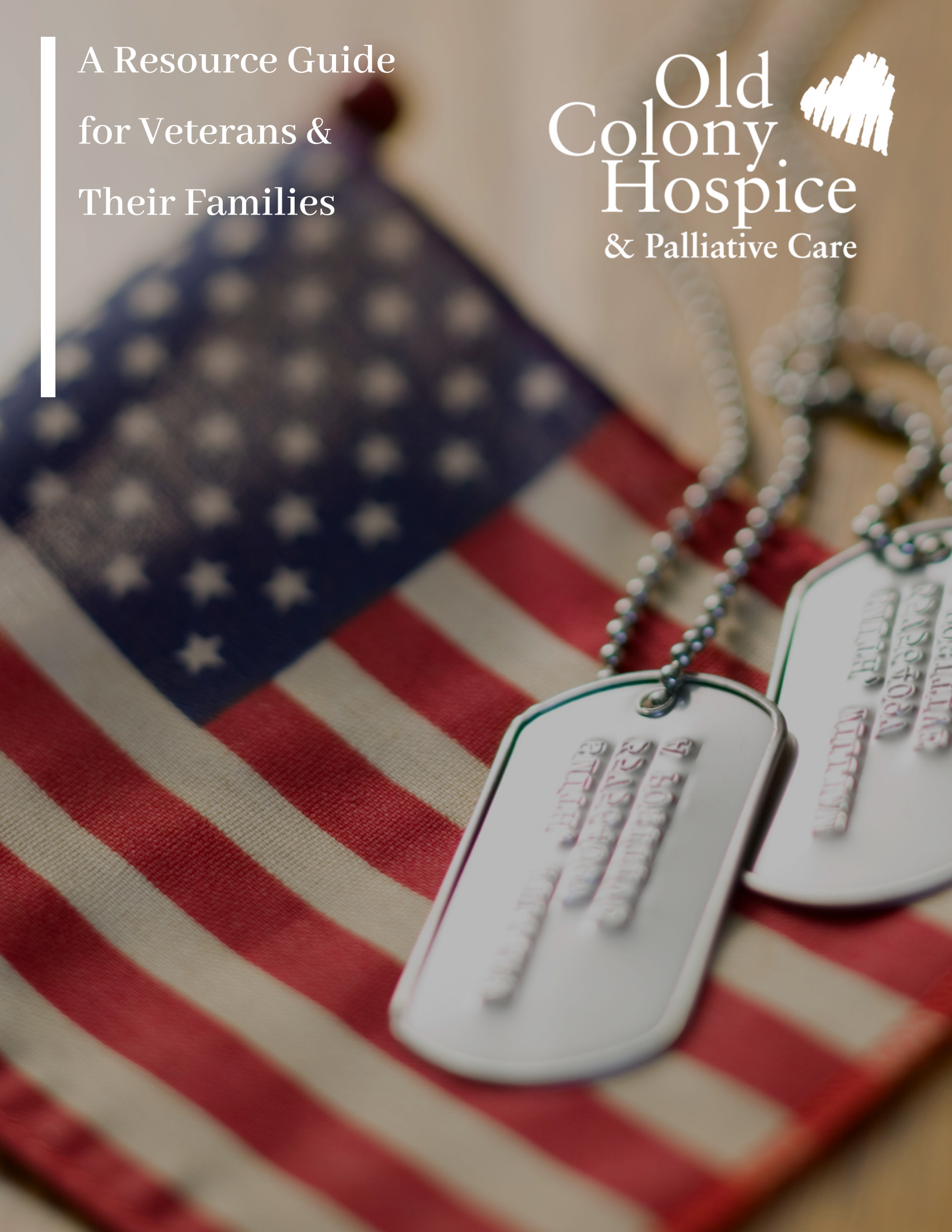


A Resource Guide
for Veterans &
Their Families

Old
Colony.
Hospice
& Palliative Care





A person is silhouetted against a bright sunset, holding a large American flag that waves in the wind. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a strong lens flare effect. The background shows a dark, rolling landscape under the twilight sky.

