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WE HONOR VETERANS

AN NHPCO NEWSLETTER FOR
WE HONOR VETERANS

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Submitted by: Laura Schopen, Volunteer Coordinator, Infinity Hospice Care

The staff at Infinity Hospice Care was touched recently by the power military appreciation can have on families. The organization had the privilege to honor a heavily-decorated World War II Navy combat Veteran, McKinley Frost, who had quit high school in 1943 at the tender age of 17 to join the fight. Inspired by tales his older brothers told of exotic ports, Mac, as he is commonly called by friends and family, had to beg his mother for her permission. Mac was assigned to a first-of-its-class Fleet Tanker called the USS

Escambia; their dangerous mission was to refuel the fleet in the South Pacific during and after engagements. Mac faced many dangers and threats during his two years of service from 1943 to 1945. More details about Mac's experiences and heroism can be found here: [Fueling the War at Sea](#).

In a great show of love and honor for their patriarch, a group of 15-20 of Frost's family and friends attended the event, some driving from out of state with only a few days' notice. The event had been kept a surprise, and Frost was visibly moved as he entered the room to find it full of his loved ones.

IHC Veteran volunteer Jeff Zakem, himself a retired Navy Captain, and Veteran volunteer Susan Kennedy, RN, a Vietnam-era combat medic, led the event. They gave family and friends an overview of Mac's military service, saluted and pinned him, and presented him with a certificate of appreciation. In addition, IHC presented Frost a special garden stone poured and hand-painted to look like the Navy Military Seal.

Family and friends were invited to share their own stories of Mac, not as a Navy seaman, but as a friend, grandfather and even a rascally younger brother. His sister-in-law made the room laugh with her memory of Frost, who had once tagged along on a date with his older brother and soon-to-be sister-in-law to serenade them with his clarinet.

Frost's granddaughter, who had helped organize the event, said, "The family had been just waiting for a good excuse to come together, and this was the perfect opportunity....my grandfather was so surprised and truly felt so blessed. We, as a family, cannot thank [IHC] enough."

Infinity Hospice Care is Level Four Partner.



Infinity Hospice Care staff member presents Mr. Frost with a certificate of appreciation.



Pictured are McKinley Frost and his wife.

HONORING A VETERAN CHAMPION: IN MEMORY OF ETTA NAPPI

Submitted by: Donald Pendley, Director, Hospice & Palliative Care of Home Care & Hospice Association of New Jersey and Joseph Vitti, Supervisor, Veterans Program of Visiting Nurse Service of New York

The Home Care & Hospice Association of New Jersey and Visiting Nurse Service of New York note with sadness the passing of Congetta "Etta" Nappi, 64, former Veteran Liaison for Vitas Innovative Hospice and a major force in the growth of the Hospice Veteran Partnership of New Jersey, managed by the Home Care & Hospice Association of New Jersey.

Through the HVP, Etta mentored many hospices in the development of their Veteran service programs and led many HVP education programs. Her achievements were honored at the local, state and national levels. She was well-known throughout the Veteran service community statewide.

Her family wrote, "For Etta, her most important and meaningful work was done while employed as the Veteran Liaison for Vitas Innovative Hospice. She loved 'her Vets' and worked tirelessly to honor their service and help them obtain the benefits they so richly deserve. Her efforts earned her local, regional, and national recognition in the industry. This was something she was most proud of, helping our Vets."

Joseph Vitti, an Army Veteran and Supervisor, Veterans Program of Visiting Nurse Service of New York, added, "Etta's passion and knowledge of the Veteran population was remarkable and helped thousands of Veterans and their families. Her passion and dedication helped drive awareness to the community and delivering quality healthcare to our Veterans. I can never thank Etta enough and will always look to her work to help deliver quality care to fellow Veterans."

Visiting Nurse Service of New York is a Level Four Partner.

The Home Care & Hospice Association of New Jersey is a Recruit Level Partner.



EDUCATION PROGRAMS &
PRECONFERENCE SEMINARS
NOVEMBER 2-3

MAIN CONFERENCE
NOVEMBER 4-6

2019 INTERDISCIPLINARY CONFERENCE

ORLANDO, FL

WE HONOR VETERANS AT IDC

Are you attending NHPCO's Interdisciplinary Conference being held in Orlando, Florida from November 2-6, 2019? Still on the fence about registering? There will be opportunities for We Honor Veterans partner programs to receive Veteran-focused education as this year, there will be a session presented by VA staff on suicide prevention and a roundtable discussion on hot topics in the field and within your program. All are welcome to join and participate.

