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# WE HONOR VETERANS

AN NHPCO NEWSLETTER FOR  
WE HONOR VETERANS

## A QUILT OF KINDNESS

Judi Cureton of Amedisys Hospice in Morristown, Tennessee, lives each day by giving back to the Veterans she encounters, and it has always been a special passion of hers. Why? "It is the least we can do for them – we owe them. I love my job," she stated.

Judi's passion for helping Veterans and giving back to her community made her think outside the box when reaching out to local agencies to help Veterans. She wanted to help Veterans in any way she could, which led her to Kathleen VanOrsdel, a USAF Vietnam era Veteran, hospice volunteer and leader of the local Quilts of Valor group.

With her passion, along with needle and thread in hand and a year and a half of hard work, Judi finished her first Quilt of Valor. Once a quilt is completed, the local Quilts of Valor group of Jefferson City, Tennessee, blesses the quilt before it is given to the Veteran.

In December of 2018, Judi was called to present her first Quilt of Valor to a Veteran who was declining quickly. Judi rounded up some of her Veteran volunteers including Mr. Ed Franklin, a Vietnam Veteran, and Major Ron Ward of the East Tennessee Honor Guard to help honor the Veteran.

While at the presentation ceremony, Judi learned that she and the Veteran being honored had something in common – he was a 1959 USNA graduate, and Judi's nephew Austin was a 2018 graduate of the USNA. She also learned that the Veteran's son is retiring from the US Navy, and his granddaughter serves in the Air Force. Judi's presentation of her quilt was a special tribute to his service and family before he died the next day. Judi feels blessed to have these opportunities from Amedisys Hospice, We Honor Veterans and Quilts of Valor to give back. Judi is a true example of a Veterans' champion. Amedisys Hospice of Morristown is a We Honor Veterans Level 4 partner and is working on its Level 5 certificate.



Judi Cureton

If you have a Veteran story you would like to share, please email [veterans@nhpco.org](mailto:veterans@nhpco.org).  
Your story could be featured in this newsletter.



## METHODIST HOSPICE VOLUNTEER AWARDED VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Since 2009, Mr. Ralph Post, a Veteran of the Army Air Force, has been giving back to his fellow Veterans in his community. At 93 years old, he visits others who have served by listening and reminiscing about their time in service, as well as providing comfort and support at the end of their lives. Methodist Hospice is a We Honor Veterans Level 4 hospice partner.

*Ralph Post receiving Methodist Hospice Volunteer of the Year Award*

## DIGNITY MEMORIAL, FOUNDING COMMUNITY PARTNER, ASSISTING WITH REPATRIATION OF WWII SAILOR

Vancouver Funeral Chapel in Washington State will be assisting with the repatriation of a World War II Sailor. US Navy Musician 2nd Class Francis E. 'Ham' Dick was killed during the attack on Pearl Harbor, 1941. He was accounted for on September 5, 2018. Funeral services will be held February 13, 2019 with his final resting place in Vancouver Barracks Cemetery.

*Francis E. 'Ham' Dick*



## SUTTER CARE AT HOME HOSPICE HONORS THOSE WHO SERVED

Sutter Care at Home Hospice Veterans' champions, staff and volunteers hosted multiple special events and pinning ceremonies during Veterans Day weekend and throughout the week.

*Pam Kitani, SCAH volunteer with therapy dogs Patrice and Nick; Margaret Ervin; SCAH CEO Jan Potts; and SCAH volunteer Col. Pat Thompson*



## CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

In honor of Black History Month, NHPCO staff members shared photos of their loved ones who served.



*Captain Cassius Alonzo Harris III, Tuskegee Airman. Photo shared by NHPCO Solutions Coordinator and grandson Cassius Harris.*



*Ronnie Watson, Sr., Marine Corps. Shared by NHPCO Executive Office Coordinator and wife Trayvia Watson.*

## A VETERAN'S DREAM TAKES FLIGHT

A General and a gentleman is how anyone would describe Mr. Dave Woellner. A life many cannot imagine. However, through life's many obstacles and hardships he always demonstrated kindness. During World War II he was a Brigadier General, where he spent two years at a German POW camp. He continued to serve in both the Korean and Vietnam conflicts - a true example of someone from the greatest generation.



*Mr. Dave Woellner*

Summit Hospice, a We Honor Veteran Level 4 partner, made his dream come true by giving him a chance to fly the plane he trained on. Ena Barrise, manager of volunteer services, helped coordinate this opportunity for Dave. Helping Veterans at the end of life gleams through Ena's dedication to make his dream and any other Veteran's dream come true.

