The Bay Pines VA Healthcare System, a level 1a tertiary care facility headquartered in Bay Pines, Fla. Originally opened in 1933, the main medical center is located on 337 acres situated on the Gulf of Mexico approximately eight miles northwest of downtown Saint Petersburg, Fla. Co-located on the medical center campus are a VA Regional Office and a National Cemetery. This area is part of Tampa Bay, the second most populated metropolitan area in the state. The healthcare system operates nine facilities to include the main medical center in Bay Pines and outpatient clinics located in the Florida cities of Bradenton, Cape Coral, Naples, Palm Harbor, Port Charlotte, Sarasota, St. Petersburg, and Sebring.

The medical center and its outpatient clinics serve Veterans residing in 10 counties in central southwest Florida to include Charlotte, Collier, Desoto, Hardee, Highlands, Hillsborough, Lee, Manatee, Pinellas and Sarasota. Every year, the Bay Pines VA Healthcare System serves more than 110,000 Veterans while providing a full range of high quality medical, psychiatric, and extended care services in outpatient, inpatient, residential, nursing home, and home care settings. The system is the 7th busiest VA healthcare system in the country in regards to patients treated or served.

In 2013, the medical center was renamed in honor of the late U.S. Congressman C.W. “Bill” Young of Florida’s 13th District, a staunch supporter of Veterans and a frequent visitor to the facility. Services provided include: inpatient acute care (general medicine/surgery, psychiatry, and rehabilitation); residential programs (community living center, hospice, palliative care, stress treatment, homeless Veterans and substance abuse treatment); primary care; extensive specialty care; outpatient surgical services; OEF/OIF/OND program (Polytrauma level III); home and community care; homeless Veterans care; women Veterans care; and various ancillary and support services. Mental health services are available at all points of care. The facility also offers education and research.

The healthcare system is fully accredited by The Joint Commission, Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities, and several other nationally recognized accrediting organizations. Among the healthcare system’s many awards and accolades, the organization has been named a Cornerstone Recognition Award gold winner by the VA National Center for Patient Safety for the last eight years.
About Saint Petersburg, Fla.
The city of Saint Petersburg is the fourth most populous city in the state of Florida and the largest city in the state that is not a county seat. The city boasts a population of roughly 2.8 million residents and is a popular vacation destination for both American and foreign tourists. According to city estimates, the average temperature during the year is 73.7 degrees and average days of sunshine per year are 361.

Housing
Quality homes and apartments are available within commuting distance of the medical center. Prices are consistent with those found in cities of comparable size.

Schools
The Pinellas County School System is the 7th largest district in Florida and 22nd largest in the nation. More than 148,000 students are enrolled at 140 public schools, 72 private schools and 5 vocational/technical schools. Universities include St Petersburg College, Eckerd College, University of South Florida St. Petersburg, Pinellas Technical Education Center, and Stetson University College of Law.

Cultural Activities

Sports and Outdoor Recreation
Tampa Bay boasts extensive indoor and outdoor sports and recreation facilities suitable for all ages. In Saint Petersburg alone, there are three award-winning public golf courses (Florida is known as the golf capital of the world), nine public pools including an Olympic-size training facility located on Tampa Bay, 80 lighted tennis courts, five dog parks, two skateboard parks, a BMX bicycle track, and a Maximo Park flying disc golf playing facility.

Beaches
The Tampa Bay area is well regarded for its beaches. In 2005 a non-profit beach ranking organization recognized Fort De Soto the number one beach in the nation. Fort De Soto is located approximately 30 minutes south of the medical center. Other nationally ranked beaches within driving distance from the medical center include Clearwater Beach and Siesta Key Beach.

Transportation
Tampa Bay is a major transportation center with excellent interstate highways and air, rail and bus services, facilitating travel to all surrounding areas. Interstate 275 is the primary north/south highway connecting St. Petersburg to Tampa, and interstate 75 – the main north/south arterial on the west coast of the state.