



# News Release

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## VA hospital to host Individuals with Disabilities observance

NEW ORLEANS – Southeast Louisiana Veterans Health Care System (SLVHCS) invites Veterans to attend an *Individuals with Disabilities* observance program at 11:30 a.m. on Friday, October 20 at the new Veterans medical center.

The event will feature Iraq War Veteran and Purple Heart recipient Bryan Anderson as the guest speaker.

“This observance is important because programs like this are key to understanding the very diverse Veteran population that we serve,” said SLVHCS Director Fernando O. Rivera. “A major part of being a culturally competent organization is learning about the challenges and needs of those we serve. That’s how we grow as an organization.”

Guest speaker Bryan Anderson served two tours of duty in Iraq with the U.S. Army as a Sergeant in the Military Police. In October 2005, Anderson was injured by an improvised explosive device (IED) that resulted in the loss of both legs and his left hand. As a result of his injuries, he was awarded a Purple Heart.

Today, Anderson helps others by relating his experience of accepting the new realities of his life and reinventing himself around them. He will speak to employees and local Veterans at the new Veterans medical center during Friday’s observance.

Parking is available for Veterans in the medical center’s patient parking garage, entered on Galvez Street. The program will take place on the first-floor concourse near the main Galvez Street entrance.

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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