



**Black Hills
Health Care System**
Department of Veterans Affairs



Defining
EXCELLENCE
in the 21st Century

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News Release

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VA Black Hills Health Care System observes Celebration of Life Memorial Service

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Black Hills Health Care System observed their 10th Annual "Celebration of Life" Memorial Service at the Fort Meade VA Medical Center on Thursday, May 24, 2012.

The ceremony, which has been held annually at Fort Meade allows family members and staff the opportunity to honor Veterans who passed away during the past year. Families are offered the opportunity to commemorate their loved ones by making a symbolic rose that is presented during a roll call of the names of the Veterans that have passed on in the previous year. The symbolic rose is placed in a permanent *In Memoriam* display case.

This year's ceremony included 99 Veterans who passed between April 2011 and March 2012. Over 80 family members and friends attended the ceremony.

The ceremony concluded with the TREA Honor Guard presenting taps. The release of the rose petals symbolizes a "letting go" and an uplifting of spirit as the ceremony concludes. Refreshments and tours of the Community Living Center (CLC) units were also available.

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