as well as support you through the tough times. On the flip side, feeling alone can lead to illnesses, or can actually make illnesses worse.

JUNE 2020



Nurture relationships

Consider seeking out marriage therapy services, joining a VA peer support program, or contacting VA's Caregiver Support Program if you are feeling overwhelmed as a caregiver for a loved one. Remember, your VA health care team is there to support your goals for building healthy relationships.

Whole Health Goal: I will look for a VA peer support group to join within two months.

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
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| | | | | | | D-Day |
| RECORD minutes exercised, blood pressure & blood sugar and/or log these on My Health e Vet at www.myhealth.va.gov | | | | | | |
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Recharge with R & R

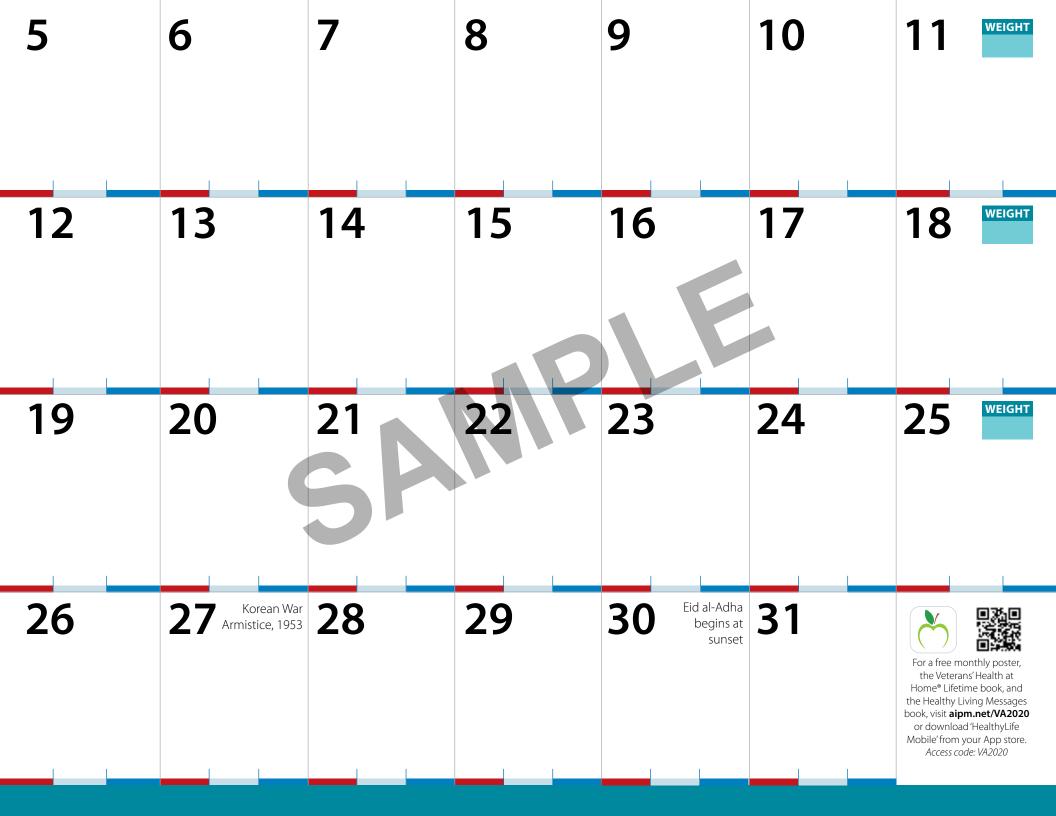
Getting enough quality sleep has the power to refresh and revive your body and your mind each day. For most adults, that means seven to nine hours per night. Try to prepare your body for sleep about one hour before bedtime. Dim the lights, turn down the thermostat, and turn off digital devices and screens. Finding time during waking hours to enjoy leisure activities also helps recharge your mind and body.

JULY 2020



Whole Health Goal: I will follow a healthy bedtime routine at least four days per week.

