

# WE HONOR VETERANS 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

We Honor Veterans  
1731 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314

[WeHonorVeterans.org](http://WeHonorVeterans.org)  
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## INTRODUCTION

We Honor Veterans (WHV), a program under the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization (NHPCO) in collaboration with the Department of Veterans Affairs, remains deeply committed to the goal of ensuring that all Veterans are recognized, honored, and cared for when they reach the end of life. WHV aims to address the growing need for Veteran-centered end-of-life care, especially as the demand for hospice and palliative care in the aging Veteran population increases. With only 5% of Veteran deaths occurring in Veterans Health Administration (VHA) facilities and over 60% of Veterans relying on home hospice care, WHV plays a critical role in equipping community hospice and palliative care teams to understand and support the unique needs of Veterans. WHV's educational programs are particularly useful for preparing providers to care for and support Veterans whose military service, combat experience, or other traumatic events may resurface during the dying process. Since its inception, WHV has impacted the lives of countless Veterans through ceremonies of recognition, fostering community action, bolstering healthcare staff knowledge, and improving Veteran access to earned benefits - all united with the shared goal to serve those who have served us.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- **Whole Health Webpage:** WHV highlights tools from the VA's Whole Health program that hospice providers can employ to support Veteran patient and caregivers' overall well-being as well as providers' own personal health.
- **CNHI:** NHPCO and the VA collaborated to develop the Community Nursing Home Initiative (CNHI) pilot program, with a goal of improving the care delivered to Veteran residents of VA-contracted community nursing homes at the end of life. As part of this initiative, five training modules were developed and presented to CNH staff, addressing an introduction to caring for Veteran residents, identifying and addressing suffering and trauma, providing support in the Veterans' final hours, and hosting ceremonies to honor Veteran residents. Lessons learned and pilot overview shared with WHV partners and available on the [WHV Blog](#).
- **Level 5 Improvements:** To ensure accessibility and integrity, the Level 5 cohort system and updated Level 5 webpage were launched. New and updated materials include a video overview, template reports, example reports, checklist graphic, and more. Specific graphics and resources from the Level 5 update have proven value for partners at all levels.
- **Quality over Quantity\* - Ensuring Partner Activity:** In a committed effort to ensure partner quality over quantity, 2,700+ inactive Recruit and Level 1 partners were removed from the WHV database. Removed accounts included duplicate accounts, hospices that have closed or merged, and accounts that did not advance within a 1-year period.
- **Back to Basics:** New and re-registered partners and those working to revitalize their affiliation with WHV were provided guidance and specialized resources and were continuously oriented to available supports. Materials include [WHV Top 10 Features](#).

## New Resources Created for Free, On-Demand Viewing and Use

- [Comparing Quality of Hospice Care in VA Nursing Homes and VA-Paid Community Nursing Homes](#) with VA staff
- [PACT Act Benefits Eligibility and How to Help Veterans Apply](#) with VA staff
- [Dare to Forgive: A Self-Liberating Process Part I & II](#) with Opus Peace
- [Stress, Secondary Trauma, and the Caregiver Brain](#) with Opus Peace
- Updated [Veteran Pinning Ceremony Guide](#) and [Veteran Certificates of Recognition](#)
- [CNH Initiative Training Modules](#)
- [Identifying Clinically Meaningful Moral Injury at End of Life](#) with VA Staff
- [Dementia Series – Part 1: Veterans with Dementia at End of Life](#) with VA Staff and Alzheimer's subject matter expert

## Continued Nationwide Promotion of VA SME Trainings for Community Hospice Staff – Total Views as of 7/31/24

- Moral Injury: **28,717** views
- Suicide Prevention: **25,688** views
- PTSD: **20,085** views
- Supporting Military Veterans with PTSD at the End of Life - Video Illustrations: **8,562**
- VA & NHPCO Screening and Referral of Veterans on Hospice Webinar: **486** views
- VA Benefits Webinar: **3,731** views

## 2023 WHV Outstanding Program Winner

- **MJHS:** A WHV partner since 2010 and a Level 5 program, MJHS's impressive dedication to Veteran patients is evidenced by their operation of a Veteran Work Group, pivotal role in reviving the NYC-based HVP, innovative procedures for recognizing and caring for Veteran hospice patients at end of life, and commitment to promoting Veteran-centric education for all healthcare workers.

