



PHILADELPHIA VA MEDICAL CENTER
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News Release

Feb. 3, 2010

Philadelphia VA plans National Salute to Veterans

Veterans in The City of Brotherly Love will be honored and thanked for their sacrifices Feb 8-14, during annual **National Salute to Veterans** activities at the Philadelphia VA Medical Center.

Planned events include ice cream socials, carnation deliveries, a Frank Sinatra tribute singer, visits by area professional sports mascots, and Medical Center tours by elected officials.

“We of course serve our Veterans every day,” said Richard Citron, Philadelphia VAMC Director. “But National Salute is a special opportunity because it gives the community a chance to participate and bring cheer to our patients.”

Previously known as National Salute to *Hospitalized* Veterans, the week was first marked in 1974 and since then has coincided with Valentine’s Day. That’s a big reason the hospital will be adorned with hearts and cards from school children throughout the Delaware Valley.

In addition to honoring Veterans, National Salute also lets VA staff and the community learn about the important role played by volunteers – and the volunteer opportunities available at the VA. More than 500 volunteers dedicate their time and skills at the VA medical center and Veterans Community Living Center in West Philadelphia.

Individuals or groups wishing to participate in the program should call Philadelphia VAMC Voluntary Service at 215-823-5868.

The Philadelphia VAMC provides health care to nearly 60,000 Veterans in Philadelphia and seven surrounding counties in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. More information is available at www.philadelphia.va.gov.

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