



## News Release

### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Susan Poff, Public Affairs Officer  
Dallas VA Medical Center  
4500 South Lancaster Road, Dallas, TX 75216  
214 857-1158 (daytime)  
214-300-5074 (after hours)  
susan.poff@va.gov

**APRIL 23, 2008  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **WELCOME HOME CELEBRATION PLANNED FOR OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM/OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM VETERANS AND SERVICE MEMBERS**

DALLAS – VA North Texas Health Care System is hosting a welcome home event for veterans and service members returning from the global war on terror. Dallas VA Medical Center will roll out the red carpet May 3, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., in the Atrium.

VA facilities across the country are hosting welcome home events to support America's newest generation of heroes and to let them know that VA stands ready to serve them and their health care needs. Numerous community groups and veteran service organizations are involved in this local effort and will join VA staff to provide support, resources and other services that will help veterans, service members and their families with life after the military, including VA benefits, VA enrollment and health care services, supportive services for veterans and their families as well as OEF/OIF program services.

According to VA North Texas Director Joseph M. Dalpiaz, over 7,300 OEF/OIF veterans have enrolled for care. "We actively participate in post deployment events held by DoD to reach those separating from the military and make them aware of VA services available to them. An Army Wounded Warrior program is on site at Dallas VA as well as a transitional patient advocate and polytrauma team designed specifically for this group of veterans," Dalpiaz said.

The welcome home celebration will feature health screening, community and educational resources, employment opportunities as well as free food, entertainment including country artists Belinda B and Noel Haggard, and children activities. Dallas VA Medical Center is located at 4500 S. Lancaster Road. For more information, contact Kim Fite-Thurston, OEF program manager, at 214 857-0388.

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