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| BECORD minutes | Image: Second | S JUSUST 2020 S M T W Th F S 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 | 1 | 2 | 3 Independence Day Observed Outpatient Clinics Closed | 4 |
| these on My Health e Vet at www.myhealth.va.gov | MY WHOLE H | IEALTH GOAL | | | | |



Around You

Your surroundings affect your Whole Health in major ways. Your home, workplace, and neighborhood can influence how stressed, confident, or how safe you feel. Start by looking at the changes you can make in your home to feel healthier, safer, and happier.



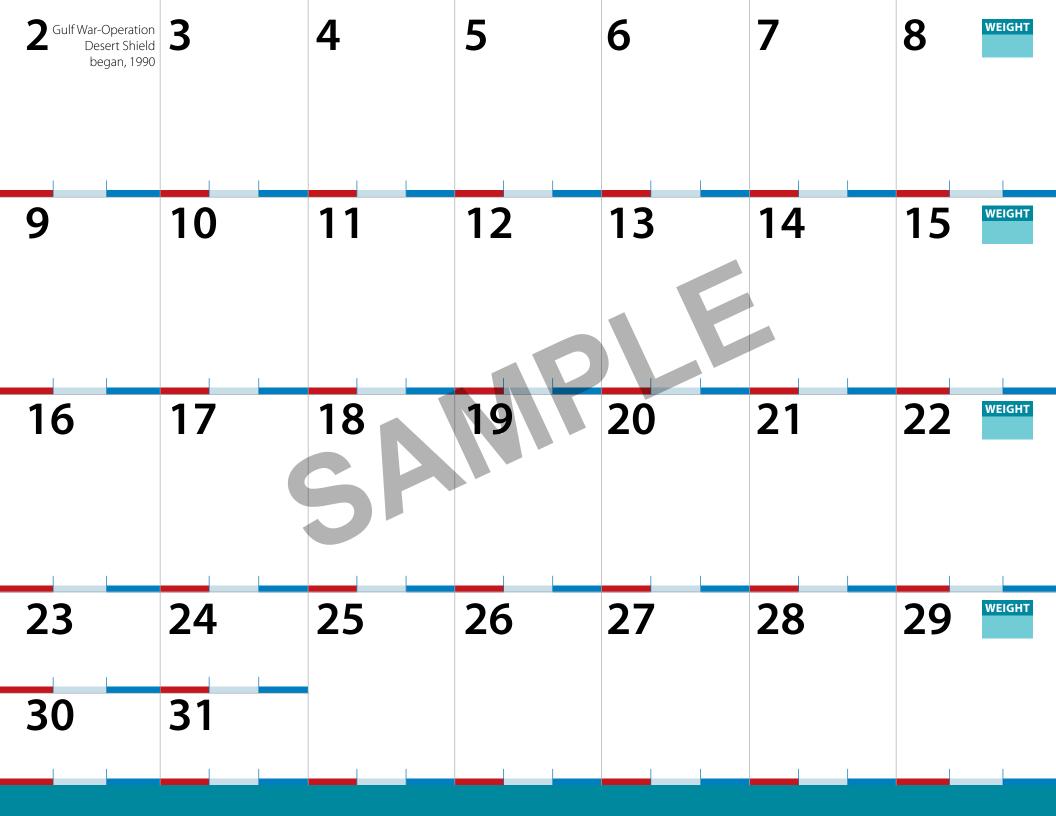
Time ™ Declutter?

Having hundreds of items crowded into one space can be overwhelming and stressful. Removing some of them may help relieve stress and create a sense of confidence. Start small. Evaluate what you have, one space at a time. Which things matter most? The goal is to keep items that truly connect with your life's purpose, your loved ones, and things that bring you joy.

AUGUST 2020

Whole Health Goal: In the next month, I will donate or pass on clothes I haven't worn in three years.

