

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

# **News Release**

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## **VA inspires communities to support hospitalized Veterans throughout the holidays**

**WASHINGTON** – The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is encouraging community members, individuals, businesses and organizations to help support hospitalized Veterans nationwide by turning good intentions into action on this [International Volunteer Day](#) Dec. 5.

Each year, thousands of Veterans spend the holidays at VA inpatient facilities away from family and friends.

“The holidays can be an especially lonely and challenging time for hospitalized Veterans,” said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. “Volunteering is a meaningful way to provide kindness and get into the overall spirit of giving by showing these Veterans that they are not forgotten.”

International Volunteer Day, designated by the United Nations in 1985, aims to encourage people around the world to volunteer in their communities. Through [VA's Voluntary Service](#) program, upwards of 61,000 volunteers have donated more than 8 million hours to Veterans nationwide this year. To learn more about VA's many volunteer opportunities, visit VA's [Voluntary Service website](#).

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