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Department of Veterans Affairs

Health Headlines

For Immediate Release
February 14, 2014

Miss USA, Erin Brady

James J. Peters VA Hosts Valentines for Veterans 2014

During the week of February 9-15, the James J. Peters VA Medical Center celebrates the 36th 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 hosts Miss USA, Erin Brady, the Children's Chorus of PS 14 and 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 Brady, our PS 14 and 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.

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5 Photos to follow….

Miss USA (l) and staff of the Miss Universe organization, surround Veteran George McGinnis

Students of PS 14 sing to Veterans

Students of PS 83 sing for the Veterans

Gold Star Mother, Kathrine Cross; Veteran Jim Mullarkey and Miss USA Erin Brady

Miss USA, Erin Brady greets Veteran Richard Robinson