



**VA Health Care Upstate New York
VA Western New York Healthcare System**
3495 Bailey Avenue | Buffalo, NY 14215
222 Richmond Avenue | Batavia, NY 14020
www.buffalo.va.gov

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Contact: Evangeline Conley, Public Affairs Officer
Phone: (716) 862-8753 Cell: (716) 512-9338
Fax: (716) 862-8755
E-mail: Evangeline.Conley@va.gov

**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 Thursday, 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-fifth 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. "Valentine cards made by school children with messages are coming in and will be displayed and distributed," said VA Medical Center Director Brian G. Stiller. "Valentine's Day is a time of sharing and a time for caring. 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.

Celebrities and civic officials and groups will be here to show their support, including Buffalo Bills Alumni, Buffalo Jills, UB Football Players and Coach, Erie County Sheriff, Tim Howard, WIVB-TV Meteorologist, Don Paul, 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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