



## We Honor Veterans Newsletter

*Spring/Summer 2023*

### FEATURED PARTNER STORY

#### **Village Hospice Honors Purple Heart Recipient**

*Authored by Angel Gregory, Volunteer Manager in Lee's Summit, MO*

When we learned that our new patient Mr. William Wilcox served in the Army in WWII and Korea, during which time he received 11 medals, including two Silver Stars and a Purple Heart, we knew his WHV recognition had to be extra special.

Our patient's daughter hosted a big family party, so with a large group of loved ones and a few staff members present, Mr. Wilcox received a formal pinning ceremony and a baseball cap courtesy of the Post Commander of our local American Legion. We were also proud to present him with our certificate of appreciation and a special Quilt of Valor courtesy of a local volunteer.

I squatted beside our patient to speak quietly with him, and to thank him. He said it was so hard, and he didn't talk about his time of service. Then, amazingly, he held his hand out to me. I took it, and he began to open up and share some deeply personal, heartbreaking memories from his time of service. That moment of connection will stay with me for the rest of my days.



## NEWS FROM WHV

### **Women Veterans and End-of-Life Care | New Resource Page**

According to recent reports, the number of women Veterans today has reached 2.0 million, making it the fastest-growing Veteran population. To better serve this community, we have launched a new webpage dedicated solely to the needs of women Veterans. On this page, you will find valuable resources including from VA and other organizations that support women Veterans. We invite you to visit our [webpage](#) and learn more about how your organization can meet and honor their needs.

### **Happy Women Veterans Recognition Day - June 12**

We are happy to celebrate National Women's Veterans Recognition Day! This year marks the 75th anniversary of the signing of the Women's Armed Services Integration Act. Thank you to our women Veterans, their families, caregivers, and loved ones for your service. Let's honor our women Veterans and celebrate their incredible accomplishments!

### **Honoring The LGBTQ+ Veteran Community**

We continue to support our LGBTQ+ community and we're excited to share some helpful resources from the Department of Veteran Affairs, and the National Hospice & Palliative Care Organization (NHPCO) that can help hospices provide the best care possible to LGBTQ+ Veterans.

*Webinars, resources and more!*

- [NHPCO LGBTQ+ Resource Guide](#)
- [LGBTQ+ Veterans and End of Life Considerations](#)
- [Is it ever too late? Understanding LGBTQ+ Veterans at the End of Life](#)
- Download free, on-demand Department of Veterans Affairs [VHA LGBTQ+ trainings](#) and LGBTQ+ Veteran healthcare patient [education, resources and outreach materials](#).
- [Sign up](#) to get updates from the LGBTQ+ Health Program delivered right to your email.
- Did you know every VA facility has an LGBTQ+ Veteran Care Coordinator? To locate your local care coordinator, [review the directory](#).

## WHV EVENTS

### VA and WHV Building Community Connections Webinar

Register for this [upcoming webinar on June 8 from 3-4 p.m. ET](#) to learn more about resources that came out of VA's "Building Community Connections" Initiative including connecting with the right staff, Hospice-Veteran Partnership tools, and referral guidance for telemental healthcare for Veterans on hospice.

### June WHV Office Hours - June 6 & 29

Join the We Honor Veterans' team on [June 6 and June 29 from 4-4:30 p.m. ET](#) for Office Hours. WHV participants of all levels are welcome to bring questions regarding your level report, website support, and more. Sign up today!

### WHV Webinar: Conversations That Matter: Research Insights on End-of-Life Care for Women Veterans - Recording Available

Interested in learning about the about current research on women Veterans at the end of life? During this session, presenters discussed the unique challenges women Veterans face and why having these types of conversations is important. Our expert panel included Dr. Qwynn Galloway-Salazar, Army Veteran, End-of-Life Doula, Educator, and Founder of In Their Honor, LLC, and Dr. Brandon Varilek, Assistant Professor at the South Dakota State University (SDSU) College of Nursing in Sioux Falls. The [recording](#) is now available if you missed the live session.

### Upcoming Webinars and Office Hours

Want to ensure you never miss another WHV event again? Bookmark our [Events Calendar](#) to register for upcoming webinars and learn about community partner events.

## NEWS FROM VA

- [New VA Mission Statement Recognizes Sacred Commitment to Veterans, Their Families, Caregivers and Survivors](#)
- [VA National Cemetery Administration Awarded \\$1 Billion for Establishment, Expansion, Improvement, and Maintenance of Cemeteries](#)
- [VA Announced 2023 Goal to House 38,00 Veterans Experiencing Homelessness](#)
- [VA to Award \\$52.5 Million to Local Organizations Working to Prevent Veteran Suicide](#)
- [VA Announces Eligible American Indian and Alaska Native Veterans No Longer Required to Make Healthcare/Urgent Care Copayments to VA](#)
- [Veterans and Survivors File more than 500,000 Toxic Exposure-Related Benefits Claims under PACT Act](#)
- [VA Halting Launch of New Electronic Health Record to Prioritize Improvements at Sites Currently Using It](#)
- [VA and NIH Begin Join Study to Explain Chronic Symptoms of Gulf War Illness](#)
- [PACT Act Empowers New Research to Improve Veteran Health](#)
- [VA Adds 300,000 Veterans and Service Members to Veterans Legacy Memorial](#)
- [VA Announces Working with 1,000 Community Coalitions Engaged in Ending Veteran Suicide](#)
- [VA National Cemetery Administration Accepting Claims and Documents Electronically through QuickSubmit](#)

## MORE PARTNER NEWS

- [Hospice of Acadiana - Hit the Road](#)
- [Central Wyoming Hospice & Transitions Earn Fourth Star for Veterans Care](#)
- [Jason Clamme Recognized for Work to Support Area Veterans](#)
- [Veterans Honored in Memorial Service - AccentCare Michigan](#)
- [Hospice of Texarkana Hosts Picnic for Veterans](#)
- [The Compassion and Dignity of Hospice Care for Veterans - Partners in Care](#)

### **Do you have a photo or story to share?**

We want YOU to [send us any highlights](#) of your WHV program, events, or volunteer and patient stories with us. If you need assistance, please contact us at [veterans@nhpco.org](mailto:veterans@nhpco.org) and we can help with edits and publishing.

## NHPCO UPDATES AND EVENTS

- [NHPCO Examines Hospice Implications of Extension of Medicare Advantage Value-Based Insurance Design Model](#)
- [NHPCO FY2024 Hospice Wage Index and Quality Reporting Comment Letter Talking Points](#)
- [Omnibus COVID-19 Healthcare Staff Vaccination](#)
- [June 6: Chat - Bringing More to the Bedside: How to Implement a Hospice Massage Therapy Program](#) +
- [June 7: Chat - Survey Says!](#) +
- [June 8: Webinar - Safety Considerations and Strategies for In-Home Clinicians](#) \*
- [June 9: Palliative Care Office Hours](#)
- [June 13: Quality Office Hours](#)
- [June 15: Project ECHO - Breaking Down Language Barriers to Build Connection with Our Patients](#)
- [June 16: Regulatory Office Hours](#)

*\* Indicates accredited education with CE/CME credit available to live attendees.*

*+ MyNHPCO Chats are regular webinars developed by members for members. They are produced by the discipline-based MyNHPCO Steering Committees, participation is open to employees and volunteers of all NHPCO member organizations.*



[We Honor Veterans](#)

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