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226 Bordeaux St - Chadron, NE 69337  
308-432-5545 fax 308-432-5601  
E-mail: [kcsr@chadrad.com](mailto:kcsr@chadrad.com)

**(S.D.)-Black Hills VA Celebrates Volunteers**



By: Chris Fankhauser Posted at: 05/06/2013 08:56 AM

(Hot Springs)-April 21-27 was National Volunteer Week, and the Department of Veterans Affairs Black Hills Health Care System used the opportunity to thank more than 300 volunteers who gave back to Veterans every day at the VA medical facilities within the system.

The VA recognized these volunteers for the more than 40,000 hours they contributed toward caring for Veterans, driving, directing, sitting, serving, comforting and counseling on a regular basis.

According to Lead Voluntary Service Officer Cheryl Reiniets, many of the volunteers seek experience for a resume, something to do after retirement, a way to keep up with fellow veterans, or simply wanting to say "thank you" to a defender of their freedom, but most stay because giving their time and service to the former service members gives them a purpose, opens a passion, and introduces them to the person they have always wanted to be.

To find opportunities to volunteer, contact Reiniets at 605-347-7206 or Scott Schumacher at 605-745-2865.

(Story courtesy of BHHCS)