

Assistance for Family Caregivers of Veterans

As a veteran myself, it gives me great pleasure to make you aware of a program not often discussed that can support caregivers of veterans. It is called the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers, and you can get more information than I will discuss here by calling the Veterans Administration team in Viera at 321-633-2012 or by going to www.va.gov/family-member-benefits/comprehensive-assistance-for-family-caregivers/.

This program is not Veterans Aid & Attendance. It is not paid to the veteran, but to the spouse or family member who assists the veteran with activities of daily living (ADLs). The program has some definitive requirements, but it is possible to make changes to your current eligibility status to qualify for the funding, which ranges from \$1,800 a month to \$3,000 a month. The



HELPING SENIORS OF BREVARD
JOE STECKLER

periods for eligibility are for veterans with 70% disability serving before 1975 or after 2001.

Consider for a moment a veteran who retires at 20% disability but subsequently develops Alzheimer's disease and needs constant care. Since Alzheimer's is a qualifying disease, it would be possible to reclassify his disability and make him eligible for payment. Generally speaking, ADLs are those acts which the veteran must perform but cannot do so without the help of another person. These would include toileting,

showering, dressing, getting to a doctor, dressing, fixing meals, etc.

One might look at the 70% disability requirement and say, "I could never qualify". However, we must remember that our bodies and abilities change, and it is possible to reclassify a veteran's disability status. In my own work with veterans over the years, I am amazed at the higher disability numbers that we encounter. Other conditions that qualify for payment include Parkinson's, stroke, and other debilitating diseases that require special help for the individual.

It has taken me a number of years to become as knowledgeable as I am about the Veteran's Caregiver Assistance program. I am also learning that there are many other programs that are offered by the Veterans Administration about which I know little. One of these is the General Caregiver Support Program, which can open doors on

many other programs such as respite, education, and other services designed to assist the veteran and his or her family.

There is help available for the 75,000 veterans in Brevard County. Our VA clinic, located in Viera, is one of the top clinics in the state, and people drive from all over Florida to use it. The audiology department is excellent, and service is top notch. I once gave a brief at the County Health and Human Services Department, experienced a severe headache, went to the VA clinic, and was treated like a dignitary.

VA facilities vary in how services are delivered, but ours is an example of one of the better ones. Call them at 321-633-2012 to find help or visit them at 2900 Veterans Way, Viera, FL.

Contact Helping Seniors at 321-473-7770, at www.HelpingSeniorsofBrevard.org, or at P.O. Box 372936, Satellite Beach, FL 32937.

Garcia

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to train him and develop him into the type of pitcher that the Phillies ultimately want. Stuff-wise, he's going to be mid-to-upper 90s (miles an hour) with a good breaking ball and he's learning a changeup and once he dials that pitch in he's going to be very effective."

Mr. Garcia also credited Mr. Brown with his development.

It really started when Coach Brown gave me the opportunity to come into games in tight situations either to save the game or hold the lead. I knew I had to perform well and from there my confidence just grew," Mr. Garcia said in the release. "I have always kept up with the Phillies. It is home to so many great players and I am excited to be a part of the franchise...they are now my favorite team."

Mr. Garcia was assigned to the Phillies' Florida Complex League team.

"The Phillies were one of the first teams that reached out to me in the fall of last year," Mr. Brown said.

In addition two other former Titans were selected by MLB organizations in the 2022 MLB Draft.

Tyler Vogel, who spent last year as a closer for Jacksonville University,

was selected in the 12th round by the San Francisco Giants. EFSC says Mr. Vogel struck out over a batter per inning and had a 4.01 earned run average in two seasons as a Titan.

Andrew Walters, who spent one year at EFSC before transferring to the University of Miami, was selected with the first pick of the 18th round by the Baltimore Orioles.

Mr. Walters had a 2.00 earned run average while with the Titans. At Miami, Walters had an impressive 1.57 ERA with 98 strikeouts in 43 appearances to go along with 14 saves.

Mr. Brown also noted how helpful the drafting and signing of former players can be on his current group of players.

"It's huge. They see it. You know and in the winter once our fall is starting to getting to get finished and in the beginning of January, we have alumni and guys in the area, a bunch of professional baseball players that come out and work out with the guys so they're around the professional side, the professional guys are working out and getting reps with our guys and it's cool," Mr. Brown added. "It's a culture that we want to produce here and we're going to continue to do it as long as the guys keep progressing in the game and get an opportunity to play professional baseball."



Eric Garcia pitching for the Eastern Florida State College Titans.

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