



**Captain James A. Lovell**  
**Federal Health Care Center**  
3001 Green Bay Road • North Chicago, Illinois 60064  
lovellfhcc.media@va.gov • 224-610-3714

## **PRESS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: Stephanie McCrobie, 224-610-1120 or [stephanie.mccrobie@va.gov](mailto:stephanie.mccrobie@va.gov)

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### **Sixth Annual Welcome Home Celebration Illinois Warrior Summit and Valor Paralympics Games**

*Thousands of Veterans, military members and their families will again gather at Soldier Field in Chicago Aug. 12 for a Welcome Home celebration featuring a resource fair as well as entertainment for all ages.*

NORTH CHICAGO, Ill. – The Lovell Federal Health Care Center, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), the Jesse Brown VA Medical Center, and Hines VA Hospital, in collaboration with the ISAVE (Illinois Support All Veterans Equally) Foundation, will host the 6th Annual Welcome Home Celebration and Illinois Warrior Summit on Monday, Aug. 12.

This free public event connects military members, Veterans and their families with resources to meet their specific needs, such as employment services, Veterans' benefits and educational assistance. In the past, the event has drawn 10,000 military members, Veterans and their families.

This year, there will be more than 275 tables and booths including businesses, colleges, government agencies and Veteran support organizations, with representatives available to answer questions and provide information. The VA will help register individuals for health care benefits on-the-spot, provide on-site physicals and health screenings, and answer questions on VA programs such as Returning Combat Veterans Care Management, Women Veterans' services, Minority Veterans' opportunities, substance abuse counseling and PTSD (Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder) and TBI (Traumatic Brain Injury) recovery programs.

Attendees also have the chance to receive free sports tickets available just to Veterans, including tickets to the Chicago Cubs, White Sox and Chicago Fire. There will be raffles and giveaways all day, and free entertainment is scheduled for children.

“The important mission of this military/Veteran celebration is honoring those who have served our country and helping them access their entitled benefits and services,” said Mike Konkoly, Operations Enduring/Iraqi Freedom/New Dawn Program Manager for Lovell FHCC.

**WHAT:** *6th Annual Welcome Home Celebration and Illinois Warrior Summit*

**WHEN:** *Monday, Aug. 12, 2013 from noon to 5 p.m.*

**WHERE:** *Soldier Field, 1410 Museum Campus Drive, Chicago, IL 60605. Free parking for the first 1,500 vehicles on the South Side of Soldier Field at Waldron Parking Deck*

**WHO:** *Any active duty military members, veterans and their families are welcome to attend.*

For more information, visit the Illinois Warrior Summit website:  
[www.illinoiswarriorsummit.com](http://www.illinoiswarriorsummit.com)

**About the Lovell FHCC:** The Lovell FHCC was established Oct. 1, 2010, as the nation's only fully integrated Department of Veterans Affairs/Department of Defense federal health care center. The center has a dual mission of caring for Veterans and ensuring the medical and dental readiness of U.S. Navy recruits and sailors serving in the region. Lovell FHCC, which is located in North Chicago, operates four Great Lakes Naval Station medical clinics and three community based outpatient clinics in McHenry and Evanston, Ill. and Kenosha, Wis. The facility also serves military families and retirees.

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