



Carl Vinson VA Medical Center, 1826 Veterans Blvd., Dublin, GA 31021

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Dublin VA Fulfills Veteran's Wish for Baptism

DUBLIN, Ga. – The Carl Vinson VA Medical Center in Dublin honored a veteran's request for spiritual care, arranging a baptism ceremony for U.S. Army and Vietnam War veteran James Garnto.

VA social worker Greg Senters said the medical center's commitment to veterans extends beyond physical health, embracing the whole health concept that includes spiritual needs.

"At VA, we enter into a lifelong relationship with our veterans, and part of that means supporting their spiritual well-being," Senters said. "Research and decades of practice show that addressing all aspects of care leads to better health outcomes and quality of life."

At Garnto's request, Senters, VA Chaplain Raynard Churchwell, and Hero's Haven staff coordinated the ceremony. Surrounded by family and VA staff, Garnto was baptized in the medical center's Hospice Care facility.

After immersion in one of the facility's baths, Churchwell affirmed Garnto's desire to be baptized and proclaimed him saved. Attendees sang spirituals before and after the ceremony, and Churchwell and Senters offered readings from scripture.

Hospice Care nurse manager Gisela "Gigi" Cordy said the event inspired her team. "Seeing Mr. Garnto get baptized is inspiring for us all. It reaffirms our commitment to quality of life at every stage. We're proud to have shared this moment with him," Cordy said.

Dublin VA medical center director Chandra Miller echoed her staff's commitment to all of their veterans' needs as best they can be supported.

"Caring for America's heroes extends far beyond providing healthcare," Miller said. "It means making a sincere, lifelong commitment to their welfare. Our team's devotion to veterans, and our veterans, inspire me every day."

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Photo credit: Allison Burnett

Photos:

- 1) Garnto celebrates his baptism with family and VA staff
- 2) VA Chaplain Raynard Churchwell baptizes Vietnam Army veteran Garnto

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