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**(S.D.)- Hot Springs VA To Celebrate Salute To Hospitalized Veterans**



By: Jeremy Anderson Posted at: 02/04/2013 08:40 AM

(Hot Springs)-The VA Black Hills Health Care System invites the public to participate in open-house activities February 10th -16th, during the observance of National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans.

VA BHHCS Voluntary Service Coordinator Cheryl Rieniets says "We've scheduled activities to bring Veterans and visitors together throughout the week. We welcome people of all ages to bring Valentine cheer to our Veterans. Contact Voluntary Services if you are interested in visiting."

Local Salute Week highlights include the annual Four Chaplains Day memorial service at Saint Francis of Assisi Church in Sturgis on February 10; a social and Bingo for Veterans on the community living centers; a poker night for Veterans in the domiciliary in Hot Springs on February 11; distribution of Valentines and gifts to Veterans in the community living centers; a trip to the RUSH Hockey game on February 12; a visit from congressional aides, who will be available to visit with any Veterans in Fort Meade on February 13 and Hot Springs on February 14; a carnival for Veterans in Hot Springs on February 16; and a pizza party, game night and special dinners throughout the week.

While the 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 on how they would like to 'give back' using their unique skills. To find opportunities or for more information on the week's events, call the Hot Springs VA Medical Center Voluntary Services at 605-745-2865.