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
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| RECORD minutes exercised, blood pressure & blood sugar and/or log these on My Health e Vet at www.myhealth.va.gov | S M T V V V V S A I 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 24 V V | S M T W Th F S I 1 2 3 4 5 I 2 3 4 5 I 2 3 14 12 I 1 1 1 12 14 15 I 1 1 1 1 14 15 16 17 18 19 I 2 3 2 2 2 2 3 2 2 2 3 2 2 2 3 2 2 3 2 2 3 2 3 2 3 3 3 < | For a free monthly poster, the Veterans' Health at Home® Lifetime book, and the Healthy Living Messages book, visit aipm.net/VA2020 or download 'HealthyLife Mobile' from your App store. <i>Access code: VA2020</i> | | | 1 WEIGHT |



Spirit for Health

Having a sense of purpose or meaning helps guide many people to live a full, Whole Health life. This is often expressed as feeling connected to something larger than oneself. When life gets difficult or challenging, some people turn to their religious or spiritual faith, and others seek comfort in nature. Some prefer to connect with art or music, spend quiet time alone, or find ways to help others.



Express your life's Purpose

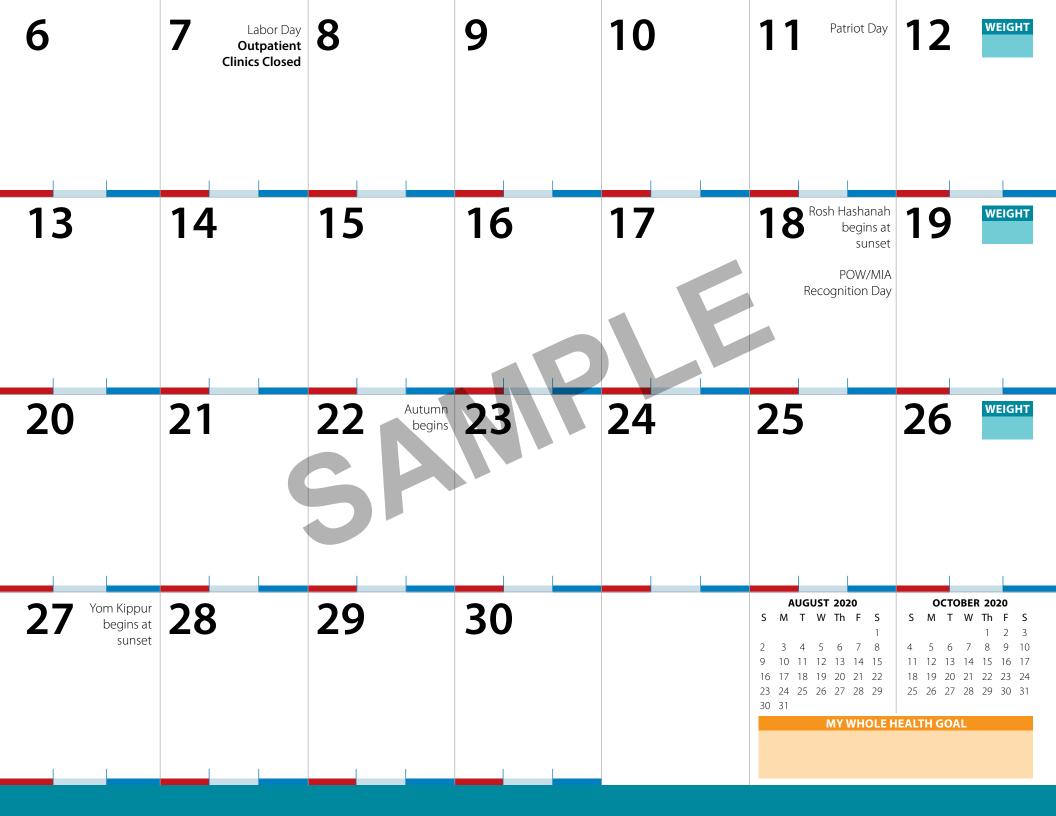
In whatever ways you choose to express your life's purpose and to find meaning, there are many VA resources and programs available to support you, such as:

- VA chaplaincy services
- Living history project
- Drum circles
- Meditation resources

SEPTEMBER 2020

Whole Health Goal: During my next visit, I will ask my VA provider about seeing a VA chaplain.

