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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

OPERATION LONESTAR TO OFFER FREE MEDICAL, DENTAL CARE AT TWO HIDALGO COUNTY LOCATIONS NEXT WEEK

HIDALGO COUNTY TO HOST OLS V.I.P. & MEDIA DAY THURSDAY

Operation Lonestar, which provides free medical and dental care to families across South Texas, begins Monday at two locations in Hidalgo County.

PSJA High School, located at 805 W. Ridge Road in San Juan, and Dr. Javier Saenz Middle School, located at 39200 Mile 7 Road in Peñitas, will be the sites for Operation Lonestar 2009 in Hidalgo County. Operation Lonestar sites will also be positioned in Brownsville, Raymondville, Lasara, Laredo, Hebbronville, Rio Grande City and Zapata. (*See complete listing of sites below.*)

Operation Lonestar is in its 11th consecutive year in South Texas and is a joint venture by the Texas Department of State Health Services, the Texas State Guard, Army and Air National Guard, local county health departments and numerous volunteers and local service groups. The operation is one of a kind in the United States, bringing together local and state agencies and serving so many people — the number eclipsed 11,000 in 2008 — all as a humanitarian endeavor.

“For some people, this may be the only doctor they see all year,” said Hidalgo County Pct. 2 Commissioner Hector “Tito” Palacios, who will give the welcoming remarks Thursday at the V.I.P. reception which will be attended by some of the top health and military officials in the state.

All media are invited to the V.I.P. reception and press conference from 9:30 a.m. to noon on Thursday, July 30, 2009 at PSJA High School, 805 W. Ridge Road in San Juan.

“Many people do not have access to health care. Operation Lonestar provides an opportunity for parents and their children to get preventative screenings for ailments such as diabetes and heart disease, take physicals and learn about state programs that can help them,” Commissioner Palacios said.

State health and human services workers will provide information about health and wellness programs to prevent substance abuse, help people with disabilities and protect vulnerable children and adults. Local nonprofit organizations also will have staff available to provide information about their services.

“Healthy bodies make healthy minds,” said Hidalgo County Judge J.D. Salinas III. “Healthy minds lead to a healthier economy. We need our kids healthy to go to school, to pay attention



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and learn the skills for their future. The Hidalgo County Commissioners Court and I are proud to host two Operation Lonestar sites in Hidalgo County this year and hope that anyone needing free medical or dental services will take advantage of this opportunity.”

Operation Lone Star also serves as a way for state and local officials to train for a medical emergency. Setting up the two-week, multi-site clinics becomes a real-time exercise on how to respond to a public health crisis.

Operation Lone Star sites will provide care from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday. For more information, call 2-1-1.

Operation Lone Star Sites for July 27–31

Brownsville: Raul A. Besteiro Middle School, 6280 Southmost Road

Peñitas: Dr. Javier Saenz Middle School, 39200 Mile 7 Road

Raymondville: Raymondville High School, 1 Bearkat Blvd.

San Juan: PSJA High School, 805 W. Ridge Road

Operation Lone Star Sites for Aug. 3–7

Laredo: Louis J. Christen Middle School, 2001 Santa Maria Ave.

Rio Grande City: Fort Ringgold Middle School, Fort Ringgold Campus

Hebbronville: Hebbronville Middle School, 910 N. Wilhelma

Operation Lone Star Mobile Site for July 29

Lasara: Lasara Community Center, 6276 6th Street

Operation Lone Star Mobile Site for Aug. 4–5

Zapata: Zapata Community Center, 607 N. Hwy 83

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