



## CONTENTS

A Vietnam Veteran's Final Wish Granted |  
**PAGE 1**

We Honor Veterans 2018  
Annual Report | **PAGE 2**

We Need Your Help | **PAGE 2**

We Honor Veterans Level 5 | **PAGE 2**

WHV Has a New Team Member! | **PAGE 3**

Thank You to ALL our Partners  
for a Great 2018! | **PAGE 4**



# WE HONOR VETERANS

AN NHPCO NEWSLETTER FOR  
WE HONOR VETERANS

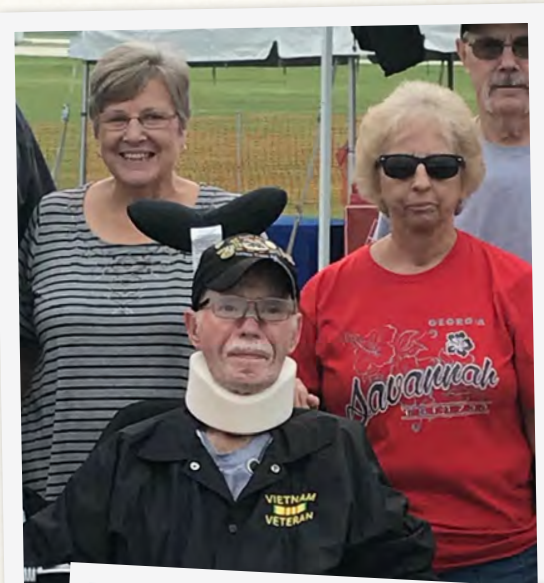
## WE HONOR VETERANS PARTNERS IN ACTION

### A Vietnam Veteran's Final Wish Granted

Hospice of the Wabash Valley, a We Honor Veterans Level 4 partner, honored a Vietnam Veteran's last wish - reuniting him with the Dirty Half Dozen. Staff members at Hospice of the Wabash Valley worked relentlessly to make Mr. Ken Dierdorf's last wish come true.

Mr. Dierdorf was diagnosed with Lou Gehrig's disease in 2010 and wasn't going to let that stop him from being united with his comrades one last time. Mr. Dierdorf and his friends, the Dirty Half Dozen, fought together in Vietnam. All his comrades, except for one who died last year, were able to attend. With help from Mr. Dierdorf's family, the Visiting Nurse Association and Hospice of the Wabash Valley were able to get a Bell UH-1 Iroquois "Huey" ride for the Dirty Half Dozen. Prior to the Veterans boarding the Bell UH-1 Iroquois, Wabash Valley performed a pinning ceremony for all the Veterans in attendance.

Even though Mr. Dierdorf couldn't ride with his friends, reuniting with his fellow comrades was the best gift of all. Mr. Dierdorf lived an honorable life serving in both the U.S. Army as well as the U.S. Air Force. He was a decorated war Veteran, receiving the Bronze Star. Shortly after reuniting with the Dirty Half Dozen, he fought his last battle. Mr. Dierdorf died on August 22, 2018. We would like to thank Hospice of the Wabash Valley and the Visiting Nurse Association for honoring the Veterans they serve.



Ken Dierdorf

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.

## WE HONOR VETERANS LEVEL 5



### WE HONOR VETERANS

Drumroll please...the long-awaited Level 5 program is now open to all qualifying hospice partners. Like other partner level requirements, there is an outline of required partner activities to be completed for approval. Unlike the other levels, however, Level 5 will be different – we will require partners to complete their activities on a yearly basis. You will need to be recertified year after year to keep your Level 5 certification. An announcement will go out to all partners and more information, including a commitment form to begin your Level 5 activities, can be found [here](#).

## WE NEED YOUR HELP

It's that time of year again! Each year we reach out to you, our partners, to help shape the program and ensure we are always improving. This year we are including questions that will help shape our efforts to create specific resources and protocols aimed at caring for Vietnam Veterans, so your feedback is extremely valuable. Please take a few minutes to complete our annual WHV survey [here](#).