Registration for IDC can be found at nhpco.org/idc2019.



Etta, pictured far right with her dog, attends the 2012 New York City Veterans Day Parade.

RESOURCES, REMINDERS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Hospice Veteran Partnerships 101

The We Honor Veterans team, along with VA staff and Level 5 partner Curio Health Services in San Antonio, held a webinar covering all things HVP. Have questions such as “What exactly is an HVP?” and “Why do I have to be a part of one?” View the recording and presentation.



Moral Injury in Vietnam Veterans: Register for Webinar Today

As part of our ongoing efforts to provide tools to care for Vietnam-era Veterans, we will be hosting three webinars in August and September with VA subject matter experts. “Moral Injury” will be held on September 11 at 2:00 pm. Register here. The remaining two webinars, as well as a partner call, will be scheduled shortly so please check the homepage of the WHV website under “Announcements” for the latest info.



VA MISSION ACT: WHAT DO PARTNERS NEED TO KNOW?

The VA MISSION Act was signed into law in 2018. The purpose of the MISSION Act is to strengthen VA's capability to deliver trusted, easy to access, high quality care at VA facilities, telehealth, and in the community, according to <https://www.missionact.va.gov/>.

Veterans can elect care outside the VA if necessary. The Veteran or VA staff member will find a provider within the VA's network and the VA will send the Veteran and the selected community provider a referral. It's important that your organization follows the necessary steps to be part of the VA provider network.

The most recent factsheet from the Department of Veterans Affairs regarding what you need to know to become a community provider is available [here](#). We will continue to update our partners as information is available. Providers with questions should contact their local VA facility and speak with a MISSION Act representative for more information.

If you have a Veteran story you would like to share, please email veterans@nhpco.org.
Your story could be featured in this newsletter.

EARN YOUR STARS

Already a We Honor Veterans partner program? We know that your organization is committed to providing Veteran-centric care to the Veteran patients you serve each and every day. If your program is ready to move up through the levels to increase your ability to serve your Veteran patients, [contact us](#) today. You can learn about the different [We Honor Veteran partner levels here](#).

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Are you part of a non-hospice organization that would like to join the mission to provide support for Veterans in your community? [Contact us to learn how you can become a Community Partner](#).

SPONSORSHIPS

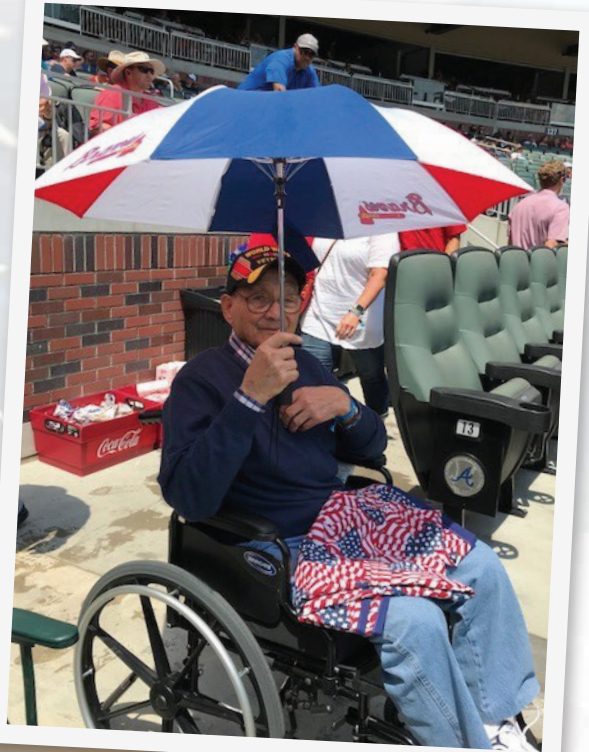
Interested in learning how you can support the We Honor Veterans program beyond becoming a partner? Individuals or organizations interested can [contact us](#) to hear about sponsorship opportunities.



WE HONOR VETERANS
Sponsor

VITAS VETERAN VOLUNTEER GIVES BACK TO VETERAN PATIENTS

Submitted by: Rev. Larry Robert, Bereavement Services
Manager/Veteran Liaison



Top: A VITAS Veteran patient honored by the Atlanta Braves last year brought his blanket to the baseball game.



Left: Sherry Lizama creates patriotic lap blankets for Veterans at VITAS.

FIND US ON TWITTER!  @WeHonorVeterans