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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 28, 2009

VA Black Hills Health Care System hosts South Dakota Fallen Heroes Banner Display

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Black Hills Health Care System together with a host of area Military and Veteran partners are honored to bring the South Dakota Fallen Heroes of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom (OEF/OIF) Banner Display to western South Dakota.

The mission of the Fallen Heroes Banner Program is to honor, respect and forever memorialize South Dakotan's who have sacrificed their lives protecting our freedom while serving in our Armed Forces during the current conflicts. Our desire is to provide citizens an opportunity to visit the banners as an expression of their gratitude and to honor these fallen service members. The banners also serve as a reminder of their sacrifice and the loss felt by the loved ones and fellow warriors they have left behind.

Twenty-eight banners will be on display between January 17 and January 30 in Rapid City, Hot Springs and Sturgis. There is no cost to the public to view the banner display. The first showing of the Fallen Heroes Banner Display will begin with a Fallen Heroes Tribute Program on January 17 from 2:00-2:30pm in Rapid City at the Journey Museum with the remaining viewings scheduled as follows:

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|--------------|-------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|
| • Jan. 17 | Rapid City | Journey Museum | 2:30-5:00pm | Banner Viewing |
| • Jan.18-21 | Rapid City | Journey Museum | 10:00-5:00pm | Banner Viewing |
| • Jan. 22-23 | Rapid City | Civic Center | 5:00-10:00pm | Banner Viewing |
| • Jan. 26 | Hot Springs | Mueller Center | 1:00-6:00pm | Banner Viewing |
| • Jan. 27 | Hot Springs | Mueller Center | 10:00-2:00pm | Banner Viewing |
| • Jan. 29 | Sturgis | Sturgis Armory | 10:00-6:00pm | Banner Viewing |
| • Jan. 30 | Sturgis | Sturgis Armory | 1:00-6:00pm | Banner Viewing |

If you have questions about the South Dakota Fallen Heroes Banner Display or the schedule please contact Lori Vosika, VA Black Hills OEF/OIF Program Manager at 605-745-2000, Ext. 92176 or Amber Heinert, VA Black Hills OEF/OIF Case Manager at 605-745-2000, Ext. 92327 or visit www.blackhills.va.gov.

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