

Spectrum Health Partners With Local Plastic Surgeon To Offer Free Plastic Surgery For War Veterans

Offer Made To Veterans Throughout Michigan

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich., October 22, 2009, – In a tribute timed with Veterans' Day, plastic surgeon, Dr. Steven L. Ringler has partnered with Spectrum Health to provide free cosmetic correction or reconstruction of war-related injuries for Michigan veterans.

Dr Ringler from the Center for Aesthetics and Plastic Surgery, will provide private consultations to veterans at his office located at 2680 Leonard St. NE, Suite 4, in Grand Rapids.

Through out the month of November, Dr. Ringler, will evaluate scars, burns and other treatable traumatic injuries that may be cosmetically enhanced or reconstructed on an outpatient surgery basis, therefore, not requiring an overnight stay. Surgeries will be scheduled for a Saturday at Spectrum Health Blodgett Hospital in East Grand Rapids, most likely after the first of the year.

Dr. Ringler and staff at Blodgett Hospital will donate their time to care for veterans who are selected for surgery. Anesthesiologists from Anesthesia Medical Consultants also will donate their services as will other surgical specialists if needed. Do we know if Anestheisa Medical Consultants are on board this year?

“This is our way of thanking all Michigan veterans for their service and sacrifice,” said Ringler. “I believe the days leading up to Veterans' Day is the perfect time to offer this gift to our veterans and show our appreciation for all they have done in service to our country..”

Dr. Ringler is an active volunteer. He has served for more than 20 years with Operation Smile, a volunteer medical organization providing free plastic surgery to children around the world with facial deformities. RIngler started the Michigan Chapter of Operation Smile, along with his wife Andrea, over 13 years ago and has provided free facial reconstructive surgery to hundreds of children around the world as well as at home in Grand Rapids.

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Dr. Ringler was inspired by a request from billionaire and philanthropist Sheldon Adelson, owner of the Sands Corporation of casinos and hotels. Adelson flies wounded soldiers on his personal aircraft to Las Vegas for a week of extravagance, with lines of citizens thanking them for their service to our country. He has challenged other citizens to show their appreciation for veterans of military service in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Veterans interested in being evaluated by the physicians should call 616-588-0888 or 616-588-2277 to schedule an appointment, e-mail vets@capsmi.com, or visit their website at www.capsmi.com for more information. The Center for Aesthetics and Plastic Surgery office is located at , 2680 Leonard Street, NE . Suite 4, Grand Rapids.

Spectrum Health is a not-for-profit health system in West Michigan that offers a full continuum of care through the Spectrum Health Hospital Group, a collection of seven hospitals and more than 140 service sites; the Spectrum Health Medical Group and mmpc, multispecialty physician groups with more than 400 providers; and Priority Health, a health plan with nearly 500,000 members. Spectrum Health's 16,000 employees, 1,500 medical staff members and 2,000 volunteers are committed to delivering the highest quality care. The organization provided \$111.1 million in community benefit during its 2008 fiscal year. As a system, Spectrum Health has earned more than 100 awards during the past 10 years.

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