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PRESS RELEASE

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VA GREATER LOS ANGELES CELEBRATES VETERANS DAY WEEKEND

Veterans, Military Members Can Enjoy Free BBQ, Concert Featuring *America*

LOS ANGELES – VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System (GLA) along with Greater Los Angeles Fisher House Foundation (GLAFH) hosts a free concert featuring musical group *America* for Veterans, military members and families on Nov. 10 at 5 p.m. at the Wadsworth Theatre on the West Los Angeles VA (WLA) campus.

“We are here to honor our Veterans by providing the best healthcare in a healing and patient-centered care environment,” said Donna Beiter, Director GLA. “We are proud to serve our Nation’s Heroes and are extremely excited to pay tribute to their service with a concert featuring *America*.”

Celebrations kick-off at 1:00 pm with a free BBQ sponsored by GLA Voluntary Service and the Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks from South Central. The BBQ area is located at the Rose Garden, behind building 220 at the WLA Medical Center and is free for all Veterans, military members and family members on a first come first served basis.

“We want our greater Los Angeles Veterans to know we appreciate their service,” said Debbie Lasker, Chief, Office of the Patient Experience at GLA. “Veterans Day is everyday at GLA but Veterans Day weekend gives us an opportunity to show just how grateful we are for their courage and sacrifice in service to our great Nation.”

This event marks GLA’s first time hosting a concert at WLA in partnership with the GLAFH during Veterans Day weekend. Once Fisher Houses are ready for guests, they are gifted to the U.S. Government; the public/private partnership continues. The WLA Fisher House opened its doors in 2009 and has served 2,534 Greater Los Angeles Veteran families. WLA Fisher House residents saved over \$2.2 million in hotel expenses alone while their loved ones received treatment and care at the medical center. GLAFH is the local chapter of the WLA Fisher House and contributes funding and direction for maintenance.

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2/2/2 Concert

“We are fortunate to partner with GLA to honor the men and women who served our Nation,” said Tim Byk, President, GLAFH. “Veterans and their families have sacrificed a great deal for our freedom so when GLA approached our organization to salute Veterans with a big concert in their honor, it was an easy ‘Yes.’ I couldn’t wait to get started!”

Elliot Gould, prominent TV and American film actor best known for playing Trapper John in Robert Altman's satirical 1970 film MASH, will be the Master of Ceremonies.

For more information about the BBQ and concert reservations, please visit www.losangeles.va.gov or call (310) 478-3711, ext 42441 to reserve tickets via phone. Concert tickets are available for pick-up at the Wadsworth theatre Will Call booth on Nov 10 (concert date) starting at 2:00 pm. Concert doors open at 4:00 pm. Seating for the concert is limited and tickets are available on a first come, first served basis.

About the Concert and BBQ:

Nov 10, 2012 / Saturday

1:00 pm - 4:00 pm – Veterans BBQ at the Rose Garden behind building 220 at WLA near the Great Lawn

2:00 pm - Will Call booth opens. Booths located at the BBQ and Wadsworth Theatre

4:00 pm - Wadsworth Theatre doors open

5:00 pm - 7:00 pm – Concert

About the Greater Los Angeles Fisher House: Located in the West Los Angeles VA Medical Center, the Fisher House provides a “home away from home” so that America’s military families can be together during extended treatment for a serious illness, lengthy physical or occupational therapy. The West LA Fisher House opened its doors in February 2009 and has since served over 1,300 families. A 16,000 square foot facility with 21 private guest suites, the Fisher House creates a warm, compassionate environment where families find support and encouragement with others in similar circumstances. For more information about the WLA Fisher House, visit <http://www.losangeles.va.gov/fisher-house/>

About the VAGLAHS: VAGLAHS is the largest, most complex healthcare system within the Department of Veterans Affairs. GLA consists of three ambulatory care centers, a tertiary care facility, and 10 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 for more information www.losangeles.va.gov

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