

VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System
11301 Wilshire Blvd
Los Angeles, CA 90073
Phone: 1-310-268-3340
www.losangeles.va.gov



PRESS RELEASE

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CONTACT:
Michiko, Public Affairs
(310) 478.3711 ext. 49947
Michiko.riley@va.gov

VA LOS ANGELES HONORS VETERANS DAY

Award Winning BBQ and Sugar Ray Concert for Veterans, Military Members and Families

LOS ANGELES – VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System (VAGLAHS) in partnership with Greater Los Angeles Fisher House Foundation (GLAFHF) hosts the second annual Day for Heroes free BBQ and concert featuring Sugar Ray in honor of Veterans Day. Veterans, military members and families are invited to this free event on Nov. 9 at the Wadsworth Theatre on the West Los Angeles VA (WLA) campus.

“We are so excited to partner again with the Greater Los Angeles Fisher House Foundation for the Day for Heroes concert and BBQ.” said Donna Beiter, Director VAGLAHS. “VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare system shares a strong commitment with the Fisher House Foundation to care and support our Nation’s heroes. Our Veterans deserve the best healthcare in a healing and patient centered care environment and we are pleased to recognize and celebrate their service in honor of Veterans Day.”

Musical group Sugar Ray, famous for such hits as “Fly”, “Every Morning”, and “Someday” will perform to honor the men and women who served this country. Louis Gossett Jr, prominent TV and American film actor best known for his Academy Award™ winning role as Gunnery Sergeant Emil Foley in the 1982 film *An Officer and a Gentleman*, will be the Master of Ceremonies. Doors to the Wadsworth Theatre open at 4:00 p.m.

Prior to the concert, from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m., Veterans, military members and families can enjoy a free, Texas style, award winning BBQ from Smokin’ Steve’s Pit BBQ featuring Angus beef brisket, pulled pork, chicken and plenty of fixings. Rickey Minor and the Tonight Show Band are scheduled to provide the musical entertainment during the BBQ. Each Veteran or military member can bring up to three additional guests at no cost for the concert and BBQ.

“We are so proud to stand alongside the VA and honor our Veterans who have sacrificed so much for our Nation,” said Tim Byk, President, GLAFHF. “Through commemorative events such as the Day for Heroes BBQ and concert, the Greater Los Angeles Fisher House Foundation continues to express our gratitude to those who have served and those who are still serving. It is our privilege to support our Nation’s heroes and their families.”

2/2/2 Concert

Fisher House Foundation provides a *"home away from home"* for military families to be close to a loved one during hospitalization for an illness, disease or injury. The WLA Fisher House opened its doors in February 2009 and has served 3,274 Veteran families since inception. WLA Fisher House residents saved over \$2.9 million in hotel expenses alone while their loved ones received treatment and care at the medical center. Although the WLA Fisher House is owned and operated by the Department of Veterans Affairs, GLAFHF contributes funding for guest comfort and to subsidize the cost of maintenance.

For more information or to reserve tickets, please visit <http://greaterlafisherhouse.org/> or call (310) 478-3711, ext. 42441. Concert tickets are available for pick-up at Voluntary Service, Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the West Los Angeles Medical Center Building 258, Room 124. Veterans and Military can also pick up tickets the Wadsworth theatre Will Call booth on Nov. 9 (concert date) starting at 2:00 p.m. Concert doors open at 4:00 p.m. Seating for the concert and BBQ are available on a first come, first served basis.

About the Concert and BBQ:

Date - Nov 9, 2013, Saturday

2:00 pm - 4:00 pm – Award winning BBQ at the Rose Garden behind building 220 at WLA near the Wadsworth Theatre and 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 – Sugar Ray Concert

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

About the GLA Fisher House Foundation: Located in the West Los Angeles VA Medical Center (WLA), 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 3,274 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://greaterlafisherhouse.org/>