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--|--|---|-----------------------------------|----------|--------|----------|
| RECORD minutes exercised, blood pressure & blood sugar and/or log these on My HealtheVet at www.myhealth.va.gov | For a free monthly poster, the Veterans' Health at Home® Lifetime book, and the Healthy Living Messages book, visit aipm.net/VA2020 or download 'HealthyLife Mobile' from your App store. <i>Access code: VA2020</i> | 1 Operation New Dawn (OND) began, 2010 | 2 Japan surrenders, WWII, 1945 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| | | | | | | |



Screenings & Immunizations

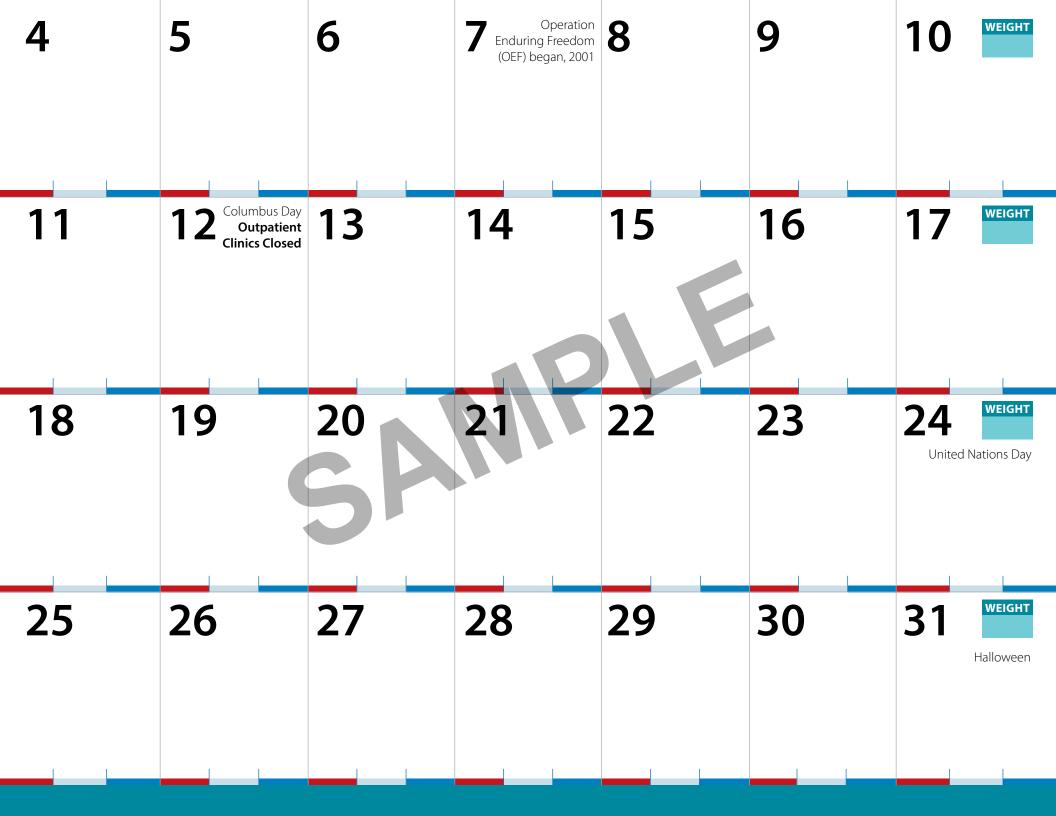
Getting recommended screening tests and immunizations is part of your Whole Health professional care. Being screened for diseases like colon cancer or Hepatitis C can help find potential problems, or find them early when treatment can be more successful. Some vaccines received as a child can wear off over time. Plus, adults are at risk for different diseases compared to childhood diseases.



OCTOBER 2020

Whole Health Goal: Within the next month, I will make an appointment with my VA provider to discuss which screenings and immunizations I should have.

