



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

VA NORTH TEXAS HEALTH CARE SYSTEM INVITES COMMUNITY TO 'SALUTE HOSPITALIZED VETERANS'

DALLAS – VA facilities in Dallas and Bonham invite the public to participate in open-house activities February 11-15 during National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans.

"National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans gives everyone a chance to let those who have given the nation so much know that they are not forgotten," said Director Joseph Dalpiaz. Veteran service organizations, elected officials, local celebrities, even school children usually stop by during Salute Week. "We want people of all ages to bring Valentine's Day cheer to our patients."

Dalpiaz said he hopes visitors will also learn more about the important roles volunteers play at Dallas VA throughout the year and perhaps pursue volunteer opportunities. "We have over 1,600 volunteers who 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," Dalpiaz said. "Visitors are surprised at how varied our volunteer opportunities are."

Citizens, young and old, are once again sending Valentine's Day cards and letters to VA medical centers simply addressed "Dear Veteran." Dalpiaz said they are being distributed to patients throughout the Dallas and Bonham medical centers as well as VA outpatient clinics in Fort Worth and Tyler. "By the end of the week valentines will line the walls for veterans to enjoy."

Individuals or groups wishing to participate in the National Salute program should call Voluntary Service at Dallas VA Medical Center, 214 857-0428 or Sam Rayburn Memorial Veterans Center in Bonham, 903 583-6282.

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