



Region's Hospitals Vow to Help Veterans ***Web-based initiative offers online one-stop service to veterans' job, health, community resources***

Contact: Janine Logan, Director of Communications
Cell: 631-334-8321 or 845-562-7520

For Immediate Release

(Newburgh, NY . . . July 27, 2012) **Vet Connect** – a web-based initiative to raise awareness about the employment, health, and resource needs of veterans in the Hudson Valley region, particularly returning veterans – went live today. This public awareness initiative is the work of the Northern Metropolitan Hospital Association (NorMet) and its member hospitals that are located in Westchester and the six counties that comprise the Hudson Valley region. NorMet is the association that represents these hospitals on a variety of hospital and health care legislative and regulatory issues.

The initiative underscores hospitals' recognition of the extraordinary service veterans have made to this country and hospitals' commitment to assisting veterans with their employment and health care needs. **Vet Connect** is being coordinated by NorMet's Communications Committee and hospital human resource directors.

Vet Connect can be accessed via NorMet's home page at www.normet.org. Once users click on the **Vet Connect** icon, they are brought to interior pages that provide direct links to hospitals' job banks, military skills translation assistance, and health care career training programs for veterans. The service is also accessible via hospitals' websites. Look for the **Vet Connect** logo.

"Our hospitals recognize the extraordinary service our veterans have made to our country," said Kevin Dahill, president/CEO of NorMet. "All of our hospitals are committed to assisting veterans with their employment and health care needs. **Vet Connect** is a simple to use, one-stop resource for veterans that puts helpful information at their fingertips."

Gerry Culliton, director of the VA Hudson Valley Health Care System, was instrumental in initiating and coordinating this project. Culliton said, "Veterans make the very best employees . . . and this dynamic commitment from the health care leaders across the Hudson Valley demonstrates a unique and powerful statement to all those who have served our nation in uniform."

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