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News Release

For Immediate Release

Detroit VA Healthcare System Pays Tribute to Volunteers with Annual Events *April 17, 2015 event and week-long salute to recognize dedication and commitment of medical center's thousands of volunteers*

DETROIT – The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs will salute its volunteers during National Volunteer Week, April 12 – 18, 2015, and the Detroit VA Healthcare System has some special events planned to help thank the more than 1,200 volunteers who help care for our Veterans each day.

Nearly 80,000 U.S. citizens volunteer in VA medical centers around the nation each year, and here in Detroit, our more than 1,200 volunteers contribute nearly 100,000 hours each year to help care for our Veterans.

“Whether it’s driving, directing, sitting, serving, comforting or counseling Veterans and their families here in the medical center, we can’t thank these individuals enough,” said Dr. Pamela Reeves, Medical Center Director. “Volunteers are a vital part of the history of the Detroit VA. For nearly seven decades, thousands of men and women from this area have shared their time and energy with our heroes. This is our opportunity to say ‘thanks’.”

The week will culminate with the Volunteer Awards Program, **Friday, April 17, 2015, 11:00 a.m.** at VFW-1146 Bruce Post in St. Clair Shores. Volunteers, particularly ones who have given extraordinary amounts of time and energy, will be recognized by medical center leadership.

There are many opportunities for area residents to join the ranks of appreciative citizens serving Veterans. The Detroit VA invites everyone in the community to explore how they can use their skills and unique assets to thank Veterans by assisting them.

“There are as many ways to volunteer as there are willing people to do so,” said Dr. Reeves. “It’s so moving when you walk through our inpatient areas and you see these generous and dedicated volunteers who make it a priority to make sure our Veterans are comfortable and acclimated to their stay in our medical center.”

“We have volunteers at the Detroit VA, who have been with us for decades,” said William Browning, Chief of Volunteer and Community Relations at the Detroit VA Healthcare System. “It’s easy to sign up and we like to place volunteers in areas where they feel they can contribute the most.”

For more information on volunteering with the Detroit VA, visit <http://www.detroit.va.gov/giving/index.asp>.

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. 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>.

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