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WE HONOR VETERANS

AN NHPCO NEWSLETTER FOR
WE HONOR VETERANS

VETERANS DAY PINNING CEREMONY WITH SUMMIT HOSPICE

By: Emily Marge, Veterans Services Associate

We Honor Veterans partners know the importance of honoring Veterans throughout their community. I had the opportunity to attend a Veterans Day event at Westminster Village with Ena Barrise from Summit Hospice in Scottsdale, Arizona. Ena's kindness was infectious and every interaction between her and the Veterans who attended was pure and meaningful. Summit team members truly care for the Veterans they serve and Veterans in their community.

While waiting for Ena's grandkids, I watched Ena approach one woman asking if she would be attending the Veterans Day event. She is one of many female Veterans at this facility. She mentioned she was unsure about attending. Ena and I asked her some questions about where she served and what her duties were. We didn't want to pressure her to attend, however, some part of me knew she would.

Ena's grandkids arrived ready to have a big part during the ceremony. Throughout the crowd, I saw some Veterans in the original uniforms they wore during their service. The tears started to flow when a Coast Guard Veteran, in his original uniform, started to sing the loudest in the room along with the guest singer performing God Bless America. As I looked around the room, I saw Veterans with their spouses, friends and family holding hands and gazing at each other with appreciation in their eyes.

Before the pinning ceremony, the oldest Veteran in the room was gifted a folded American flag from the youngest audience members. Ena's grandkids, Beau and Sawyer, presented the flag to a World War II Veteran who was 98 years old. They thanked each other, and it's something they won't forget. Then, Air Force Veteran Guy Brilando gave the last speech. He talked about his service and the importance of Veterans Day to him as a Veteran. He mentioned how he was drawn to an article written about World War I Veterans, and how he was upset they didn't get the recognition like many Veterans do today. He talked about how all Veterans have contributed to the freedom we experience today.

After assisting with pinning Veterans around the room, I saw the female Veteran from earlier standing proud with her American Flag pin, smiling ear to ear.



Ena Barrise and her grandsons Sawyer and Beau honor the oldest Veteran in the room with a folded American flag.

VETERAN-TO-VETERAN VOLUNTEER HONORED AT INTERDISCIPLINARY CONFERENCE

During the 2019 Interdisciplinary Conference in Orlando, Florida, four outstanding hospice volunteers were honored during the presentation of the *Volunteers are the Foundation of Hospice Awards*. Gerald "Jerry" Haines was given the Specialized Service Award for his volunteer service at Heart 'n Home Hospice & Palliative Care in Fruitland, Idaho.

Jerry Haines was born in 1936 and has dedicated his life to service. He spent 25 years serving his country, retiring at age 41 as a Major in the Army National Guard. His civilian life has been filled with opportunities to help others including volunteering with his church, local senior center and Veteran advocacy groups. Jerry began his service with Heart 'n Home Hospice in 2014 and participates in Veteran pinning ceremonies. Jerry arrives at each event in full dress uniform, thanks the Veteran for their service, salutes the Veteran and pins an American Flag on their shirt. He often follows up with return visits.



WE HONOR VETERANS AT THE INTERDISCIPLINARY CONFERENCE

Thank you to all who attended the WHV Partners roundtable at IDC last month. It was a pleasure getting to meet all of you. We had great discussions on service-related illness presented by Lt. Joseph Vitti, supervisor of the Veterans Program at Visiting Nurse Service of New York. Also in attendance at our meeting and throughout all of IDC, we had researchers from the Department of Veteran Affairs Boston Healthcare System interviewing hospices in rural areas on caring for Veterans. Attendees talked about different ways their program honors Veterans in care and throughout the community.

Pictured are WHV partners and Lt. Joseph Vitti, supervisor of the Veterans Program at Visiting Nurse Service of New York, during the We Honor Veterans round table meeting at IDC November 5, 2019. (Top photo)

Pictured are Dr. Zachary Sager, MD, MA from VA Boston Healthcare System and Lynn Korsun, research assistant from VA Boston Healthcare System. Not pictured is Dr. Anica Pless Kaiser, Ph.D. (Bottom photo)



Jerry Haines is pictured with Heart 'n Home Hospice & Palliative Care team members Gwen Bennion and Kandice Dickinson.

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

PARTNER RESOURCES AND UPCOMING WEBINARS

UPCOMING WEBINARS

Did you miss the first two webinars in our series aimed at caring for Vietnam Veterans? *Suicide Prevention* and *Moral Injury* are both up on our Webinars page under **Educational Resources**. *PTSD* will be coming in December, please keep an eye out for your registration link.

Registration is now open for our next webinar on December 5th, 4:30-5:30 pm (EST), *"Thank You" is Not Enough: Helping Veterans Unburden at the End of Life*. This webinar, presented by Deborah Grassman of Opus Peace and featuring WHV partners, will help participants understand how end-of-life ceremonies need to do more than thank a Veteran; they need to facilitate the unburdening process. [Register here](#).

All WHV webinars are posted on the WHV website [here](#) for free on demand viewing. While we will not be offering continuing education credits, this will count towards your WHV partner activity education requirements.



WE HONOR VETERANS ANNUAL REPORT NOW AVAILABLE

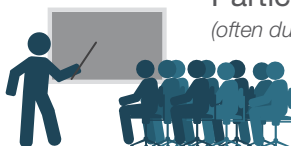
The We Honor Veterans team is happy to share partner highlights and accomplishments from the year. We encourage partners to use this snapshot as a resource to showcase the incredible work you all contribute to and are a part of.

14.2%
Increase in Level
3 & 4 Partners
Over the Last Year



SELF-REPORTED HOSPICE PARTNER DATA

38,090 Staff Training
Participants
(often duplicate staff)



42,004
Community Outreach
Training Participants

(venues include churches, homeless shelters, assisted living facilities, etc.)

LEVEL 4 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

100 Hospice Partners Earned Their Level 4 Star in 2018



717
Vet-to-Vet
Volunteers



20,023
Veterans Served
During Military
History Checklist
Evaluation



28%
of Veteran
Patients
Enrolled in
VA



19%
of Veteran
Patients Receive
VA Benefits

BREAKDOWN OF VETERANS SERVED

28% WWII	1% Gulf War
25% Korea	12% Peace Time
3% Cold War	<1% Afghanistan/Iraq (OEF/OIF)
21% Vietnam	10% Other

Download your copy of the [We Honor Veterans 2019 Annual Report](#) now!



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 HIGHLIGHTS: VETERANS DAY EVENTS

We were thrilled to see so many of our partners put on special events to recognize the Veterans in their care and in their community for Veterans Day. Here are a few photos we received highlighting some of those events.

VITAS team members pose for a photo after creating 50 personalized care packages for active US service members in Afghanistan. (Top photo)

Interim HealthCare team hosted a Veterans Day event at Homestead of Crestview ALF. Pictured from left: Jacob Berry, Heights High School Jr. ROTC; Kit Berry, Chaplain, We Honor Veterans Coordinator and Army Veteran; Ryan Peter Jackson, Chaplain and Active Duty Air Force. Seated is Eldon Graham, WWII Army Air Corps Veteran. (Bottom left photo)

Carter Rardon, retired Army Capt. Jim Welday, and retired Army Col. Bert Rice, members of Hospice of the Chesapeake's We Honor Veterans committee, gratefully accept colorful thank you cards written by Jones Elementary School students to Veteran patients of the nonprofit. (Bottom right photo)