To our veteran patients...

At Old Colony Hospice & Palliative Care, we understand the unique end-of-life needs of our veteran patients and their families.

With more than 42 years of hospice experience, our trained and dedicated staff have had the privilege to care for hundreds of veterans.

This guide will provide you with information on end-of-life care services and details regarding our specialized veteran program.

HONORING OUR VETERANS

Veterans have a unique life story and a unique set of needs. Learning how to serve this population through the challenges they may be facing from illness, isolation or traumatic life experience is a very important part of our mission.

Our Veterans have done everything asked of them in their mission to serve our country and we believe it is never too late to give them a hero's welcome home. At Old Colony Hospice, our team has the necessary skills to care for veteran patients. We want to fulfill our mission to serve these men and women with the dignity they deserve.

The We Honor Veterans campaign provides tiered recognition to organizations that demonstrate a systematic commitment to improving care for veterans. In order to be part of the We Honor Veterans program, hospices must prove their ability to serve veterans and integrate best practices for providing end-of-life care to veterans. Old Colony Hospice was one of the first hospice organizations in Massachusetts to achieve We Honor Veterans level three status and has met stringent requirements to achieve this status by helping to improve the care that staff and volunteers provide to the veteran patients.

"Witnessing the profound relationship and bond between our veteran volunteers and veteran patients is amazing. Many families report that, through this program, it is the first time they hear their loved ones speak about their time in the service".

-Volunteer Coordinator

At Old Colony Hospice, our commitment to veterans goes beyond excellent palliative and hospice care for each patient. We are fully committed to help the patient and their family access all the appropriate benefits related to military service.





THE OLD COLONY HOSPICE TEAM

Our team of nurses, social workers, chaplains, home health aides and volunteers are trained to understand the unique end of life needs of veterans. As a 'We Honor Veterans' program partner, we are committed to learning about the individualized physical, social, and emotional and spiritual needs of our veteran patients.

We are committed to provide the highest level of care in all founding principles of hospice care:

- Comfort
- Respect
- Quality of life
- Dignity to the dying process
- Family Support

To show our appreciation and gratitude to our Veterans we also have developed the Veteran Pinning Ceremony because it is never too late to give them the recognition they deserve! All Veterans receiving hospice services have the opportunity to be recognized through a "Pinning Ceremony".

Additionally OCH has implemented a Veteran-to-Veteran Volunteer program. This program allows Veteran Patients to be paired with a veteran volunteer who may have a better understanding of what the patient has experienced.

As a Team we can also help you navigate the necessary paperwork to receive benefits.



WE HONOR VETERANS

VETERAN AFFAIRS



VETERANS ADMINISTRATION TOLL FREE PHONE NUMBERS

- VA Benefits – 1-800-827-1000
- Healthcare Benefits and Enrollment: 1-877-222-8387
- Status of Headstones and Markers: 1-800-697-6947
- Suicide Hotline: 1-800-273-TALK (8255)
- Special Issues (Gulf War-Agent Orange-Ionizing Radiation etc.) 1-800-749-8387

VA

U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

IMPORTANT WEBSITES

- General Veteran Information – www.va.gov
- Veteran Benefits Information – www.benefits.va.gov/benefits/
- Burial and Memorial Benefits – www.cem.va.gov
- VA Healthcare Information – www.va.gov/health/
- Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) – www.ptsd.va.gov
- Vet Center Program – www.vetcenter.va.gov

VA BENEFITS

- Website – www.vba.va.gov/VBA/
- To obtain correct forms - www.va.gov/vaforms/

DD-214 MILITARY SEPARATION PAPERS

- Website – www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records
- Form SF-180 is required documentation for all other benefits
www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/standard-form-180.html

LOST MEDALS

- Request medal replacement by using the eVetRecs online application
www.archives.gov/veterans/replace-medals.html#how
- For paper application use SF-180 (mail or fax)
- For online SF-180 application
www.archives.gov/st-louis/military-personnel/public/awards-and-decorations.html

