



**For Immediate Release**

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## **Free Health Fair for Veterans to Kick Off New Partnership**

**Tampa, FL (Aug. 28, 2017)** – Veterans and their families are invited to a free health fair to kick off a new partnership between the [Tampa Metropolitan Area YMCA](#) and [James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital and Clinics](#). At 10:30am on Thursday, Sept. 7 at the New Tampa Family YMCA, VA and YMCA leadership will come together to sign a Memorandum of Understanding to begin working in a mutually-beneficial manner to promote and enhance the health and well-being of veterans and their families [at multiple Tampa Y locations](#) in Hillsborough and East Pasco Counties.

After the ceremonial signing, veterans and their families are invited to a free health fair at the [New Tampa Y](#) on 16221 Compton Drive in Tampa. From 11:00am until 1:30pm, they will be able to tour the facility and learn about how they can benefit from Y programming that builds healthy spirit, mind and body at all Tampa Y locations. Attendees will also be able to participate in health screenings, fitness assessments, yoga demos, group exercise demos, free giveaways and light refreshments.

The health fair is the first step in a new partnership where the Tampa Y will work directly with the VA to provide programming and services targeting the veteran population. Such Y programming includes, but is not limited to, prediabetes education, fitness regimens and support for cancer survivors, arthritis and Parkinson's patients. The overall goal of this partnership is to enhance the experience and access to programming and resources that contribute to the health and well-being of veterans and their families.

"Partnering with strong organizations like the YMCA helps us serve veterans better," says James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital Director Joe Battle. "We are thrilled to bolster our whole health approach to wellness for veterans with the Y."

"The Tampa YMCA is excited to embark on this new partnership with the VA to better serve those who have sacrificed so much to serve and protect our nation," says Tampa Y President & CEO Tom Looby. "We are honored to have the opportunity to help better the minds, bodies and spirits of our nation's heroes."

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### **About the Tampa Y**

The Tampa Metropolitan Area YMCA is a cause-driven [4-star charity](#), strengthening Hillsborough and East Pasco communities for 128 years, through youth development, healthy living and social responsibility. Across the Association, 18 facilities engage more than 150,000 men, women and children — regardless of age, income or background — to nurture the potential of children and teens, improve our community's health and well-being, and provide opportunities to give back and support neighbors. The Tampa Y has long-standing relationships and physical presence not just to promise, but to deliver, lasting personal and social change. [www.tampaymca.org](http://www.tampaymca.org)

### **About the James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital**

Activated in 1972, the James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital is a tertiary care facility classified as a Clinical Referral Level 1 Facility. JAHVH is a teaching hospital, providing a full range of patient care services, with state-of-the-art technology as well as education and research. Comprehensive health care is provided through primary care, tertiary care, and long-term care in areas of medicine, surgery, psychiatry, physical medicine and rehabilitation, spinal cord injury, neurology, oncology, dentistry, geriatrics, and extended care. JAHVH consists of five Veterans Health Administration facilities located in Tampa, New Port Richey, Zephyrhills, Lakeland and Brooksville, serving four counties in Central Florida. It is a part of the Veterans Integrated System Network (VISN) 8 that also includes facilities in Orlando, Gainesville, Lake City, Bay Pines, West Palm Beach, Miami and Puerto Rico. [www.tampa.va.gov](http://www.tampa.va.gov)