

Detroit VA Healthcare System
4646 John R St.
Detroit, Michigan 48201

Contact: Alysse Mengason
Public Affairs Officer
313-576-3340
Alysse.mengason@va.gov



VA
HEALTH
CARE | Defining
EXCELLENCE
in the 21st Century

News Release

For Immediate Release

Detroit VA Healthcare System Plans Events and Programs to Mark National Salute to Veteran Patients Week 2015

Week will kick off with large Welcome Home Event/Hiring Fair at medical center



(Detroit) The Detroit VA Healthcare System will join VA medical centers across the nation for the National Salute to Veteran Patients, February 8 – 14, 2015. The facility will host visitors, media and volunteers during what is always an exciting and inspirational week meant to honor Veterans, increase community awareness of VA's role, and encourage Americans to become more engaged in volunteerism and philanthropic efforts.

The week will kick off with a large Welcome Home Event/Hiring Fair on Saturday, February 7, 2015 at the medical center.

"The National Salute Week is always during Valentine's Week, a time of caring and sharing we can give to our heroes," said Dr. Pamela Reeves, Medical Center Director. "This is our chance to treat our Veterans and their families to various events and activities to let them know how much we appreciate them for their sacrifices and their service. Each year, we invite elected officials, school groups, celebrities and others to visit our patients during the week. It's such a treat for everyone involved!"

"It's our chance to honor the more than 330,000 Veterans across Southeast Michigan," said William Browning, Chief of Volunteer and Community Relations. "For those Veterans who might not know about VA, this is their opportunity to visit us and find out how we can be part of their lives."

While the National Salute kicks off in mid-February, Detroit-area residents have the chance to show their appreciation to Veterans all year by volunteering their time. No medical experience is necessary and volunteers are encouraged to share ideas on how they would like to give back using their unique skills. To find opportunities, you can call 313-576-3332 or go to <http://www.detroit.va.gov/giving>.

"Our medical center's 1,200 volunteers are a crucial part of our health care team. The National Salute program is a great way for people to learn more about helping the Veterans we serve here at the medical center," said Browning. "Visitors are often surprised at how varied our volunteer opportunities are."

Here are highlights of the week's events:

Saturday, February 7, 2015

- 8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. 2nd Annual Welcome Home Event and Hiring Fair, Detroit VA Healthcare System
- 10:00 a.m. – Noon Miss Michigan, KT Maviglia visits patients

Sunday, February 8, 2015

- 9:00 a.m. – Noon UAW Region 1 Veterans Council will pass out goodies to Veterans in Room B1290 and at the Domiciliary Transition Facility
- 11:00 a.m. UAW Region 1 will host BINGO in the Closed Ward and Long Term Care areas

Monday, February 9, 2015

- 9:00 a.m. Knights of Columbus members will deliver goodies to patients
- 12:00 p.m. VFW Auxiliary will provide birthday greetings to inpatients and host horse race with Valentines goodies for patients in CLC

Tuesday, February 10, 2015

- 9:00 a.m. Wayne County Asset Building Coalition tax prep assistance for Veterans
- 9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Veterans History Project in Atrium
- 11:00 a.m. GM Tech Center Employees will pass out goodies
- 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary Post #57 Valentine's Luncheon and Bingo for Community Living Center
- 1:00 p.m. Salute To Our Heroes will distribute cards and stuffed animals to patients

Wednesday, February 11, 2015

- 9:30 a.m. Salvation Army to distribute phone cards to patients
- 10:00 a.m. Vietnam Veterans Chapter 154 to pass out goodies to Veterans in clinic waiting areas
- 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Plymouth ELKS Ice Cream Social in B1290

Thursday, February 12, 2015

- 10:00 a.m. Larson Middle School students (Troy) will deliver Valentine cards
- Noon - 4:00 p.m. Accenture Group employees to bring Valentine cards and visit patients
- 1:00 p.m. Members from Selfridge Air National Guard Base will visit patients

Friday, February 13, 2015

- 9:00 a.m. Taylor Truman Junior ROTC will visit
- 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. AMVETS host “Let’s Make a Deal” game in B1290
- 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Zeta Phi Beta Sorority will hand out Valentine cards
- 2:00 p.m. Polish Legion of American Veterans to host Bingo on B2N
- 5:30 p.m. Congresswoman Debbie Dingell will visit patients

Saturday, February 14, 2015

- 9:00 a.m. Michigan Masons visit patients
- 10:00 a.m. Accenture employees visit patients and deliver Valentine cards

Sunday, February 15, 2015

- 1:00 p.m. Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War will pass out goodies to Veterans
(Please note: All of these are subject to change)

For more information about volunteer opportunities, to schedule a visit, or to make a donation, please contact the Detroit VA Healthcare System Voluntary Service, (313) 576-3332.

Since 1939, the Detroit VA Healthcare System has been improving the health of the men and women who have so proudly served our nation. In 1996, the medical center moved from Allen Park, Michigan to the current location on John R. in Detroit. Known as one of the newer VA facilities in the country, we consider it our privilege to serve the health care needs of our Veterans. Services are available to more than 330,000 Veterans living in Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, and St. Clair counties. This population represents approximately forty-four percent of the Veteran population in the lower peninsula of Michigan. For more information, visit <http://www.detroit.va.gov>.

#