TOWN OF CORTLANDT

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PRESS RELEASE

FDR VA Hudson Valley Hospital Pool Groundbreaking Ceremony

October 20th, 2015

FOR MORE INFORMATION
Linda D. Puglisi, Town of Cortlandt
(914) 734-1002, Fax (914) 734-1003
10/20/2015

Yesterday was a great day for our Veterans (men and women) who have served our Country, protected our citizens and defended our freedoms throughout the years.

The longtime closed (over 10 years) swimming pool and building at the V.A. will finally be renovated and restored. It will take over a year and at a cost of $5 Million dollars to complete this important project.

We are all grateful to Congresswoman Nita Lowey for securing and appropriating the funds from the U.S. treasury in order to complete this capital project at our V.A. in Montrose/Cortlandt that provides services for 150,000 Veterans each year.

The large swimming pool will assist with Veteran's rehabilitation, physical and mental therapy and will be a recreational destination for Veterans. The V.A. first opened in 1945 at the end of WWII.

I am very proud of our Town Board, Richard H. Becker, Francis X. Farrell, Seth M. Freach and Debra A. Costello, for their ongoing support of our Veterans and also, of our Cortlandt Veteran's Hudson Valley Committee, Chaired by William Nazario, a purple heart Veteran for their dedication in being a part of making this V.A. pool renovation become a reality.

The Veterans have fought for us and our Country and now and into the future we must **always** fight for them and their needed services.
Thank you.

Linda D. Puglisi
Supervisor
Town of Cortlandt

(See attached program)

HUDSON VALLEY
CASTLE POINT
VA
FOR MONTROSE
HEALTH CARE SYSTEM
swoman
M. Lowey

MILITARY ORDER PURPLE HEART

A History of FDR Montrose

The Franklin Delano Roosevelt campus of the VA Hudson Valley Health Care System in Montrose, N.Y., is one of three VA medical centers named for U.S. presidents.

By 1944, VA operated eight hospitals with 8,034 beds in the state of New York. With the influx of returning World War II Veterans, more hospital beds were needed and sites near New York City were of particular interest.

In 1944, the Veterans Administration took an option on the Revolutionary War-era estate, known as Boscobel, situated on the banks of the Hudson River roughly 40 miles north of New York City. The government purchased the Boscobel land for $125,000 in April 1945. Originally, the historic Boscobel mansion house stood at the current location of Building 29 at the FDR Montrose VA Hospital, overlooking the Hudson. It was completed in 1808 for the Morris States-Dyckman family and is regarded as one of the finest examples of Federal architecture in the country. The mansion was meticulously taken apart and rebuilt further up the Hudson to make way for the new VA Hospital being built to serve America's newest Veterans from WWII. The Wallace family of Reader's Digest fame, long-time residents of the Hudson Valley, paid for the move and restoration efforts.

President Harry S. Truman on September 26, 1945 officially designated the planned hospital at Montrose as the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Veterans Administration Hospital. It was the first VA hospital named after a U.S. president. This commemorative act took place less than six months after President Roosevelt's death on April 12, 1945. It was one of the last hospital sites selected by VA's longest tenured administrator, General Frank T. Hines. Montrose had nearly 2,000 beds.

Today, FDR Montrose is a hub for treating Veterans with PTSD, TBI, mental health issues, addiction and other challenges, and is a recognized leader in this area. All told, VA Hudson Valley sees about 25,000 veterans each year at FDR Montrose and its other locations in the Hudson Valley.

Schedule of events

Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance

Introduction of guests

Remarks by Linda Puglisi
Town of Cortlandt Supervisor

Remarks by Margaret B. Caplan
Medical Center Director

Remarks by Rep. Nita Lowey
Congresswoman, 17th District, New York

Official Groundbreaking

Closing remarks

Refreshments/Walkthrough