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NEWS RELEASE

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Tennessee Valley Healthcare System to honor Operation Song graduates

MURFREESBORO, Tenn. – Tennessee Valley Healthcare System (TVHS) will honor three graduates of the Operation Song music therapy program in a ceremony at its Alvin C. York campus at 3400 Lebanon Road Friday, Dec. 8 at 11 a.m.

Operation Song is a non-profit organization that seeks to empower Veterans and active duty military members to tell their stories through songwriting. TVHS music and recreation therapists work with Operation Song’s world-class songwriters to facilitate a therapeutic program lasting several weeks and culminating in a completed song that expresses a Veteran’s personal story.

The TVHS music and recreation therapy program includes activities such as individual piano and guitar lessons, therapeutic songwriting groups, guitar classes, recreational drumming, vibroacoustic therapy, woodworking, leatherworking, and even tai chi.

“Music therapy and recreation therapy can address physical, mental, spiritual, and psychosocial needs to help Veterans achieve specific therapeutic objectives,” said Megan Peeler, TVHS music therapist.

Operation Song is a natural fit for the program. Led by Grammy Award-nominated songwriters Bob Regan and Don Goodman, Operation Song serves Veterans in Clarksville, Murfreesboro, and Chattanooga. Regan and Goodman are also developing pilot programs in Atlanta, Little Rock, Ark., Biloxi, Miss. And Pensacola, Fla.

“Operation Song provides a disarming outlet for Veterans to safely express themselves, enjoy camaraderie, and experience effective, holistic healing,” said Peeler.

“The Veterans bring the stories and we bring the songwriting experience,” said Regan, who has written hit songs for stars including Keith Urban, Trisha Yearwood and Tanya Tucker.

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“All of the songwriters we use are pros who have been at this for many years and decades. We sit in a room together, listen to their stories, pick out pieces and make it rhyme,” he said.

Three Veterans will celebrate the completion of their Operation Song journey at the Dec. 8 event by listening to the finished product of their work for the first time.

Interested media should coordinate access to the event through the TVHS public affairs office.

TVHS is an integrated tertiary health care system comprised of two hospitals, the Alvin C. York Campus in Murfreesboro and the Nashville Campus, as well as more than a dozen community-based outpatient clinics located in Tennessee and Kentucky. TVHS provides ambulatory care, primary care, and secondary care in acute medicine and surgery, specialized tertiary care, transplant services, spinal cord injury outpatient care, and a full range of extended care and mental health services.

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