

SUBJECT: Veterans Day

STORY LINE: Veterans Pride Initiative

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A call of a different sort has gone out from Washington, D.C, ringing from coast to coast and throughout the world wherever veterans of the United States Armed Forces might be found on this upcoming Veterans Day. Dubbed the “Veterans Pride Initiative” by the Department of Veterans Affairs, this initiative calls for every veteran to wear his or her medals on Veterans Day. “Wearing your medals is a way to show your community the spirit of America's veterans and remind your neighbors of the service and sacrifice of those who have guarded democracy,” explains the VA

In Oklahoma City those medals and the veterans who proudly wear them will be the honored focus of the annual Veterans Day Concert performed this year in Oklahoma City by the VA National Medical Orchestra and Chorus. Fresh from their annual Flag and Independence Day Concert in late June on Capital Hill, the internationally renowned VA-National Medical Musical Group will present their sixteenth annual Veterans Day Concert at the Church of the Servant on Sunday, November 6, at 7:00 p.m.

Co-hosted by stage and screen actress Shirley Jones and Bill Kurtis of A&E Network's "Investigative Reports" fame, the program will include a variety of patriotic, classical and light classical favorites as well as readings by local dignitaries befitting the concert theme, “O, What a Beautiful Country.”

A non-profit organization founded in Washington, D.C. in 1991 and the largest medical musical group in the United States, the VA-National Medical Musical Group (VA-NMMG) membership spans almost every state. Many are associated with the Department of Veterans Affairs or with medical practice, teaching, or research and travel to concert sites at their own expense.

The VA-NMMG has also performed at The White House, United Nations, Carnegie Hall, Kennedy Center, Chicago's Symphony Center and the Las Vegas Hilton Theater. Overseas performances stretch from Great Britain, France, Denmark, Ireland, Scotland, Spain, Sweden and The Vatican to the far reaches of Russia, China, and New Zealand.

A recipient of the prestigious Congressional Medal of Honor Society Bob Hope Award, the VA-NMMG's mission is to perform "Music with a Message," a message of inspiration, healing and national unity. Tickets for the concert are just \$10 and are available at the Church of the Servant, 14343 N. McArthur Blvd., telephone 405-728-4728. Active duty military and veterans with appropriate identification will be admitted free of charge. For more information about the VA Medical Musical Group, visit [www. medicalmusical.com](http://www.medicalmusical.com)

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