

Veterans Smile Day "Serve Those Who Have Served" **Media Key Messages and Talking Points**

Problem * In the US, there are almost 23 million veterans and less than 15% of them qualify for any kind of dental benefits.

* In recent news, the lack of care for our veterans has been exposed through the faulty systems of the Veterans Administration.

Key Messages:

1. GHDS members in the Greater Houston area are rendering dental work for veterans.
2. This Veterans Smiles Day program raises awareness that our veterans in the Greater Houston area deserve a better health care system that addresses their oral health needs.
3. Our member dentists care about our veterans and realize more needs to be done.
4. Dr. Neela Patel, owner of Houston Heights Dentistry office is one of the participating offices providing dental care to veterans on Monday, November 11, 2019 from 7:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. Office Phone: 281-671-8525

The GHDS Members' Veterans Smile Day is a growing effort to provide oral health care to those who served in the United States military. This member program provides the opportunity to volunteer their time and talents in rendering dental care to former servicemen and women in need.

When it comes to dental care, many veterans simply fall through the cracks. The GHDS Members' Veterans Smile Day is a day when our member dentists can make a difference and help a population that many Americans can often forget about.

For the past 7 Years, during Veteran's Smile Day and the month of November, Greater Houston Dental Society members have opened their doors to treat veterans at no cost.

Although volunteerism and donated services from the dental community makes a difference, volunteerism alone cannot solve the problem. We advocate for more funding for veterans' dental services and for community prevention efforts.

Invitation extended to:
Mayor Sylvester Turner
State Senator John Whitmire
State Representative Jessica Farrar