This upcoming Valentine’s Day 2016, 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 one should be alone on Valentine’s Day, and with the help of our grateful community, no Veteran has to be.

We would like to personally invite every one of you to show your love and appreciation for Veterans by participating in our "Visit a Vet for Valentine's Day" program by arranging a visit through our Voluntary Service Office at the Aleda E. Lutz Veterans Affairs (VA) Medical Center located 1500 Weiss Street, Saginaw, MI, during National Salute week, February 14-20, 2016, to remind them their sacrifices are not forgotten.

However, the love doesn’t have to end on Valentine’s Day. Many Veterans are coming to the VA Medical Center with special needs and challenges which require the hearts and hands of a new generation of VA volunteers. Aleda E. Lutz VA Medical Center invites citizens, young and old, to join us in honoring our Veterans year round by learning more about VA’s volunteer program as well.

Every citizen can make a positive difference in the life of a Veteran patient. Visits from community groups do so much to lift their spirits. We invite every member of our community to participate. Please call the VA Voluntary Service Office at 989-497-2500, extensions 13360 or 13369, to schedule a visit and learn how to join the VA’s National Salute to Veteran Patients.
The National Salute to Veterans also includes the Sixth Annual Sweetheart Dinner and Dance on Sunday, February 14, 2016, at the Horizons Conference Center on State Street in Saginaw. This event is FREE for all Veterans, Active Duty, Reserve, and National Guard members, plus one guest. This is an event filled with comradery, education on available Veteran resources, dancing, and spectacular food.

For organizations and businesses who wish to support this event, checks can be made payable to the Marine Corps League (MCL) John C. Rock Detachment and mailed to the Aleda E. Lutz VA Medical Center, Voluntary Service, 1500 Weiss Street, Saginaw, MI 48602. The MCL, as a member of the planning committee for this event, will be collecting the contributions leading up to the event. An increase in your donations equates to an increase in attendees which will help us reach our goal of 300 guests this year.

Please call Voluntary Service at 989-497-2500, extension 13360, to register for this year’s event. Space is limited and the deadline to register is January 22, 2016, or until capacity is met. Verification of Veteran or Active duty status will be requested at the door. We hope you will consider participating in this noteworthy event to recognize the deserving Veterans in our community.

The Aleda E. Lutz VAMC in Saginaw, Michigan operates an 81-bed skilled nursing and rehabilitation Community Living Center, with an additional 8-bed acute medicine and telemetry wing. It provides care to over 34,700 Veterans in a 35-county geographic area, from mid-Michigan to the Mackinac Bridge. Veterans also receive care at one of our nine VA Community Based Outpatient Clinics located throughout Michigan. More information about this VA can be found at www.saginaw.va.gov.

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