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American flag is officially raised over new Pleasant View facility

Owosso, Mich. – February 23 marked another significant day for Pleasant View and its new facility: the official raising of the American flag that will fly over the facility.

"We've been waiting to do this for awhile now because we wanted it to have the attention it deserves for our staff and resident veterans," explained Shana Espinoza, MSN, RN, LNHA, Pleasant View Administrator. "We wanted it to stand on its own, out of respect."

Though some watched in the cool temperatures outside, most residents and staff viewed the official military ceremony on a live stream inside the facility's Towne Center. Representatives of the Shiawassee County Honor Veterans Guard attended and performed the traditional duties associated with raising a flag for the first time, including explaining the significance of the flag and leading the Pledge of Allegiance.

Another tradition – saying a prayer of dedication and reflection – was carried out by Irene Hosking, 99, of Corunna. Hosking is a veteran of World War II, having served as a nurse in Australia. She eventually became a nurse at the old Shiawassee County Poor Farm, which was demolished when the new Pleasant View "Hospital" was built in 1952. Hosking was the first superintendent there.

"I try to get to as many of these ceremonies as I can," shared Hosking. "This one I definitely wasn't going to miss!"

Many residents and staff at Pleasant View are veterans of several wars or have served in the National Guard.

After the flag raising, the staff treated the residents to a pep rally to end Spirit Week, which it had been celebrating as one of many activities planned by the Pleasant View Community Relations Team. Employees did dance routines, unveiled a time capsule which will be buried in the spring, and had a ceremonial cake cutting by the facility's oldest resident, 102-year-old Irene Hildebrandt.

For more information or to schedule a tour of the new building, visit pleasantviewmcf.org or call 989-743-3491.