



Public Affairs Office
113 Comanche Road
Ft. Meade, SD 57741
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Jill Broecher, Public Affairs Officer
605.720-7451 (Daytime)
605.490.5074 (Cell)

Letter to the Editor

February 8, 2013

Dear Editor:

We are all aware that there are heroes among us – the ordinary people who do extraordinary things in service to others in times of danger and desperation. At VA Black Hills Health Care System (BHHCS) we are privileged to care for many of our community's heroes and want the rest of our citizens to join us in honoring them during the National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans event from February 10-16. We invite individuals and groups to show their love and appreciation for the Veterans who defended their freedoms by taking part in "Visit a Vet for Valentine's Day" during observance of the National Salute.

The quality and level of care we provide our Veterans is directly linked to community support. Our dedicated staff, our hundreds of caring volunteers and the other healthcare institutions and schools we work with are all parts of a community effort that contributes to the care we provide our Veterans.

I invite every citizen to participate. You can start by visiting Veterans at our Fort Meade and Hot Springs VA Medical Centers during the National Salute. But you don't have to stop there; many of our Veterans have special needs and challenges that require the hearts and hands of a new generation of VA volunteers. We invite you to join us in honoring our Veterans year round by learning more about VA's volunteer program.

For information about our National Salute program and to schedule a visit for yourself or your group, call our Voluntary Service Departments at Fort Meade, 605.347.7206; or at Hot Springs, 605.745.2865. I encourage you to take time every day to thank a Veteran and hear their story of service to our country. Thank you for your outstanding support!

Stephen DiStasio, FACHE
Director, VA Black Hills Health Care System