



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

We Honor Veterans Newsletter

Fall 2022

FEATURED PARTNER STORY

Caris Healthcare Honors Korean War Veteran

Submitted by Tracy Chamberland, Volunteer Coordinator for Caris Healthcare in Cookeville, Tennessee

Caris Healthcare is dedicated to honoring patients' three most important things (TMIT). When the Caris team welcomed Mr. Allen to their services they uncovered his TMIT and learned that one of them is his military career serving in the Korean War.

Mr. Allen's Volunteer Coordinator, Tracy Chamberland, did some research and learned that she could apply for the Korean War Peace Medal to be awarded to Mr. Allen to honor his service. She gathered the information needed, submitted the application, and was met with success - Mr. Allen would be recognized for his commitment to our nation.

The Caris team set up a surprise ceremony and presented Mr. Allen his medal surrounded by his family, close friends, and Caris' Veteran Volunteer. Mr. Allen was thankful for the recognition and happy to be honored in front of family and friends.

To share your story for a chance to be featured on our blog or in here in our quarterly newsletter, fill out [this form](#) with your organization's latest and greatest story!



GET READY FOR VETERANS DAY!

- [Veterans Day Outreach Materials](#)
 - Press release templates
 - Letter to the Editor templates
 - Social Media graphics
- [Virtual Pinning Ceremony Guide](#)
- [Social Media Guide for WHV Partners](#)
- [WHV Advocacy Toolkit](#)
 - Veterans Day is a great opportunity to engage your federal, state, and local representatives. For additional help, contact the Hospice Action Network at info@nhpcohan.org.
- [WHV Resources on Marketplace](#)
 - Select "Veteran"
- [WHV Event Calendar](#)
 - [View upcoming events](#)

- [Add your event to the calendar](#)

NEWS FROM WHV

Is it ever too late? Understanding LGBTQ+ Veterans at the End of Life - Free Webinar

On October 6, WHV hosted a webinar, Understanding LGBTQ+ Veterans' Considerations at the End of Life. If you missed the session live, it's not too late! View [the recording](#) now.

Partner Networking Call - Recording Available

Last week, we held our Partner Networking Call, open to participants of all WHV levels. If you weren't able to join but still want to hear the latest news from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, NHPCO, and from fellow WHV partners, [listen to the recording](#).

Upcoming Webinars and Office Hours

Want to ensure you never miss another WHV event again? Bookmark our [Events Calendar](#) to register for upcoming webinars, like [Military Culture and Spiritual Considerations in Palliative Care](#), and learn about community partner events. Our Events Calendar will also keep you up to date on one of our new offerings, [Office Hours](#), launching in November.

NEWS FROM VA

Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers Expanded

The VA's Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers has been expanded to include support for caregivers of eligible Veterans of all service areas. Previously, this program was only available to Veterans who served on or after September 11, 2001. To read more about the updates or learn about eligibility, visit the [VA's webpage](#).

PACT Act Signed into Law

The Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring Our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxins Act of 2022, or PACT Act, directly addresses the impact on Veterans and others who were exposed to environmental toxins, burn pits, radiation, and Agent Orange due to their time in service by expanding VA healthcare and benefits for eligible Veterans. If you think your patient or loved one might be eligible for PACT Act benefits, here's what you need to know:

- Apply for PACT Act-related benefits now by filing a claim with the VA.
- As announced by President Biden at the bill's signing, the VA has made all 23 presumptive conditions in the PACT Act eligible for benefits effective August 10.
- Learn more about the PACT Act by visiting [VA.gov/PACT](https://www.va.gov/PACT) or calling 1-800-MY-VA-411.

New Veteran Crisis Line

The VA has released a new crisis line number, effective July 16, 2022, for Veterans to be directly connected with qualified responders that can provide 24/7 support. To reach the line, *dial 988*, then *press 1*.

VA Acts to Close the Gap in Benefits for LGBTQ+ Veterans and their Survivors

Earlier this month, the VA announced action to improve survivor benefits of LGBTQ+ Veterans. Due to bans on same-sex marriage, many LGBTQ+ Veterans were unable to marry until Obergefell v. Hodges in 2015, despite being in "marriage-like" relationships previously. This wrongfully prevented many survivors of those LGBTQ+ Veterans from receiving survivor benefits as their Veteran spouse died before the marriage met the VA's length-of-marriage requirements. The updated guidelines count the marriage as valid beginning when the surviving spouse can establish a "marriage-type" relationship — such as a commitment ceremony, joint banking account, or joint purchase of a house. [Explore the full update here.](#)

MORE PARTNER NEWS

- [Vietnam Veteran Honored at Medal Pinning Ceremony in Viera](#)
- [Bristol Hospice of Tucson Hosts Vet-to-Vet Café](#)
- [Elite Hospice Celebrates Patient's 100th Birthday](#)
- [The Elizabeth Hospice Featured in San Diego Veterans Magazine](#)
- [Genesis Harbor Hill Center Featured in Local Newspaper](#)

Want to see your organization featured in a future newsletter? [Share your story](#) with us.

NHPCO UPDATES AND EVENTS

- [NHPCO-Led Coalition Welcomes Introduction of GRIEF ACT in Congress](#)
- [NHPCO and HAN Urge CMS to Implement More Telehealth Data Collection and Oversight](#)
- [Regulatory Alert: FY 2023 Medicaid Hospice Rates and State/County Rate Charts](#)
- [Regulatory Alert: CMS Announces 2023 Participants in MA VBID Model Hospice Component](#)
- [October 26 - Chat: Suicide in Hospice: Assessment, Intervention and Prevention - Part 2 +](#)
- [October 26 - Project ECHO: Alzheimer's Hospice Care Case Study](#)
- [October 27 - Webinar: Where the Cellular Won't Roam *](#)
- [November 2 - Chat: Child Grief Awareness and Resources +](#)
- [November 4 - Social Media Action Day for National Hospice and Palliative Care Month](#)
- [November 8 - Chat: Honoring the Veterans We Serve +](#)
- [November 9 - Chat: What Matters to Me: The Importance of Rituals in Spiritual Caregiving +](#)
- [November 16 - Chat: By the Bedside: Creating or Growing Solid 11th Hour and Respite Programs+](#)

** 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

1713 King Street, Alexandria VA 22314

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