



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

New York/New Jersey VA Health Care Network
VA New Jersey Health Care System
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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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VA New Jersey Health Care System Celebrates “National Salute to Veteran Patients” Week, hosting Jazz Concert

The annual VA National Salute program began in 1978 when VA took over sponsorship of a program started in 1974 by the humanitarian organization, No Greater Love, Inc. The National Salute is observed annually during the week of Valentine’s Day, a day of caring and sharing which underscores the Salute’s expression of honor and appreciation to inpatient and outpatient Veterans. On February 11, 2020, the Voluntary Service, East Orange campus of VANJHCS hosted a Jazz Concert by Warren Battiste and his trio, to the delight of Veterans and staff, which also streamed Live on Facebook for those who could not attend.

Warren Battiste was born in New Orleans in 1925 and was taught to play the guitar by his father who was a banjo player at Preservation Hall. Warren served in the Army Air Corps in World War II. After the war, utilizing the GI Bill, Warren completed 4 years of instructions at Gruenwald Music School in New Orleans.

Throughout his career, Warren has performed at numerous jazz clubs on Bourbon Street, Preservation Hall, Snug Harbor, the Matador and many others. He taught music at Weequahic High School, Essex County College and the Newark Art Center in Newark, New Jersey. In 2000, he received the Lifetime Achievement Award in Jazz from the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival, and was selected as a Jazz All Star by New Orleans Magazine.

He is very open about his growth through therapy and mental health and is an advocate for seeking therapy no matter what stage in life. “I enjoy playing at the VA, the audience was receptive and enjoyed it as well”; Warren said. “I would love to play for the Veterans at Lyons too, when I get back from tour later this year”. This year Warren will turn 95 years young and will celebrate his 70th wedding anniversary with his wife, 10 children and 24 grandchildren.

Volunteers are a priceless asset to the nation’s Veterans and to VANJHCS. For those wanting to volunteer and join the mission to honor the sacrifice and service of America’s Veterans, please visit VANJHCS Voluntary service at <https://www.newjersey.va.gov/giving>