BENEFITS FORMS

VA Pension, Aid, Attendance and Medical Expense

VA Form 21P-527EZ, 21P-8416, 21-2680

VA Health Enrollment

VA Form 10-10EZ

Spousal Pension, Aid and Attendance

VA Form 21-22, 21P-534EZ, 21P-8416, 21-2680

DIC or Accrued Benefits

VA Form 21-22, 21P-534EZ

Compensation for Service-Connected Injury

VA Form 21-22, 21-526EZ

Burial and Funeral Allowance

VA Form 21P-530

Advance Directive and Living Will

VA Form 10-0137

Authorization to Disclose Personal Information to a Third Party

VA Form 21-0845

Statement in Support of Claim

VA Form 21-4138

Intent to File a Claim for Compensation/Pension

VA Form 21-0966

BURIAL IN A VA NATIONAL CEMETERY

Eligible veterans, spouses and minor children may be buried at any of the 131 national cemeteries at no cost to the family.

- Website – www.cem.va.gov
- For eligibility check website – www.cem.va.gov/burial_benefits/eligible.asp

Generally, veterans who die on active duty or veterans who were discharged under conditions other than dishonorable are eligible. Spouses and minor children may also be eligible.

Your funeral director will often be able to help schedule a burial– www.cem.va.gov/burial_benefits/need.asp

PRIVATE BURIAL

Eligible veterans choosing to be buried in a private cemetery may still be eligible for burial allowances and other memorial benefits.

- Burial in a private cemetery –
www.cem.va.gov/cem/burial_benefits/private_cemetery.asp
- Burial and Interment Allowances –
www.benefits.va.gov/BENEFITS/factsheets/burials/Burial.pdf

MILITARY FUNERAL HONORS

Families or funeral directors may request military funeral honors on behalf of a deceased veteran. Department of VA National Cemetery Administration staff can also assist in arranging military funeral honors at a VA National Cemetery.

- Website – www.benefits.va.gov/BENEFITS/factsheets/burials/Burial.pdf
- Check website for eligibility.

Generally, veterans who die on active duty or veterans who were discharged under conditions other than dishonorable are eligible.

HEADSTONES AND MARKERS

The VA furnishes upon request and at no charge a government headstone or marker for the grave of any deceased eligible veteran in any cemetery around the world.

- Website – www.cem.va.gov/hmm
- Check website for eligibility. Generally, veterans who die on active duty or veterans who were discharged under conditions other than dishonorable are eligible.
- File a claim for a standard headstone – www.va.gov/vaforms/va/pdf/VA401330.pdf
- VA 40-1330 is submitted by the next of kin or representative



PRESIDENTIAL MEMORIAL CERTIFICATES

The Presidential Memorial Certificate is signed by the current president and provided to honor the memory of honorably discharged deceased veterans.

- Website – www.cem.va.gov/pmc.asp
- Eligible recipients include the next of kin and loved ones of honorably discharged deceased veterans. More than one certificate may be issued.
- You may apply by completing VA Form 40-0247 and mailing or faxing as indicated on the form.

Funeral directors will often be able to provide assistance.

UNITED STATES FLAGS

A United States flag is provided, at no cost, to drape the casket or accompany the urn of a deceased eligible veteran. Generally, the flag is given to the next of kin after its use.

- Explore eligibility and request a flag - www.cem.va.gov/burial_benefits/burial_flags.asp
- Check website for eligibility. Generally, veterans who die on active duty or veterans who were discharged under conditions other than dishonorable are eligible.
- You may apply by completing VA form 27-2008.

Generally, your funeral director will be able to assist you.



"THIS WILL REMAIN THE LAND
OF THE FREE AS LONG AS IT IS
THE LAND OF THE BRAVE"

-ELMER DAVIS



321 Manley Street

West Bridgewater, MA 02379

Phone: 781-341-4145

Fax: 781-297-7345

www.oldcolonyhospice.org

501C3 Info here