One day, while Dave was talking about his plane being shot down over Germany during World War II, she asked, "Weren't you scared?" He replied, "What purpose would that have served, at that moment I was enjoying the countryside."

Ena describes Dave as, "someone who has a very upbeat personality and cares so much about others. He always has words of wisdom, no matter the subject. He leaves you breathless. His presence is immaculate and everyone surrounding him feels it. When you're with him, you know you're in the presence of a brilliant man." He likes to surround himself with people who can have deep conversations. When he is in care, he always wants to help others.

Besides his remarkable military career, he mentored many ROTC young adults and is always a guest of honor at Luke Air Force Base in Litchfield, Arizona. Dave was also honored with a pinning ceremony, gun salute and flag ceremony at LAFB. His chance to go back to relive his youth was filmed by HBO in a feature about patients in hospice, which is expected to air in 2019, according to Ena.

"If we can take away even one thing from Mr. Woellner, it is to be kind to one another," Ena said. Summit Hospice in Phoenix is currently working on its Level 5 certificate.

To learn more about this great event, visit [www.summithcs.org/our-volunteers](http://www.summithcs.org/our-volunteers).

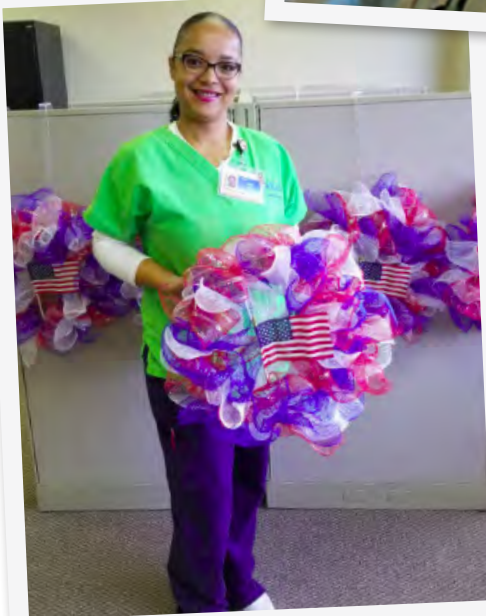
## WHAT'S TO COME IN 2019

Thank you to all our partners who participated in our annual partner survey. We want to know how we're doing and most importantly that we are providing the resources and support to best help you serve your Veteran patients and their families. Here are a few things to come in 2019:

- Partners responded that their top three areas of educational need are Hospice-Veteran Partnerships (HVPs), understanding VA Benefits, and caring for Vietnam Veterans. We will be holding webinars to cover each of these areas and creating short, easy-access guides to accompany these resources.
- Many responded that they would utilize a regional mentor, something that we have been developing as part of the Level 5 requirements. If you would like to reach out to a Level 5 mentor with general questions, specific activities or just for advice, contact information is on our [Level 5 Partners Page](#).
- We are working closely with our colleagues at the VA to develop protocols that will guide end-of-life care for Vietnam Veterans. These protocols will be available later this year. If you are interested in participating in a focus group to guide these protocols, please let us know at [veterans@nhpco.org](mailto:veterans@nhpco.org).



*Hospice Welcome Home Event,  
Hospice of the Chesapeake*



*Health Aide April Martin of Lenoir  
City, TN Caris Healthcare office.  
Special Project: Wreaths made to  
give out to Veterans on Veterans  
Day 2018.*

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

### PARTNER NETWORKING CALL

**Register now** for our next Partner Call on March 20th from 2-3:30pm (EST)

*March 20th from  
2:00 - 3:30 EST*

### WELCOME HOME VIETNAM VETERANS DAY

Don't forget that March 29 is recognized as Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day! Thinking of hosting an event? We're here to help – find [event planning tools](#) as well as our [Advocacy Toolkit](#) to invite your representatives on the Partner Resources page. Please reach out if you need more information or event planning ideas!

### ARE YOU IN THE TEXAS OR NEW MEXICO AREA?

On May 6-7, WHV in partnership with the Texas and New Mexico Hospice Organization and Level 5 Partner Curo Health of San Antonio, will be hosting a We Honor Veterans Conference in Austin, TX. For more information, contact [veterans@nhpco.org](mailto:veterans@nhpco.org).

### HOSPICE AND PALLIATIVE CARE LEADERSHIP & ADVOCACY CONFERENCE

It's not too late to register for NHPCO's [Leadership and Advocacy Conference](#). Drs. Scott Shreve and Tom Edes from the VA will be co-presenting a session on Vietnam-Era Veterans. Also, consider attending the National Hospice Gala! The live appeal at the gala will be in support of NHPCO's Veteran Services. Learn more about the gala on NHP's [website](#).