



A program of the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization
veterans@nhpco.org | wehonorveterans.org

We Honor Veterans Newsletter

Winter 2023

FEATURED PARTNER STORY

Celebrating Veterans Day: Recognizing Veterans at the End of Life



Hospice in the Pines Veteran patients from left to right: Donald Noel, C.L. Beck, Sampson Roberson, and Ronald Mitchell

The United States recognizes November 11 as Veterans Day, a date reserved to thank those who have served our nation. In recognition of this day, We Honor Veterans partners across the U.S. commemorated Veterans in their communities as well as Veteran patients receiving hospice care. Although these events varied in their location, the central purpose of recognizing, honoring, and thanking Veterans was universal. These events also serve to highlight the diversity that exists within the Veteran population as well as among those who care for them.

Hospice organizations such as [Horizon Home Care & Hospice](#) of Milwaukee, WI and [Tidewell Hospice](#) of Sarasota, FL, observed Veterans Day by hosting numerous events across their respective states. Horizon Home Care & Hospice conducted Veterans Day ceremonies at eight different partner facilities across Wisconsin. Through these events, the Milwaukee-based organization provided pins and certificates of recognition to over 100 Veterans. Tidewell Hospice similarly strove to honor Veterans on a large scale. The Sarasota-based hospice provider recognized over 400 Veterans via twenty-five individual events throughout the week of Veterans Day. Each of these pinning ceremonies was provided Veteran to Veteran by a dedicated group of volunteers.

Other We Honor Veterans partners opted for more intimate ceremonies. [Hospice in the Pines](#) of Texas recognized Veterans receiving hospice care from a range of personal backgrounds and military involvement. The Texas-based hospice recognized the service of Donald Noel, who served two tours in Vietnam followed by 24 years as a Coast Guard enlistee, as well as C.L. Beck, who at 101 years old recalled his two-and-a-half-year service in the Navy during World War II. Each pinning was unique. Army Veteran Sampson Roberson, who thought he did not deserve recognition because he served during peacetime, was humbled by his pinning ceremony. The significance of the pinning of Ronald Mitchell, who served for over 20 years in the U.S. Army, was furthered by the involvement of his grandson, a U.S. Marine, in the ceremony.

Recognition of Veterans is hardly exclusive to We Honor Veterans hospice providers. We Honor Veterans community partners also hosted events to honor and recognize the sacrifices of Veterans. [Genesis Arden House](#) in Connecticut welcomed the Lota Chi Sigma Chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority into their Veterans Day celebration. The sorority members celebrated the Veterans of Arden House with food and conversation.

In their celebration of Veterans Day, We Honor Veterans partners demonstrated that the universal belief in recognizing and honoring those who have served our nation far outweighs the differences that exist both among Veterans and among those who care for them. Tell us about a Veteran your organization has honored or an event you've sponsored by [submitting a story!](#)



Members of the Lota Chi Sigma chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho alongside Veteran residents of Genesis Arden House in Connecticut.

NEWS FROM WHV

Welcome Torie! Veterans Services Coordinator for We Honor Veterans

We are excited to welcome Torie Ring, MSW as the WHV Veterans Services Coordinator. Torie graduated with her Master of Social Work from the University of Pennsylvania's School of Social Policy and Practice in May 2023. During her graduate studies, Torie completed two year-long internships as a medical social work intern. This included experience providing inpatient and outpatient hospice social work services, working as an individual and group bereavement counselor, completing coursework in grief and loss, and receiving a specialization in geriatric social work policy and practice.



"I'm thrilled to be here! Improving end of life care for groups with unique needs and experiences is a central passion of mine. I have had the opportunity to support and honor Veterans at end of life both in my personal and professional life and I am grateful to be able to continue to engage in this work on a national scale with We Honor Veterans!" - Torie Ring, MSW

Prior to her graduate studies, Torie worked as a Housing Case Manager. In this role she assisted households experiencing homelessness due to intimate partner violence to find and sustain permanent, safe housing. Torie also holds a Bachelor of Psychology with minors in Studio Art and Sociology from the Catholic University of America.

Torie is from Long Island, NY and currently lives in Philadelphia, PA. When she is not supporting We Honor Veterans, Torie enjoys experimenting with new crafting mediums, going on runs, and trying out local restaurants. Whether you have a question about We Honor Veterans partner requirements or just want to introduce yourself, feel free to reach out to Torie at vring@nhpco.org.

