



**Department of
Veterans Affairs**

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Media Advisory

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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VA to Celebrate Cancer Survivors Day

by Raymond P. Aalbue, Public Affairs Officer

BROOKLYN, NY --- The VA New York Harbor Healthcare System (VA NYHHS) will host a Cancer Survivors Day celebration on June 3, 2007, starting at 1:00pm on the grounds of the facility at 800 Poly Place in Brooklyn.

On the first Sunday in June for the past 11 years, VA NYHHS has joined hundreds of communities throughout the world hosting celebrations of life that are filled with joy, camaraderie, hope, compassion, faith and love. Local cancer survivors will be honored for their strength and courage and the contributions of their families, friends and healthcare providers will be recognized.

A "survivor" is anyone living with a history of cancer from the moment of diagnosis through the remainder of life according to the National Cancer Survivors Day Foundation which reports that about 10.5 million Americans are cancer survivors.

Sally Cooper, Regional Director of the American Cancer Society, will give the keynote address and Deborah Garcia, weekend anchor for WCBS TV will say a few words. Borough President Marty Markowitz, State Senator Marty Golden and City Councilman Vincent Gentile will be in attendance and cancer survivor Anthony Iammatteo will make a few remarks.

The activities for the day begin with the presentation of colors by the US Army Fort Hamilton Garrison Color Guard. Sgt. 1st Class Brandon Butcher from the U. S. Army Healthcare Team will sing our National Anthem. The VA Clubhouse Singers and Marty Stolzenberg from JPZent will provide the entertainment. There will be dancing with the music of DJ John Rivera.

Attending the day's activities will give you insight as to how surviving cancer is an attitude about life and living each day to the fullest. National Cancer Survivors Day calls attention to the issues of cancer survivorship.

This event is free and open to the general public. To reach the VA NYHHS by public transportation, take the "N" train to 8th Avenue, then take the #70 bus to the Medical Center. Or you can take the B-8 bus. For more information, call 718-630-2804.