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY | | |
|---|--|---|---|----------|--------|----------|--|--|
| RECORD minutes exercised, blood pressure & blood sugar and/or log these on My Health e Vet at www.myhealth.va.gov | For a free monthly poster, the Veterans' Health at Home® Lifetime book, and the Healthy Living Messages book, visit aipm.net/VA2020 or download 'HealthyLife Mobile' from your App store. <i>Access code: VA2020</i> | SUBUBLIE SUBUBLIE SUBUBLIE M T W Th F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 U UUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUU | Image: Normal Solution Image: Norman Solution Image: Norman Solution< | 1 | 2 | 3 WEIGHT | | |



Quit Tobacco Again

Are you thinking about quitting smoking but worried because you weren't successful the last time you tried? Don't give up! It may take several tries before you can quit for good. The best chances for quitting, and to stay quit, happen when a person uses a combination of tobacco cessation medication and counseling. Getting support from family and friends is also important.



more va Resources

VA has more quit resources and treatment options than ever to meet your specific needs. To help you get started on becoming a smokefree Veteran, talk to a VA tobacco quitline counselor about making a quit plan at 1-855-QUIT-VET (1-855-784-8838).

NOVEMBER 2020

Whole Health Goal: I will visit mentalhealth.va.gov/quit-tobacco and veterans.smokefree.gov this week to explore my quit tobacco options.

| | SUNDAY | | MOND | AY | Т | UESDA | Y | WE | DNESC | PAY | 1 | HURSE | DAY | F | RIDAY | SA | TURDA | ſ |
|---|---|-----------|------|----|---|-------|---------|----|-------|-----|---|-------|-----|---|-------|----|-------|-------|
| 1 | Daylight Savir Time en (Turn clocks ba one hou | ds_{ck} | | | 3 | Elect | ion Day | 4 | | | 5 | | | 6 | | 7 | WE | EIGHT |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |



Power of Gratitude

Ask yourself if you are truly grateful for the good things in your life. Practicing gratitude is a valuable part of your personal development. It nurtures your own emotional and physical health by creating more positive events in your life compared to the negative ones.

Try to make gratitude a part of your day, every day.

