

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 1816

A RESOLUTION recognizing National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans week.

WHEREAS, In 2001, America's National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans will be observed February 11-17; and

WHEREAS, The National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans was established as an official Department of Veterans Affairs program in March 1978. The purpose of this national program is to pay tribute and express appreciation to hospitalized veterans, increase community awareness of the role of the medical centers and encourage citizens to visit hospitalized veterans and become involved as volunteers; and

WHEREAS, The week of February 11 is your opportunity to say thank you to a special group of men and women—more than 62,000 veterans of the United States armed services, who are cared for every day in Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers and nursing homes. Their service and sacrifice have helped preserve the freedoms and the values that Americans cherish; and

WHEREAS, During the national salute the Department of Veterans Affairs invites individuals, veterans groups, military personnel, civic organizations, businesses, schools, local media, celebrities and sports stars to participate in a variety of activities at the Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers which pay tribute and express appreciation to our hospitalized veterans. Those activities and events include special ward visits and valentine distributions, photo opportunities, school essay contests, special recreation activities and veteran recognition programs. The week also provides an opportunity for the community to become acquainted with the volunteer opportunities within the medical centers: Now, therefore,

*Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas:* That we recognize National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans week and urge Kansans to become involved in the lives of our hospitalized veterans; and

*Be it further resolved:* That the Secretary of the Senate be directed to provide an enrolled copy of this resolution to Edgar L. Tucker, Director, VA Eastern Kansas Health Care System, 2200 Gage Boulevard, Topeka, Kansas