



WE HONOR VETERANS

Medi Home Hospice, Saint Clairsville, OH

Medi Home Hospice offer volunteer services to patients who wish to receive them. Volunteer services can be different activities depending on the patient's needs and desires. Some patients enjoy conversation, being read to, having their nails painted, planting flowers, making a pie, or making a memory journal. The staff at Medi Home Hospice try to find out what the patient would enjoy and then provide those opportunities.

In February 2015, the volunteer coordinator met the Nedley's. The patient Jim, began sharing stories about his past. Jim had served in Vietnam when he was very young. While serving his country he met a fellow soldier named James White. Jim and James became fast friends. They served in the same platoon together. In April, 1968, their platoon was called out to battle. During that battle, Jim watched his best friend James become a casualty of the Vietnam War. Jim stayed with James until helicopters were able to find them in the field and land safely. James' body was loaded on the helicopter with the other casualties, but there wasn't enough room for Jim. Jim then waited for several hours to be picked up by another helicopter; he has never forgotten that day.

Jim finished his tour in Vietnam and returned to the states, but he didn't receive the welcome he deserved. Some Americans were upset with the Vietnam Veterans and weren't afraid to express their anger. Jim was a victim of their emotions. Since he didn't feel welcome in the U. S., he decided to sign up for a second tour in Vietnam.



James's White Military Photo

Once back in the United States, Jim began a new life after the war. However, he still thought about his friend James often. Because James had meant so much to Jim, he decided to find James' family so he could tell them that James died a hero and that he was a great friend.

Jim went to Florida to begin his search, but he knew very little about his buddy. All he knew about his friend's life before the war was that James' hometown was Pensacola, Florida. Jim purchased a home in Florida and began his search. The determined Veteran made several

attempts to find James' family but each attempt was unsuccessful. Jim continued to live his life but he never forgot his friend. From time to time, as he was able, he continued to periodically look for James' family. A few years ago, Jim became sick, so he and his wife moved to Ohio to be closer to family. And that's how he became a patient of Medi Home Hospice.

Jim asked Medi Home Hospice volunteers to help him find his friend's family. Close contacts began researching what they could at the Veteran's office. They called the state capitol of Florida and the county health department in Pensacola. All of these attempts were unsuccessful. James White was then located on the Vietnam Memorial website, and it gave information that that James was buried at the Pensacola Memorial Cemetary. Medi Home



Jim Nedley at the Vietnam Memorial

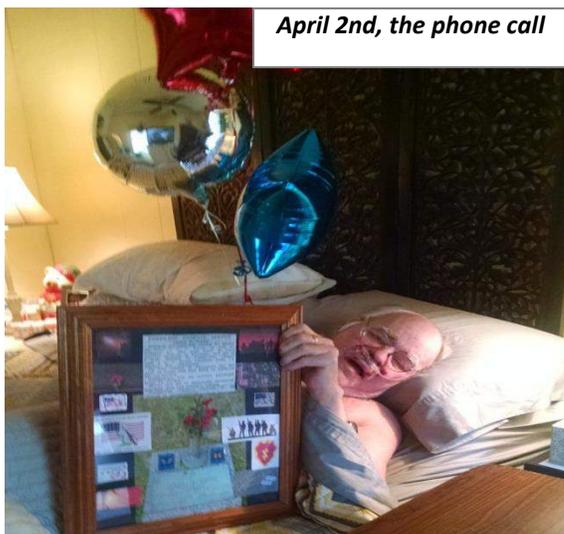
hospice was finally making progress when it was confirmed by the cemetery that James was buried there. Jim saw a picture of James' headstone and was thrilled.

The picture was framed and placed on his table in his room. After discovering the funeral home that performed James' services, Medi Home Hospice received an envelope with information of James White's mother.

It listed five daughters and eight pallbearers. This was a great lead. The pieces of the puzzle were beginning to come together. However, it was still hard to find

someone to contact. Medi Home's volunteer began calling anyone with any of the names listed on the obituary that lived in Florida or Alabama. If no one answered they'd leave a message explaining the purpose of the call.

One day the hospice received a message from a woman that said her husband was interested in talking with the hospice because he had an uncle named James White. Two of James' sisters were still living and one of them was this man's mother. Jim would finally have the opportunity to talk the family that he had waited 47 years to meet.



April 2nd, the phone call

The following day, the hospice volunteer picked up some red, white, and blue balloons on the way to Jim's house. Jim was already set to make the call. The volunteer eagerly called James' sister and had the privilege of introducing her to Jim Nedley, her brother's fellow soldier and never-forgotten friend. There were many emotions blossoming in the room. Jim was able to answer the questions James' sister had about James' last day. It was probably comforting to hear that her brother did not suffer and that

he had a friend by his side. She thanked Jim many times for taking care of her brother, and said it felt like her brother had come home after 47 years. This day would never be forgotten for those who were present.

Since that initial phone call, on April 2, 2015, Jim has talked to James' nephew, and regularly talks to James' sisters. James' sister sent a picture of James. Medi Home Hospice finally had the opportunity to see the man they had looked for the past several months. The photo was scanned and submitted to the Virtual Vietnam Wall. James needed to be honored. Now when someone looks James' name up they will also be able to see his photo. The photo was also framed and delivered to Jim. Jim held the photo against his heart as tears ran down his face.

Volunteers at Medi Home Hospice have learned many things throughout this amazing journey. They have learned more about the Vietnam War and how many Veterans and their families still struggle with the losses that they endured during that war. The soldiers who served still have wounds that have not healed. Vietnam Veterans were not welcomed home with parades and cheers but with insults and anger. Medi Home Hospice will never forget these two men, their families, and all who served.

Submitted by: Michelle Reven- Volunteer Coordinator at Medi Home Hospice