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WE HONOR VETERANS

AN NHPCO NEWSLETTER FOR
WE HONOR VETERANS

WELCOME HOME VIETNAM VETERANS DAY 2019

In 2017, the Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Act established the National Vietnam War Veterans Day to be celebrated each year on March 29. Many of our We Honor Veterans partners from all levels participated in or hosted Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day events. A Welcome Home event is not only important for hospice patients, it is important for the community, as well. Events ranged from 30 to 900 people in attendance.

Many Veterans of the Vietnam era were not treated with respect upon their return home. They've shared stories of removing their uniform and changing back into civilian clothes upon their arrival in the states. Our We Honor Veteran partners throughout the country have made this day special for the Vietnam Veterans in their care and in the community. Thank you to all of our partners who hosted Welcome Home events and submitted stories. We cannot wait to see more Welcome Home events throughout the year!

Partner Highlights

Gilchrist

Gilchrist Hospice Care of Hunt Valley, MD was pleased to host over 900 people on March 30 to Welcome Home Maryland Vietnam Veterans. The event was held under the command of CSM Uribe-Huitron and included over 100 soldiers from Aberdeen Proving Ground, Midshipmen from the United States Naval Academy and Marine Barracks, as well as the future military with the Young Marines. The most moving salute happened while Taps played to honor the Vietnam Veterans who are no longer with us. The Veterans in the room shouted out their names or said them silently to themselves. It was a powerful way to honor and remember their fallen brothers and sisters.

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Partner Highlights

Hospice of Alliance, Inc.

Hospice of Alliance, Inc of Pleasant Prairie, WI recognized over 60 Vietnam Veterans on March 29 at two services thanking them, welcoming them home and giving them a pin signifying their service. The POWs from that era were also recognized.



Bethesda Hospice Care

Bethesda Hospice Care of St. Louis, MO held their 1st Annual Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Celebration breakfast. Vietnam Veterans and their guests were invited to attend this celebration and ceremony to be recognized for their service. Gary Moore, a representative from the St. Louis Veterans Administration Office, and his colleague Theresa Stanhaus called each Vietnam Veteran's name to come up to the front to receive a 50th Anniversary Vietnam War lapel pin during the pinning ceremony.



Hospice of the West

Hospice of the West of Phoenix, AZ paid tribute to five Vietnam War Veterans in an intimate ceremony at an assisted living home. Family members, caregivers and neighbors were present to honor the sacrifices and service these heroes made for our country. Two widows of Vietnam War Veterans also attended. The ceremony was filled with meaningful words, tears and affection between guests. Various members of the hospice interdisciplinary team conducted the ceremony, which guests described as moving, beautiful and memorable. The ceremony included time for reflection and prayer, a special poem reading, remembrance wreath activity, presentation of medals and certificates, and living tribute trees.



Grace Hospice Cincinnati

Grace Hospice Cincinnati was invited to the Gailey VFW Post in Cincinnati to honor and welcome their Vietnam Veterans home on Vietnam War Veterans Day. Veterans and their spouses were honored with a pinning and lunch. "We are proud to be involved with our SW Ohio VFW and Veterans from three counties were present," said Shelby Duncan, volunteer coordinator at Grace Hospice.



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

EARN YOUR STARS

Already a We Honor Veterans partner program? We know that your organization is committed to providing Veteran-centric care to the Veteran patients you serve each and every day. If your program is ready to move up through the levels to increase your ability to serve your Veteran patients, [contact us](#) today. You can learn about the different [We Honor Veteran partner levels here](#).

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Are you part of a non-hospice organization that would like to join the mission to provide support for Veterans in your community? [Contact us to learn how you can become a Community Partner](#).

SPONSORSHIPS

Interested in learning how you can support the We Honor Veterans program beyond becoming a partner? Individuals or organizations interested can [contact us](#) to hear about sponsorship opportunities.



WE HONOR VETERANS
Sponsor

PARTNER RESOURCES AND REMINDERS



NO VETERAN DIES ALONE TRAINING VIDEOS AVAILABLE

In partnership with PyschArmor we have completed two videos based on the No Veteran Dies Alone volunteer training units:

[“Introduction to Hospice and Palliative Care”](#) and [“Concepts of Death, Dying, and Grief.”](#)

FOCUS GROUP: SEEKING VIETNAM VETERANS AND FAMILIES AND/OR CAREGIVERS IN YOUR CARE

The first phase of the focus group has been completed. Thank you to those who participated! Below you will find some takeaways from the nurses' interviews.

- Hospice nurses are eager for additional information, training and tools
- The Vietnam Veteran has unique needs that present challenges to giving them the best end-of-life care
- All Veterans should be honored but they don't all want to be honored the same way

Exciting things are happening, and we would like to interview a handful of Vietnam Veterans and their families and/or caregivers in your care. We are looking for interviewees who are willing to share a bit about their experiences and needs to ensure that Vietnam Veterans are getting the care that they want and deserve. The interview should only take about 30 minutes and will be conducted virtually – we will handle the logistics and technical aspects.

The success of this project will be greatly determined by partner participation; this will not take much time and your input and help would be greatly appreciated. If you are interested, please let us know at veterans@nhpco.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

In part of our ongoing work to improve care for Vietnam Veterans at the end of life, we will be offering webinars with subject matter experts. The Department of Veterans Affairs developed three workgroups focusing on three curricula: PTSD, suicide prevention, and moral injury specifically for Vietnam-era Veterans on hospice. Over the summer months We Honor Veterans will have these webinars available to partners and a live Q&A from subject matter experts. Keep a lookout for more information on how to sign up.





FUNDS RAISED FOR VETERAN SERVICES AT NHF GALA

The National Hospice Foundation Gala was held Tuesday, April 16 at the Washington Marriott Wardman Park in Washington, D.C. in conjunction with NHPCO's Leadership and Advocacy Conference. Over 450 guests gathered for a night of celebration that included a fundraising live appeal for NHPCO's Veteran Services.

Nearly \$50,000 was raised to support the work that NHPCO is doing to help improve the care that Veterans receive at the end of life. We Honor Veterans was featured prominently as a successful example of these efforts.

During the event, Veterans in the audience were honored during a touching pinning ceremony. About 25 Veterans were pinned by NHPCO leadership and representatives from the Department of Veterans Affairs.



TOP: NHPCO President and CEO Edo Banach pins a Veteran and gala guest.



BOTTOM: VA National Director of Hospice and Palliative Care Dr. Scott Shreve participates in the pinning ceremony.

VITAS HONORS VETERANS AT CAPE CANAVERAL NATIONAL CEMETERY



Fred Robinson, VITAS admissions liaison and former Marine, is pictured with representatives from the Vietnam Unforgettable Memories Foundation.

**Submitted by: Crystal Decker, Public Relations Specialist,
VITAS Healthcare**

The Cape Canaveral National Cemetery hosted a late March "Sea to Shining Sea" event that honored Veterans who served during the Vietnam War period and also promoted healing for Veterans, their families and grateful South Vietnamese refugees.

With support from VITAS® Healthcare, the names of 602 Vietnam-era Veterans who were buried in the cemetery between Jan. 1, 2018 and March 29, 2019 were read aloud during a 50th Commemoration of Vietnam Veterans Ceremony. Women from the Vietnam Unforgettable Memories Foundation helped distribute 50th anniversary commemorative pins to nearly 100 Vietnam Veterans, a token of their gratitude to U.S. soldiers who rescued them at the war's end in 1975.