



# News Release

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## VA hospital recognizes Black History Month

NEW ORLEANS – Southeast Louisiana Veterans Health Care System (SLVHCS) will celebrate Black History Month at 11:30 a.m. February 12, 2018 in the first-floor auditorium of its administration building at 2400 Canal Street.

The program is based on this year's national theme: "*African Americans in Times of War.*"

The keynote speaker will be U.S. Army Lieutenant General Russel Honoré (Retired).

Honoré, was born in 1947 in Lakeland, Louisiana. He is the eighth of twelve children. Honoré attended Southern University and A&M College in Baton Rouge, where he earned his B.S. degree in vocational agriculture. After completing ROTC training at Southern University, Honoré entered the U.S. Army as an infantry officer for the United States Army Combat Development Command in 1971.

During his 37-year career in the United States military, Honoré held a variety of positions and served in a number of commanding and supervisory positions. When Hurricane Katrina struck the Gulf Coast in 2005, Honoré was designated commander of Joint Task Force Katrina.

Following his retirement from the military on January 11, 2008, Honoré declared that he would spend the second half of his life committed to creating a culture of preparedness in America.

Each year, SLVHCS celebrates the significant impact that African American men and women have made upon the nation's history and this year marks the 92<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the announcement by historian Carter G. Woodson that the second week of February would be honored. Since 1976, every U.S. President has officially designated the month of February as Black History Month.

For more information about the new Veterans medical center, clinic locations and other services available to Veterans in southeast Louisiana, visit the website [www.neworleans.va.gov](http://www.neworleans.va.gov), Facebook at [www.facebook.com/VANewOrleans](https://www.facebook.com/VANewOrleans) or Twitter at [www.twitter.com/vaneworleans](https://www.twitter.com/vaneworleans).

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