

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 to Join Community in Saluting Nation's Veterans

National Salute to Veteran Patients Week, February 10 – 16, 2013

(Detroit) The Detroit VA Healthcare System will host visitors, media and volunteers for what will be an exciting week, as the medical center observes the **National Salute to Veteran Patients**, February 10 – 16, 2013.

"The National Salute to Veteran Patients gives our community a chance to thank those who have given so much to our nation," said Pamela Reeves, M.D., Detroit VA Healthcare System Director. "Each year, we invite elected officials, school groups, celebrities and others to visit our patients during the week."

The national salute kicks off each year during the week of Valentine's Day with VA's Valentines for Veterans program. This year, Detroit will host the popular country group, Lonestar, for the 3rd Annual Motor City Valentines for Veterans Concert, February 14th, 7:00 p.m. at the Royal Oak Music Theater. There will also be an OEF/OIF/OND Veteran Open House/Outreach Event that will take place prior to the concert beginning at 4:30 p.m.

"This is really our week to show the nearly 100,000 Veterans nationwide, how much we appreciate their service to our country," said Dr. Reeves. "Individuals, Veterans groups, military personnel, civic organizations, businesses, schools, celebrities and sports stars traditionally deliver valentines to our patients. It's also a chance for us to introduce our volunteer program to area residents."

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 here at the medical center. 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 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 Dr. Reeves. "Visitors are often surprised at how varied our volunteer opportunities are."

A few highlights of the Detroit VA Healthcare System's National Salute Week schedule include:

Sunday, February 10th

- **9:00 a.m. - Noon** - UAW Region 1 Veterans Council will pass out goodies to Veterans in room B1290
- **11:00 a.m.** - UAW Region 1 hosts BINGO in the Closed Ward and the Long Term Care area
- **1:00 p.m.** - Cub Scout Pack 1931 from Frazier will deliver Valentines cards and gifts to patients on CLC and medicine wards
- **2:30 p.m.** - Executive Health Resources hosts BINGO in the Community Living Center

Monday, February 11th

- **9:00 a.m.** – Members of the Tuskegee Airmen visit
- **11:00 a.m.** – Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War pass out goodies to Veterans
- **11:00 a.m. – Noon** – U.S. Congressman John D. Dingell to visit medical center
- **Noon – 1:00 p.m.** – Detroit Tigers' mascot PAWS kicks off Spring Training and visits patients
- **Noon** - VFW-Auxiliary will host horse race with Valentines goodies for patients in CLC

Tuesday, February 12th

- **9:00 a.m.** – Wayne County Asset Building Coalition tax prep assistance for Veterans
- **11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.** – Plymouth ELKS Ice Cream Social in B1290
- **11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.** Students from the Frederick Douglas Academy bring Valentines cards and visit patients
- **11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.** - AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary Post #57 Valentine Luncheon & Bingo for Community Living Center residents

Wednesday, February 13th

- **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/FIRM waiting areas
- **11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.** Taylor Truman HS ROTC students will visit Veterans and deliver cards
- **1:00 p.m.** - DAV Post 129 – CLC BINGO
- **7:00 p.m.** - Shrine of the Little Flower Grade School to visit Veterans and deliver Valentines

Thursday, February 14th

- **Noon – 4:00 p.m.** – Accenture Group employees to bring Valentines cards and visit patients
- **1:00 p.m.** – Country Music group *Lonestar* to visit patients
- **7:00 p.m.** – ELKS and Eagle Scouts to deliver comfort items to patients in medical and surgical wards
- **4:00 p.m. -7:30 p.m.** – Outreach event at Royal Oak Music Theatre

- **7:00 p.m.** - Motor City Valentines for Veterans Concert, Royal Oak Music Theater, featuring *Lonestar*

Friday, February 15th

- **11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.** – AMVETS host "Let's Make a Deal" game for Veterans in B1290
- **11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.** – Mardi Gras Luncheon for Veterans in multi-purpose room, B1290
- **2:00 p.m.** Polish Legion of American Veterans to host bingo for Veterans on B2N

Saturday, February 16th

- **9:00 a.m.** - Craft Kit Distribution to hospitalized Veterans
- **10:00 a.m.** - U.A.W bingo for Veterans in CLC
- **1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.** – Miss Michigan visits Veteran patients
- **1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.** - Corp Devil Dogs and Young Marines to visit Veterans

For a complete schedule of events, please call (313) 576-3340. For more information about volunteer opportunities, to schedule a visit, or to make a donation, please contact the Detroit VA Healthcare System Voluntary Services, (313) 576-3332.

#

Since 1939, the Detroit VA Medical Center 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 in Detroit. The John D. Dingell VAMC located in Detroit, Michigan is one of the newest 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>.