

VA**U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs**

News Release

Office of Public Affairs
Media RelationsWashington, DC 20420
(202) 461-7600
www.va.govFOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Jan. 31, 2019

VA urges communities to recognize hospitalized Veterans during 'National Salute to Veteran Patients' week

WASHINGTON — Today the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced that, as part of an effort to honor hospitalized Veterans, it will mark National Salute to Veteran Patients from Feb. 10-16 by encouraging communities to seek out opportunities to volunteer at their local VA facilities.

"VA values the contributions of our volunteers, donors and partners in helping us keep the nation's promise to our Veterans," VA Secretary Robert Wilkie said. "These community resources confirm to America's Veterans that we are a nation that cares and remembers their sacrifices every day."

Last year, schools, community groups and youth organizations nationwide sent more than 288,000 valentines to VA medical centers, which were distributed to Veteran patients at facilities across the country. Additionally, more than 9,000 volunteers and 1,400 community organizations contributed to events and activities recognizing hospitalized Veterans.

More than 75,000 volunteers nationwide provide over 12 million volunteer hours serving Veterans. These volunteers are a vital asset to the nation's Veterans and to VA.

For those wanting to volunteer and join the mission to honor the sacrifice and service of America's Veterans during the National Salute or any time of year, visit the nearest VA facility or contact VA Voluntary Service online at www.volunteer.va.gov.

###