

**VA**



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

Louis Stokes Cleveland Veterans Affairs Medical Center

10701 East Blvd.

Cleveland, Ohio 44106

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Ashley Trimble, Public Affairs Specialist

Cell: (216) 701-7029

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 12, 2016

**JOIN THE CLEVELAND VA MEDICAL CENTER IN HONORING OUR NATION'S HEROES  
DURING NATIONAL SALUTE TO VETERAN PATIENTS WEEK**

**CLEVELAND** - This Valentine's Day, many Veterans who fought to preserve our freedoms will be hospitalized, receiving the medical care they earned, but separated from the homes and communities they defended. No Veteran should have to be alone on Valentine's Day, and with the help of our grateful community, none of them have to be.

The Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Medical Center is joining the nation in celebrating **National Salute to Veterans Patient week February 14 – 20, 2016**. This is an opportunity to say thank you to a special group of men and women, the more than 112,000 Veterans of the U.S. armed services who are cared for at the Cleveland VA Medical Center or at one of its 18 locations of care in Northeast Ohio.

During the National Salute, the Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Medical Center invites individuals, Veterans groups, military personnel, civic organizations, businesses, schools, local media, celebrities and sports stars to participate in a variety of activities taking place at the medical center.

**EVENT HIGHLIGHTS:** Below are a few of the many events taking place at the medical center during National Salute Week. All are welcome to attend, including media.

Tuesday, February 16

- Pinning Ceremony – Recreation Hall 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
  - Asera Care Center / Ohio Army National Guard  
/ Horizon Science Academy Army JROTC

### Wednesday, February 17

- Veteran Resource Fair & Open House – Recreation Hall 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.  
\*Veterans and community organizations will have the chance to connect during this event. Attendees will be able to hang dog tags for the Family of Heroes Memorial Pavilion project.

### Thursday, February 18

- Just Forgiven Gospel Concert – Recreation Hall 3 p.m. to 4 p.m.
- Townsman Orchestra Concert – Recreation Hall 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.

### Friday, February 19

- Valentine’s Day Sweetheart Dance – Recreation Hall 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.  
\*In-patient Veterans will have the chance to enjoy a night “out” with their dates, complete with live music, refreshments, and a special couples’ photo to commemorate the evening. Sponsored by Motorcars Mobility.

Designed by the Department of Veterans Affairs in 1978, the purpose of the National Salute to Veteran Patients Program is to pay tribute and express appreciation to Veterans; increase community awareness of the role of the VA medical center; and to encourage citizens to visit hospitalized Veterans and to become involved as volunteers.

Area residents can arrange for a visit through our Voluntary Service during National Salute Week, or any time of the year, to visit Veterans and remind them their sacrifices are not forgotten. Call our Voluntary Service Office to learn more about volunteer opportunities at (216) 791-3800, ext. 5081.

The Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Medical Center provides timely, high quality healthcare to more than 7,800 Veterans daily through its inpatient and outpatient health care [services](#). For more information visit: [www.cleveland.va.gov](http://www.cleveland.va.gov).