



WE HONOR VETERANS

**Mesilla Valley Hospice, Inc.
Las Cruces, NM: Level Four partner**

Mesilla Valley Hospice held a special Memorial Day Service in the chapel of La Posada, their in-patient hospice house. The service was attended by community Veterans and civilians as well as Mesilla Valley Hospice visitors, staff and volunteers. Mesilla Valley Hospice created a poppy field in their Veterans Garden to pay tribute to the famous war poem "In Flanders Fields". The poem was read during the service by their Associate Medical Director who is himself a Veteran.

An Honor Flight Alumni led the hospice in the Pledge of Allegiance, and one of the volunteers played the piano and led the hospice in singing the National Anthem. The piano was draped with the patriotic quilt that the Mesilla Valley Hospice uses for their Honor Walk ceremonies.



The hospice assembled a Battlefield Cross that truly honored all Veterans. The bayonet was from WWI, the rifle was used in WWII, the boots were Vietnam issued, and the helmet saw action in Desert Storm. The dog tags were from a United States Marine Corp Korean War Veteran who passed away while in their hospice service on May 2nd. His wife is shown in the photo of the Battlefield cross with one of their volunteers. The widow is also a United States Marine Corp Veteran.



Mesilla Valley Hospice had a Memorial Wreath of greens and a basket of red roses near the chapel altar. Attendees at the service were invited to place a rose on the wreath in remembrance of a loved one. The wreath and roses were moved to the hospice's dining room after the service where family members and visitors continued to place roses on wreath throughout the day. The service concluded with two students from one of the local high schools playing Silver Taps.

Submitted By: Cathy Olson, Mesilla Valley Hospice