



Medical Center

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News Release

For Immediate Release
October 14, 2009

JAMES J. PETERS VA MEDICAL CENTER HOSTS CAREER DAY EVENT FOR IRAQ AND AFGANISTAN COMBAT VETERANS

Bronx, NY – On October 16, 2009, the James Peters VA Medical Center will be hosting a Welcome Home and Career Day event for returning veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan war. This special event, now in its 4th year, is coordinated by the Medical Center's OEF/OIF Management Team and will feature presentations by more than 50 local employers and community partners.

“This is a great day for our veterans.” stated Medical Center Director, MaryAnn Musumeci, “It is a privilege to welcome home our Iraq and Afghanistan veterans and to help them in their transition to civilian life. This great event brings together various community partners and employers and provides opportunities for our veterans.”

At approximately 66% enrollment, the James J. Peters VA Medical Center boasts one of the highest enrollment rates of returning combat veterans in the nation, besting the national average by more than 20%. It should be noted that returning veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan are automatically eligible for enrollment in VA Healthcare for a period of five years after their honorable discharge from active duty service. After that time, only veterans who have a service connected disability, or whose income falls below a specific financial threshold will be eligible for enrollment.

The James J. Peters VA Medical Center, formerly known as the Bronx VA Medical Center, was renamed in September of 2005. James J. Peters was a Vietnam era paralyzed veteran and patient of the Bronx hospital. He founded the Eastern Paralyzed Veterans of America (now known as United Spinal Association) and built one of the country's largest and most successful veteran service organizations. The renaming was initiated in legislation by Senator Hillary Clinton and Congressman Jose Serrano and signed into law by President Bush in January of 2005.

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

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