

My name is John Nadeau, DO. I am a surgeon practicing at Cary Medical Center in Caribou, Maine. I am a native-born Mainer. Wisdom High School graduate in St. Agatha. I was a member of the Maine Air National Guard retired in 2017 from the Army Reserve. A medical officer I was deployed to Iraq, Kosovo, and Afghanistan. Many in my family have served in the Army, Army National Guard, and Marines some doing multiple deployments in recent wars. We are all proud of our time in the military.

Yesterday, we discovered (online news) that the Maine Vets Home in Caribou and Machias are closing. This is extremely disheartening. This is very personal for my family and I since my parents are currently living out their final days at this Home. My father served in the Army and fought during the Korean War.

Working at Cary Medical Center I experienced the difficulty of placing patients who needed continued care at nursing/rehab facilities. We were unable to find openings for many of these patients and they had to remain hospitalized leading to bed shortages. I believe that is still the case today. Where will Vets home residents go with these closures? I understand there are about 70 beds in the two areas associated to Cary Medical Center alone!

I am dumbfounded to hear that these closures are due to a lack of funding. Is this really what this country has turned into? Where you serve with pride, promised you will be cared for in your later years, then abandoned due to lack of funding. I understand finances are limited however with all the support we give for non-Mainers, non-veterans, and non-US citizens, how can we look at ourselves and feel we have done all we can to care of our own?

I have reviewed the website and seen the new Maine Veterans Home in Augusta. A beautiful facility. Was it built with the premise of closing smaller facilities in communities that are already struggling?

Ample time is needed to find proper placement for these residents. One or two months is, in my opinion, not enough time given an already overstressed system.

Thank you for your time. I support LD 2001.

Sincerely,

John Nadeau, DO
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