



**Department of
Veterans Affairs**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Survival Care Kits for Veterans

Local volunteer service brings comfort to patient families in time of need.

CHARLESTON, SC, January 30, 2013—The Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center will receive 150 Survival Care Kits for families with a hospitalized Veteran, courtesy of The Palmetto Palace, as part of National Salute to Veteran Patients Week, Feb. 11-15.

The Survival Care Kits include items Veteran patient families while they are with their loved one at the VA Medical Center. Some of these items include travel size pillows and blankets, toiletry items, activity books, soft drinks and water. When available, hotel vouchers for up to a three-night stay are also included.

“The VA’s community partners, like the Palmetto Palace, provide donations to enrich the quality of life and enhance the care experience for our Veterans,” said Carolyn Adams, Director of the Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center. “We are grateful for their support and contribution.”

“The Palmetto Palace hosts two events a year,” said Dr. Youlanda Gibbs, founder and executive director. “We provide lunches to families in the fall and the Survival Care Kits in the spring. Even though we are a fairly new organization, these opportunities bring the community together.”

Gibbs said every item that is provided to these families in need is donated by community sponsors.

Gibbs said many families are finding it difficult to pay for a place to stay, or even food, while their loved ones are in the hospital and often spend the night in intensive care units and waiting rooms. Since March of 2011, families have contacted The Palmetto Palace when an unexpected critical care hospitalization occurs and a family member cannot afford a hotel room, food or transportation.

If you are interested in volunteering to assemble the Survival Care Kits, or would like to volunteer for future events, visit www.volunteermatch.org or www.thepalmettopalace.com

