

VAU.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

News Release

VA Long Beach
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Local Warriors Battle Local Waves in an Effort to Leave the Scares of War and Life Behind

Long Beach, Calif. –Veterans enrolled in VA Long Beach Healthcare System (VALBHS) and the VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System (VAGLAHS), with support from Team Red, White and Blue (team RWB), will take to the waves and leave issues of Traumatic Brain Injury, Spinal Cord Injury, Post-Traumatic Stress and low vision and blindness on the beach.

Approximately 42 Veterans ranging from Vietnam to Iraq and Afghanistan will be supported by over 100 volunteers to enter the water and experience the positive benefits of surfing via the Waves of Valor Veterans Surf Camp. Combining the best parts of VA and our community support for our Nations Veterans, the goal is to separate the word “dis” from “ability” and expose our Veterans to the possibilities that remain for a full, healthy and meaningful life post injury.

WHAT: “Waves of Valor,” a surf camp for Veterans held by VA health care systems in Los Angeles and Long Beach and Team Red, White and Blue.

WHO: VA health care systems in Los Angeles and Long Beach will have Veteran/patients from various conflicts including those from operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. Team RWB will bring Veteran and civilian volunteers to support the camp and conduct surf instruction.

WHEN: Saturday, July 16 from 8 a.m. to noon

WHERE: Huntington Beach, Lifeguard Tower 8

WHY: Among the many diverse programs for Veterans, VA provides Recreation Therapy Service, an activity-based patient centered service that integrates function, quality and meaning to one’s life through art, dance, music, and recreational activities. As

one aspect of that program, VAGLAHS and VALBHS partners with Team RWB and will hold a series of Veteran surf camps “Waves of Valor.” Team RWB is a non-profit organization that provides physical activities and social connections as powerful tools for Veterans in their reintegration from active duty and recovery from combat wounds. These surf camps are for Veterans who have been injured in service and those who are receiving care at the VA. Waves of Valor provides a chance for Veterans to socialize and work on coping skills needed for the transition back into civilian life, as well as providing a chance to learn a new leisure/recreation skill.

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