



Hospice Advantage Flint, MI

An event was planned in Flint, MI to honor WWII Veterans. The first person Spiritual Care Coordinator at Hospice Advantage thought of was 1st Lt. Floyd Coffield, a patient that flew B-24 bombers in Italy during WWII.

Hospice staff had a "USAF" hat made for Floyd to wear to the event, along with the items that Floyd had from his Air Force career. Floyd was accompanied by his eldest son, Dan, and a hospice staff member also an USAF Veteran.

Floyd was able to meet over ninety of his fellow Veterans, share his story with them, and hear their personal stories. He had flown fifty-one successful missions over Italy. He barely made it back to base one time when his plane was so shot up it only had 2 quarts of oil left to run 4 engines! He now possesses the key to the plane as a memento. According to Floyd, his greatest concern before each mission was, "to get myself and my men back alive." He is now listed among the heroes of Genesee County WWII Veterans. The following week was Floyd's 95th birthday.

With permission from his family, Hospice Advantage took the lead to plan a birthday party for him. They purchased decorations and arranged for a large cake to be made with the USAF symbol on it. Many who attended the celebration said they'd never seen such a beautiful cake before! On that Sunday his entire family and the residents of his AFC home gathered for a birthday party in his honor. He was extremely pleased. The greatest gift volunteers receive out of serving a wonderful patient like Floyd, was seeing all his grandchildren and great-grandchildren lined up to give Grandpa a big hug and a kiss

By Jim Salo, Spiritual Care Coordinator Hospice Advantage Flint, MI