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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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VA BLACK HILLS HEALTH CARE SYSTEM INVITES COMMUNITY TO “SALUTE VETERANS”

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Black Hills Health Care System invites the public to participate in a number of activities Feb. 12-19 during their annual National Salute to Veterans.

"The National Salute to Veterans gives everyone a chance to let those who have given so much to our nation know that they are not forgotten," said VA Black Hill's Director Peter P. Henry. "We've invited local community organizations, school groups, veteran service organizations, elected officials, and others to visit during the week. We want people of all ages to bring Valentine's Day cheer to our patients."

An added feature of National Salute includes a partnership with Rushmore Mall in Rapid City. On Saturday, February 12 from 1:00-2:00pm in the skylight area near JC Penney, VA Black Hills Voluntary Service and Rushmore Mall are sponsoring a patriotic tribute to Veterans, including entertainment, refreshments and small gifts of recognition. The event is intended to honor all Veterans and allow the public a time to recognize our local heroes.

Mr. Henry said he hopes visitors to the medical centers and those who attend the Rushmore Mall event will also learn more about the important roles volunteers play at our medical centers throughout the year and perhaps pursue volunteer opportunities.

"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," Henry said. "Visitors are often 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." Henry said they are being distributed to patients throughout the medical center.

The VA Black Hills Health Care System's National Salute Week schedule may be found by visiting: www.blackhills.va.gov

Individuals or groups wishing to participate in the medical center program should call the Voluntary Service office at Hot Springs, 605-745-2031.

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