THANK YOU, VETERANS

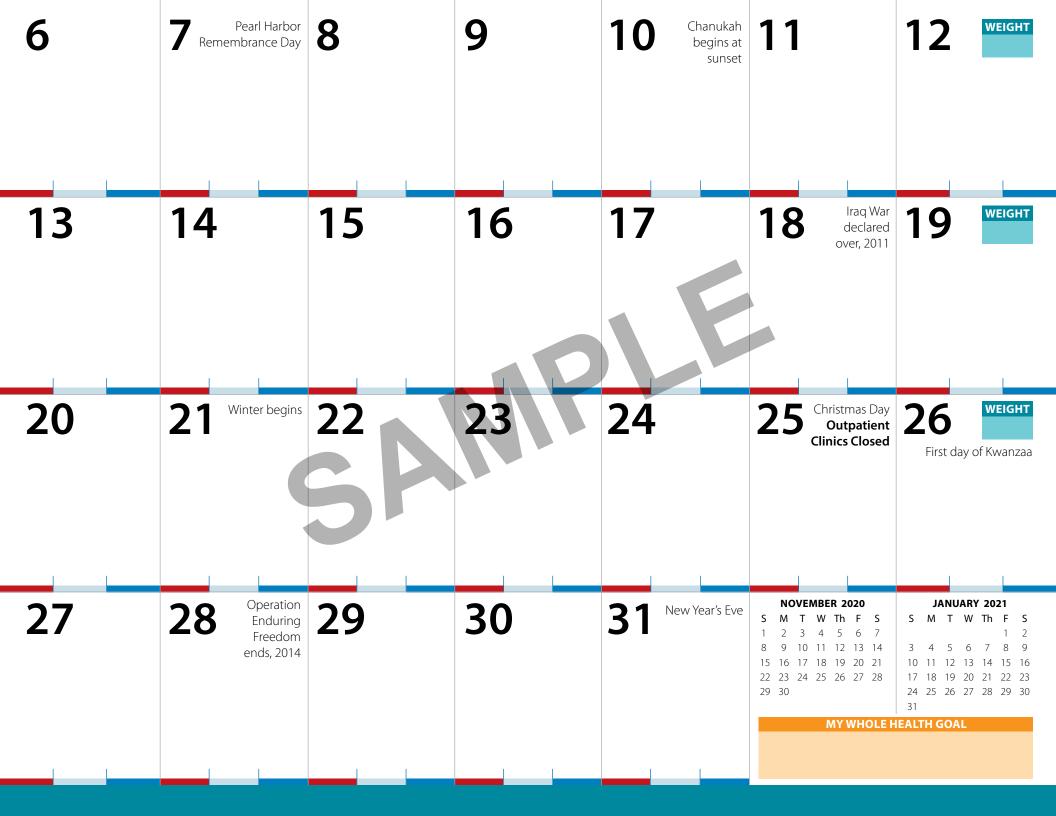
BUILD POSITIVE

Whether you are expressing gratitude to another person, or feeling grateful for something in your life, you experience a positive feeling. When this happens, hold on to that feeling for 30 seconds, and feel happiness spread through your entire body. This will help fire up positivity neurons and change your brain chemistry to help you feel calmer and less stressed.

DECEMBER 2020

Whole Health Goal: I will set a daily phone reminder to count my blessings.

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--|--|---------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|
| RECORD minutes exercised, blood pressure & blood sugar and/or log these on My Health e Vet at www.myhealth.va.gov | For a free monthly poster, the Veterans' Health at Home® Lifetime book, and the Healthy Living Messages book, visit aipm.net/VA2020 or download 'HealthyLife Mobile' from your App store. <i>Access code: VA2020</i> | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 WEIGHT |



VA Services

Veteran Benefits

1-800-827-1000 www.va.gov www.vets.gov www.chooseva.gov www.explore.va.gov www.ebenefits.va.gov

Health Care Benefits 1-877-222-8387 www.va.gov/healthbenefits

Burial & Memorials 1-800-827-1000 www.cem.va.gov

Center for Minority Veterans www.va.gov/centerforminorityveterans

Devices for the Deaf (TDD) Dial 711

Education & Training 1-888-442-4551 www.benefits.va.gov/gibill

Homeless Veterans 1-877-424-3838 www.va.gov/homeless

Mental Health www.mentalhealth.va.gov

Military Exposures (Agent Orange, Gulf War Illnesses, etc.) 1-877-222-8387 www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures National Center for Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Call Your VA or 1-800-273-8255 www.ptsd.va.gov

Survivor Benefits 1-800-827-1000 www.va.gov/survivors

Traveling Veterans Coordinator Program www.va.gov/healthbenefits/access/ seamless_care.asp

VHA National Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention www.prevention.va.gov

VA National Center for Patient Safety www.patientsafety.va.gov

Veterans Choice Program 1-866-606-8198 www.va.gov/opa/choiceact

Veterans Crisis Line 1-800-273-8255 Press "1" OR text to 838255 OR chat confidentially online at www.veteranscrisisline.net



VA Resources

Access and Quality in VA Healthcare www.accesstocare.va.gov

MOVE!" Weight Management www.move.va.gov

MyHealtheVet 1-877-327-0022 www.myhealth.va.gov

MyVA 311 1-844-MyVA311 (1-844-698-2311)

SmokeFreeVET 1-855-QuitVET (855-784-8838) Text VET to 47848 www.smokefree.gov/Veterans VA Caregiver Support Line 1-855-260-3274 www.caregiver.va.gov

VA Facility Locator www.vets.gov/facilities

VA Whole Health for Life www.va.gov/patientcenteredcare/ index.asp

Women Veterans Call Center 1-855-829-6636 www.womenshealth.va.gov



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😁 @U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs

VA Mobile Health – mobile.va.gov



PTSD Coach





Ask a Pharmacist



MOVE!® Coach



Stay Quit Coach

Mindfulness Coach

VA Online Scheduling

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