



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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VA Western New York Healthcare System Invites Veterans and Community to Open House
National Salute to Veteran Patients

VA Western New York Healthcare System invites Veterans and the public to participate in an open-house at the Buffalo site, 3495 Bailey Avenue, on Friday, February 14 during the National Salute to Veteran Patients. Observed annually during the week of Valentine's Day, it is a day of caring and sharing which underscore the Salute's expression of honor and appreciation to inpatient and outpatient Veterans. All Veterans are encouraged to attend the special ceremony to introduce local celebrities in Freedom Hall, room 301 at 1 p.m.

For the thirty-sixth consecutive year, the nationally syndicated column started by Ann Landers, now called "Annie's Mailbox" has devoted a column to the National Salute, asking readers to send Valentine cards and letters to hospitalized Veterans at VA medical centers. "The colorful Valentine cards made by school children will be displayed and distributed to Veterans," said VA Medical Center Director Brian G. Stiller. "The messages written in them show Veterans they are thought of. You can show some very special people at VA Western New York Healthcare System how much you care by visiting them during the National Salute to Veteran Patients" said Stiller.

Local celebrities and civic officials and groups will be here to show their support, including UB Bulls Football Players and Coach Jeff Quinn, Erie County Sheriff, Tim Howard, Erie County Legislator, Lynne Dixon, WIVB-TV Meteorologist, Don Paul, WKBW-TV Anchor, Tiffany Lundberg, WYRK Personality, Clay Moden, and local Veterans Service Officers.

Stiller said he encourages Veterans who may be visiting for the first time to know we are here to serve their health care needs and to stop in to the Veterans Service Center to enroll in VA health care. In addition, the public can learn about volunteer opportunities at this special event. "Our medical center's volunteers are an important part of our health care team and the National Salute program is a great way for people to learn more about helping the Veterans we serve here at the medical center," Stiller said.

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