

## An Opportunity for You

Established in March of 1978 the program was originally called National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans. Over the years the program has evolved to include outpatient Veterans in various settings.

The purpose of the program is to:

- pay tribute and express appreciation to America's Veterans;
- increase community awareness of the role of the VA medical facility;
- encourage citizens to become involved in the care of Veterans through the VA Voluntary Service program.



2008 National Salute Chair, Mike Vogel, poses for photos with a Veteran.

The week of February 14 is your opportunity to say 'thank you' to a very important group of men and women. More than 5.5 million Veterans of the U.S. armed services are cared for every day in Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical centers, clinics and Community Living Centers. Their service and sacrifice have helped preserve the freedoms and the values Americans hold dear.

## What Happens during the Week?

VA invites individuals, veterans groups, military personnel, civic organizations, businesses, schools, local media, celebrities and sports stars to participate in a variety of activities which pay tribute and express appreciation to our nation's Veterans.

These activities and events include special hospital visits and valentine distributions; school essay contests; special recreation activities and programs and even community concerts.



2007 National Salute Chair, Jerry Reed, autographs a guitar for a Veteran.

The week provides an opportunity for the community to become acquainted with the diverse volunteer opportunities within VA.

The VA Voluntary Service program is a key link between Veterans who seek care with VA and their communities. It is an avenue through which every citizen and organization can show our Veterans, young and old, that America cares and remembers.

## What about the rest of the Year?

Each year thousands of people working individually or through their organizations, provide millions of hours of dedicated service to Veterans. Through the Department of Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service, volunteers of all ages serve within the VA healthcare, benefits, and cemetery teams.



2009 National Salute Chair, James Reynolds, with Veteran.

Become involved and be part of the VA team. Here are just a few of the areas where your presence might make a difference:

- National Veterans Games
- Outdoor Therapy Programs
- Veterans History Project
- Buglers for Taps
- Cemetery Grounds Maintenance



Local radio hosts, Rob and Shannon, visit with Veterans.

## Contact Your Nearest VA

To discover how you may honor America's Veterans during the National Salute to Veterans week, contact your nearest VA facility and speak with the Voluntary Service Office.

To locate your nearest VA facility visit [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov) and select 'Location' or visit [www.volunteer.va.gov](http://www.volunteer.va.gov) and select 'Volunteer or Donate.'

Your investment of time spent with Veterans will bring cheer to many who live far from family and friends, or who have no family at all. VA patients, staff and volunteers agree that a visit, a smile, and a simple hello can brighten a Veteran's day.



Junior ROTC member escorting Veteran to National Salute activities.



Local youth share a smile with a Veteran

Here's your invitation to join...

# VA's National Salute

## to Veterans



During the Week of February 14th

Department of Veterans Affairs  
Washington, D.C. 20420  
OFFICIAL BUSINESS



IB 10- 229  
P 96263  
Month Year