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## PARTNERS

# 2,758

Level 1-5 Hospice Partners



# 68

State-wide and Community-based Hospice-Veteran Partnerships

*\*in FY23 all HVP's were contacted to confirm activity & continued alignment with WHV expectations*

# 344

Community-based Health Care Partners



### Level-by-Level Hospice Partner Breakdown

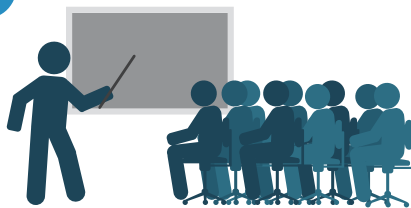


## SELF-REPORTED HOSPICE PARTNER DATA

# 110,180

Staff and Volunteer Training Participants

*(often duplicate staff)*



# 69,558

Community Outreach Training Participants

*(venues include churches, homeless shelters, assisted living facilities, etc. excludes Vet-to-Vet café attendees)*

## LEVEL 4 & 5 ACCOMPLISHMENTS



**4,474**  
Vet-to-Vet Volunteers



**27,539**  
Veterans Pinned



**9,700**  
Veteran Patients Enrolled in VA



**31,919**  
Veterans Served During Military History Checklist Evaluation



**7,952**  
Veteran Patients Receive VA Benefits



**241**  
Level 5 Partners

## BREAKDOWN OF VETERANS SERVED

2022	2023	
(11%)	10%	WWII
(20%)	19%	Korea
(5%)	5%	Cold War
(26%)	30%	Vietnam
(1%)	2%	Gulf War
(13%)	14%	Peace Time
(1%)	1%	Afghanistan/Iraq (OEF/OIF)
(23%)	19%	Other/Unknown



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Veteran hospice volunteer, AJ Feucht, arranged for Veteran hospice patient, Clara Mohr, to meet Joni Matthews, a fellow female Veteran from their community.



Korean War Veteran, Francis Donahue of Rhode Island, is honored by Gentiva – Warwick.



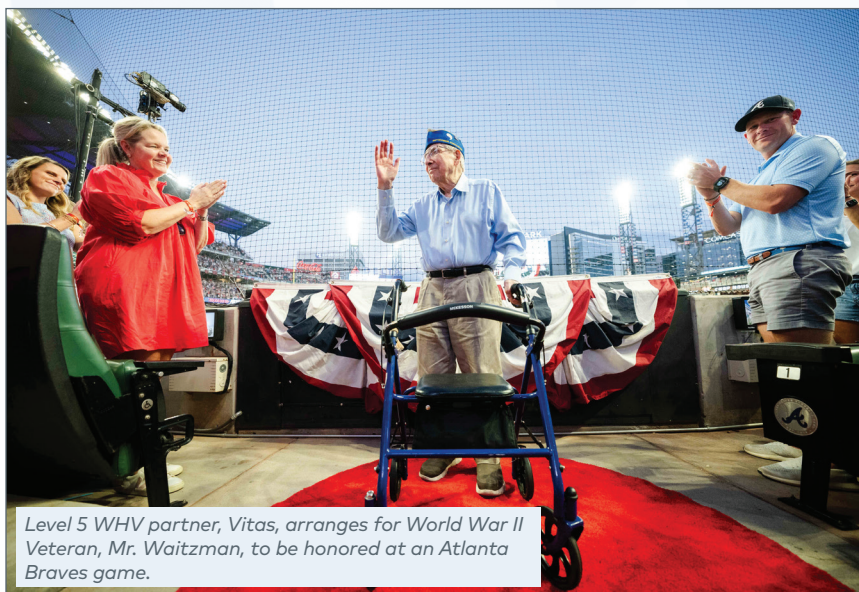
Elizabeth Hospice honors the service of US Marine Corps Veteran, Carlo Romano.



An Army Veteran patient's hospice provider arranges for a fishing trip to come to him.



Residential Hospice recognizes over 80 Vietnam Veterans at their Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day event.



Level 5 WHV partner, Vitas, arranges for World War II Veteran, Mr. Waitzman, to be honored at an Atlanta Braves game.



U.S. Navy Veteran, Ashton Stewart, the Veteran Liaison for MJHS, accepts the 2023 WHV Outstanding Program Award on behalf of MJHS.