



Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A Flags Journey Makes it's Way from Iraq to a Los Angeles Veteran Known as Dreamer

LOS ANGELES, CA., Mar., 28 – Two VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System (GLA) employees put out a Battle Cry to obtain an American flag for a veteran that volunteers at VA GLA as a barber, providing haircuts free to veterans, on April 3, 2012 at 10:00 am the barber, Tony Bravo, A.K.A. Dreamer will be presented the special flag that was flown in Iraq.

VA GLA employee and Marine Corp veteran, Edward M. Montgomery would walk by Dreamer's barber shop located on VA GLA grounds and admire the great haircuts he provided well deserved veterans. Montgomery would often think to himself, "What can I do for Dreamer?" After consulting with his co-worker and Army veteran, Ken Gaines, they came up with the idea of getting Dreamer an American flag for his trailer turned patriotic barber shop.

Gaines put out a Battle Cry on July 2011 using Facebook and two hours later, U.S. Army active duty member, Alexandra Bowers replied, "It's a done deal Sergeant." The flag acquired was flown over a base located near Al Asad Airbase in Iraq, the largest U.S. military airbase in Iraq. The request was simple and modest in the eyes of everyone involved in this mission.

The flag will be presented to Dreamer in honor of his good deeds, his outstanding services, and dedication to America's heroes. The flag traveled more than 7, 500 miles to reach Dreamer and a request from Bowers is to have the following words shared with Dreamer when the flag is presented, "On behalf of the 218th Medical Detachment Veterinary Service deployed, thank you for all you do and have done. You are truly a hero."

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Dreamer has been a volunteer at VA GLA for over five years and he is a Vietnam era veteran. If you would like to attend the flag presentation or have questions or concerns, please call Wileen Hernandez at 310-268-3858.

About VA GLA: VA GLA is the largest, most complex health care system within the Department of Veterans Affairs. GLA consists of three ambulatory care centers, a tertiary care facility, and 10 community based outpatient clinics. GLA serves veterans residing throughout five counties: Los Angeles, Ventura, Kern, Santa Barbara, and San Luis Obispo. There are 1.4 million veterans in the GLA service area. Visit us on the web at www.losangeles.va.gov for additional information.

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