



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
VA Central California Health Care System
2615 East Clinton Avenue
Fresno CA 93703-2286

NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 6, 2015

CONTACT: Cenethea Lofbom
Chief, Public Affairs
Phone: 559-228-5308
E-mail: cenethea.lofbom@va.gov

VA Celebrates National Salute to Veteran Patients

FRESNO, Calif. – VA Central California Health Care System will host the 2015 National Salute to Veteran Patients, February 12 – 13. This two-day event will honor Veteran patients and includes a robust agenda with support from dignitaries, elected officials, military personnel, Veteran Service Organizations, local personalities and athletes.

The National Salute kicks off each year the week of February 14 with VA's popular **Valentines for Veterans** program. Individuals, Veterans' groups, military personnel, civic organizations, businesses, schools, local media, celebrities and sports stars traditionally deliver valentines or visit the more than 98,000 Veterans of the U.S. armed services who are cared for every day in Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical facilities, outpatient clinics, domiciliaries, and community living facilities.

While National Salute kicks off in mid-February, Americans have the chance to show their appreciation to Veterans all year by volunteering their time or donating to VA medical facilities throughout the year. No medical experience is necessary and volunteers are encouraged to share ideas how they would like to give back using their unique skills.

Honor a Vet today. Volunteer at your local Fresno VA medical facility, call 559-228-6907 or visit www.fresno.va.gov/FRESNO/giving.

Note: This event is open to media. For advanced information, please contact Chief, Public Affairs, Cenethea Lofbom at (559)-228-5308, (559) 400-1525 or email cenethea.lofbom@va.gov.

-more-

National Salute - Schedule Overview

What: 2015 VA National Salute to Veteran Patients
(Reception, Director's Welcome, Photo-Ops, Visit Inpatients, Distribute Valentines and Gift Bags and Musical Entertainment)

Participants: Dignitaries, Elected Officials, Active/Guard/Reserve and Veteran Service Organizations, Local Personalities and Athletes

When: Thursday, February 12, 2015, 9:00 a.m. to Noon
Friday, February 13, 2015, 9:00 a.m. to Noon and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Where: Fresno VA Medical Center
2615 E. Clinton, Ave., Fresno, CA 93703

#