

Health Headlines

For Immediate Release
February 19, 2013



Miss USA, Nana Meriwether, and student choir of PS 83 in the Bronx

James J. Peters VA Hosts Valentines for Veterans 2013

During the week of February 10-16, the James J. Peters VA Medical Center celebrated the 35th Annual National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans. The National Salute is a week-long celebration of special thanks that occurs during the week marked by Valentine's Day. During this time, VA Medical Centers across the country invite local celebrities, elected officials and school children to visit veterans and to bring them some Valentine's Day cheer. This year, the

Medical Center hosted Miss USA, Nana Meriwether, the Children's Chorus of PS 83 and State Senator Jeff Klein.

"The National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans gives everyone a chance to let our veterans know just how very much they are appreciated," said Medical Center Director, Dr. Erik Langhoff, "We're excited to welcome Miss Meriwether, our PS 83 students and Senator Klein. Their participation just heightens the celebration and brings a special note of cheer to our veterans."

Langhoff said he hopes visitors will also learn more about the important roles volunteers play at the medical center throughout the year and perhaps pursue volunteer opportunities.

"Our medical center's 464 volunteers are an important part of our health care team and donate over 85,000 hours of their precious time to our veterans. The National Salute program is a great way for people to learn more about helping the veterans we serve," Langhoff said. "Visitors are surprised at how varied our volunteer opportunities are."

Individuals interested in learning more about volunteer opportunities within VA are encouraged to call the office of Voluntary Services at 718.584.9000, ext. 5473 or 5474.

For more information related to this story or the James J. Peters VA Medical Center, please contact Jim Connell, Public Affairs Officer, at 718.584.9000, Ext. 6620.

#####