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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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VA Black Hills Health Care System hosts Veterans Stand Down and Benefits Fair

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Black Hills Health Care System will host a Veterans Stand Down and Benefits Fair on Tuesday, September 28. The event will be open to all Veterans from 11:00am – 3:00pm at the First Methodist Church at 629 Kansas Street in Rapid City, South Dakota.

The Stand Down and Benefits Fair, according to Rodger Woeppel, Stand Down Coordinator at VA Black Hills Health Care System, is intended to serve homeless and needy Veterans within the Rapid City area. There is no charge for any of the services. “It is a hand up, rather than a hand out, extended by a caring community in tribute to all Veterans in our service area,” said Woeppel.

The Information and Benefits Fair, held on September 28th is an outreach effort designed to bring information regarding services and benefits available to Veterans. Representatives from the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) Regional Office will be on-site to provide information on all benefit claims submitted during the stand down.

The event is a collaborative effort between the VA Black Hills Health Care System, South Dakota Division of Veterans Affairs, South Dakota Career Center, Black Hills National Cemetery, Veterans Benefits Administration, South Dakota Veterans Home, and a number of Veteran and community organizations.

A variety of personal care items will be available to anyone wishing a hand up, and a complimentary meal will be served. Staff will be available to hear issues, answer questions, and provide information on VA benefits, programs and health care enrollment opportunities. Basic health services will be provided, including blood sugar testing and blood pressure screening. Veterans who have not previously enrolled with the VA are requested to bring a copy of their military discharge papers, DD 214, to the Benefits Fair.

For more information about the Stand Down in Rapid City, contact Rodger Woeppel at (605) 745-2000 Ext. 9-2114.

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