## WE HONOR VETERANS 2018 ANNUAL REPORT

In the fall of 2018, We Honor Veterans released its 2018 annual report. Entering its 9th year, We Honor Veterans now has over 3,700 hospice partners and over 1,200 community-health based health care partners. The annual report highlights partner activities including community education programs, Vet-to-Vet volunteers, pinning ceremonies and more. We share some notable numbers from 2018 below.

**16.5%**  
Increase in Level  
3 & 4 Partners  
Over the Last Year



### SELF-REPORTED HOSPICE PARTNER DATA

**44,040** Staff Training  
Participants  
*(often duplicate staff)*

**45,934** 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



**473**  
Vet-to-Vet  
Volunteers



**6,818**  
Veterans Served  
During Military  
History Checklist  
Evaluation



**26%**  
of Veteran  
Patients  
Enrolled in  
VA



**21%**  
of Veteran  
Patients Receive  
VA Benefits

### BREAKDOWN OF VETERANS SERVED

<b>31%</b> WWII	<b>1%</b> Gulf War
<b>24%</b> Korea	<b>14%</b> Peace Time
<b>4%</b> Cold War	<b>1%</b> Afghanistan/Iraq (OEF/OIF)
<b>21%</b> Vietnam	<b>4%</b> Other

Download your copy of the [We Honor Veterans 2018 Annual Report](#) now!

# WHV HAS A NEW TEAM MEMBER!

Hi everyone, my name is Emily Marge and I'm the newest team member at We Honor Veterans. I'm very excited to be part of this team! Serving Veterans has always been a life-long passion for me since I can remember. I vividly remember the first time I ever thanked a Veteran - I was five years old at our local airshow and my father told me, "Make sure you always say thank you to our Veterans. Your grandfather and great-grandfather served in World War II, and both of your uncles served in the armed forces. Wait until you see them smile."

From that day forward, I knew what I wanted to do. Throughout my schooling, I always wanted to spread the message of honoring Veterans. If it was by making my first documentary talking to my grandmother who lost her father during World War II, to talking with World War II Veterans (including Long Island, NY's own Rosie the Riveter), it taught me how to be a better person. They gave so much for us, and even if it's a small gesture, I want them to know that I care.

In high school, one of my good friends and I established a Memorial Hall of Heroes to honor all of those who served our country and who walked our halls. I knew that my passion for serving Veterans was only the beginning. I went on to pursue a degree in political science by focusing on public service. Now I'm a masters candidate studying legislative affairs. I want to make a difference to ensure that all Veterans, from the first day of admission into hospice, are cared for. I'm very excited to be working with passionate individuals here at NHPCO, and all the WHV hospice and community partners who care about Veterans more than just on Veterans Day.

I cannot wait to talk with you all!



Emily Marge

December 19  
from 2:00 - 3:30  
pm EST

## DATES TO REMEMBER

Mark Your Calendars for our next WHV Partner Networking Call, December 19 from 2-3:30 pm (EST). [Register here!](#)

## THANK YOU TO ALL OUR PARTNERS FOR A GREAT 2018!

We're excited to share some highlights from We Honor Veterans partners from across the country!



Level 2 partner Encompass Home Health and Hospice in Utah held a Veterans Day Event November 2, 2018. They donated POW/MIA tables to several facilities throughout the state. Their event included a chaplain's prayer, patriotic songs, a description of each item on the table, and certificates of appreciation for each of the Veterans present.



Level 3 partner Community Loving Care Hospice-Wentzville helped make a Navy Veteran's final wish come true. His hospice nurse arranged for the Missouri patriot guard, Wentzville legion riders, Wentzville, MO police department and other riders to come and visit this Veteran, salute and meet him, then take him on an escorted ride.

Level 4 partner Hospice of the Chesapeake's Veteran volunteers visited the fifth-grade class at Hilltop Elementary School in Glen Burnie, Maryland. This is the fourth year the organization has done this event. The Veterans talked to the students and shared medals, ribbons and mementos.



Navy and Vietnam War Veteran Vince Zegowitz answers questions about the speed of a fighter jet and the speed of a ship from members of the fifth-grade class at Hilltop Elementary School.

Retired Navy Capt. Bill Malicki of Annapolis listens to a question from a Hilltop Elementary School student.