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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center
www.charleston.va.gov

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Ralph H. Johnson VAMC and Columbia VA Regional Office host VA Open House, VA Claims Assistance Event
Event Kicks off VA “Summer of Service”

Charleston, SC—The Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center and Columbia VA Regional Office will host a VA open house and claims assistance event at the Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center on Monday, June 29, 4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. at located at 109 Bee Street, Charleston, SC. The free event includes a Veteran forum with leadership, on-site enrollment for VA healthcare, information on VA services, and on-site claims assistance from VBA staff.

VA Executive Leadership will be available to discuss Veterans Health Administration, Veterans Benefits Administration and National Cemetery Administration services provided for Veterans at the Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center, Columbia VA Regional Office and Beaufort National Cemetery. VA staff will be available to help attendees with health care related eligibility and enrollment for VA care, VA healthcare services, VA claims questions, and assisting Veterans filing claims for benefits.

Community partners will be in attendance to help kick off a new nationwide initiative – “Summer of Service” – that seeks the help of citizens in the Charleston Area to create and build partnerships to grow the number of individuals and organizations serving Veterans here. The Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center is renewing its commitment to Veterans by inviting the community to visit and explore opportunities to serve Veterans during this event.

“We are fortunate to have many community partners collaborating with our facility to help care for our Veterans. As a commitment to honoring America’s heroes, we are asking people to come get involved in service to Veterans,” said Scott Isaacks, Director of the Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center.

As part of VA’s Summer of Service, the Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center hopes to increase local engagement and welcome members of the community interested in supporting the needs of Veterans. The event will have information on volunteering, collaboration through community partnerships and employment opportunities for medical professionals. The event will also serve to host congressional members and staffs to

provide education on the VA benefits available in the area at the Medical Center, Regional Office and National Cemetery.

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ABOUT THE RALPH H. JOHNSON VA MEDICAL CENTER:

The Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center, opened in 1966, is a leading primary, secondary, and tertiary care facility located in Charleston, SC, serving over 55,000 Veterans along the coast of South Carolina and Georgia. The 117-bed medical center provides acute medical, surgical, and psychiatric inpatients care, as well as outpatient primary and mental health care to Lowcountry Veterans who require more than 659,000 outpatient visits and approximately 4,300 inpatient stays annually. The VAMC has six community based outpatient clinics providing primary, mental health and some specialty care. These clinics are located in South Carolina in Myrtle Beach, North Charleston, Beaufort, Goose Creek, and in Georgia in Hinesville and Savannah. The VAMC has an annual budget of \$327 million and research funding of more than \$27 million. For more information visit www.charleston.va.gov.