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NEWS RELEASE

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VA to Take Applications for New Caregiver Program

Lovell FHCC Caregiver Support Coordinator assists with program beginning May 9

NORTH CHICAGO, Ill. – The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) recently published the interim final rule for implementing the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act 2010. This new rule will provide additional support to eligible post-9/11 Veterans who elect to receive their care in a home setting from a primary Family Caregiver.

The new program builds on the foundation of Caregiver support now provided at VA and reflects what families and clinicians have long known: Family Caregivers in a home environment can enhance the health and wellbeing of Veterans under VA care.

“This enhanced service is a giant leap forward in the total care of our nation’s heroes,” said Patrick Sullivan, Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center Director. “This holistic approach reinforces one of Secretary Shinseki’s objectives of transforming into a forward-looking VA by supporting those who have sacrificed to care for our Veterans.”

Additional services for primary Family Caregivers of eligible post-9/11 Veterans and Servicemembers include a stipend, mental health services, and access to health care insurance, if they are not already entitled to care or services under a health care plan. Comprehensive Caregiver training and medical support are other key components of this program.

Veterans and their Family Caregivers can apply for the new services beginning May 9 at www.caregiver.va.gov. Pam Rosentreter, Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center Caregiver Support Coordinator, is also available to assist with the application process and direct Veterans and their Family Caregivers to more than two dozen other programs VA offers Family Caregivers for support.

“With our integrated Veterans Affairs and Department of Defense facility, we’re in a unique position, as we often care for seriously-injured Veterans and active duty members in the process of discharge,” said Rosentreter. “However, these enhanced services are focused on supporting the caregiver -- in turn, further supporting the Veteran.”

Assistance and information on additional resources are also available to Family Caregivers through VA’s National Caregiver Support Line, 877-222-VETS (8387). Veterans and Caregivers with questions about the new program can contact Rosentreter at 224-610-3472 or pamela.rosentreter@va.gov.

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