Partner Portal Closure – December 1 Through January 8

To better serve our partners, we are performing an audit on Partner Portal needs during the month of December. The portal will close December 1 at 11:59 p.m. ET and will reopen January 8 at 8 a.m. ET. During this time, partners will not be able to submit level reports and new partner registrations will not be accepted. Thank you for your patience during this time! If you have additional questions, please contact us at veterans@nhpco.org.

WHV EVENTS

Partner Networking Call – Wednesday, December 13 from 3-4 p.m. ET

Join us for our final WHV Partner Networking Call of 2023! Attendees will be updated with the most recent news from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization, and WHV partners. We look forward to welcoming Jessica Benson, of [Mynd Immersive Virtual Reality](#), and Dr. Qwynn Galloway-Salazar, Army Veteran, end-of-life doula, and founder of [In Their Honor, LLC](#), to join us and provide exciting insight into how the work they are doing is relevant

to WHV partners. Dr. Galloway-Salazar will also be introducing partner to PsychArmor's new [Caring for Veterans through End of Life online course series](#). [Register here!](#)

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.

UPDATES FROM THE VA

- [VA announces new graduate medical education program to help expand healthcare access to Veterans in underserved communities.](#)
- Exposure Ed is a free mobile app that helps healthcare providers facilitate informed discussions with Veterans about their military environmental exposures and related health concerns. [Version 2.0 of the app is available now.](#) Veterans are also invited to download this publicly available app.
- [Army Veteran, Kari Shulman, highlights the benefits embracing virtual reality has produced on her multiple sclerosis related challenges.](#)
- The National Cemetery Administration doubles the number of Veteran pages available online on the [Veterans Legacy Memorial website](#).

MORE PARTNER NEWS



A Veteran's Final Catch

A Veteran patient with [Heritage Hospice](#), a Level 5 We Honor Veterans partner, had his wish come true when he got the chance to go fishing again! This Vietnam Army Veteran was visited weekly by one of Heritage Hospice's volunteers. On one such visit, the patient recalled missing fishing with his brother. As a result of his advanced illness and limited mobility, the patient was unable to be transported. In fact, it had been over two years since he had been able to go outside. Since they could not get him to the lake, the hospice volunteer and hospice team set to work to bring the lake to him! A swimming pool, green carpet, painted scene of Cedar Creek Lake, and Blue Gill fish caught nearby by a local Veteran were brought in to make this patient's dream a reality. "I couldn't have had a better day," the patient said, reflecting on the staff's commitment to realizing his fishing aspirations.

Recent Blog Posts

Check out our recent blog spotlights of Army Veteran [Patricia Lomax](#) and Marine Corps Veteran [Gerald Pederson](#).

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 and we can help with edits and publishing.

NHPCO UPDATES AND EVENTS

NHPCO Collecting Signatures for Rural Letter to Congress

NHPCO is collecting organizational signatures from rural and frontier providers for a letter to Congress. This letter is intended to highlight the issues rural and frontier providers are facing and to begin partnership with Congress on these issues. Review the letter and sign on by Friday, December 8. If you are interested in getting more involved with rural provider issues, volunteer to be a member of the rural community steering committee. All disciplines are welcome as well as individuals who have not participated in NHPCO leadership roles previously. Email Alix Ware at aware@nhpco.org with a short introduction.

Press Room and Alerts

- [NHPCO's CaringInfo Website and Resources Now Available in Spanish](#)
- [NHPCO Recognizes National Hospice and Palliative Care Month](#)
- [NHPCO Statement: Final MCCM Report from CMS](#)
- [National Hospice Organizations Against CMS' Final Design of its Special Focus Program](#)

Upcoming Events

- December 12: Chat – [End of Life Doulas and the Hospice Team](#)
- December 12: [Quality Office Hours](#)
- December 14: [Spiritual Caregiver Community Peer-Led Support Group](#)
- December 14: Webinar – [Holiday Grief to Gratitude](#)

VA Support Resources

VA Crisis Line: 988 Select 1 if a Veteran | VA Caregiver Support Line: 855-260-3274 | VA Health Benefits Line: 877-222-8387 | [Find VA Locations](#)

If you need help finding the right contact to connect with VA telehealth resources, please contact veterans@nhpco.org.



We Honor Veterans

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