

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Hospice program celebrates veterans with Knights, seniors and elementary students

(PASADENA, MD, Nov. 18, 2019) — Since it was formed in 2010, Hospice of the Chesapeake's We Honor Veterans Committee members consider it their duty to help the community understand how important it is to thank veterans for their service while they are living. With veterans comprising more than 25 percent of its patient base, the days leading up to and around Veterans Day has the committee stepping up to the task double-time.

This year, the nonprofit began the celebration on Nov. 9 by helping the St. John Neumann Knights of Columbus Assembly 1763 in Bowie celebrate its annual Patriotic Breakfast. Later that morning, another contingency of veteran and military volunteers performed a group Honor Salute at Somerford Place in Annapolis. Two more group honor salutes were performed over the weekend – one on Nov. 10 at Arbor Terrace Waugh Chapel in Gambrills and then at a ceremony held at Brightview Senior Living in Annapolis on Nov. 11. The celebrating wrapped up with a rousing welcome from the students at Jones Elementary School in Severna Park on Nov. 12, who proudly presented two colorful stacks of thank you notes created by its fourth-and fifth-grade classes.

The five events are public representations of how Hospice of the Chesapeake partners with community groups and individuals to meet the unique needs of veterans experiencing advanced illness and at the end of life. The Bowie Knights delight in having members of the U. S. Naval Academy Midshipmen Action Group attend its Veterans events to perform the honor salute which is coordinated by nonprofit's We Honor Veterans committee. The senior living centers are care partners, with a number of residents who are patients of the nonprofit. Public and private schools throughout Anne Arundel and Prince George's counties participate in the program's Operation Gratitude and have over the last nine years created thousands of thank you cards that are cherished by the Veterans who receive them at honor salutes.

It is all part of the national We Honor Veterans program, a partnership with the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization and the Department of Veterans Affairs. The program

is focused on providing the best care for veterans and their families through respectful inquiry, compassionate listening and grateful acknowledgment.

Director of Advancement and Volunteer Services Chris Wilson, whose department oversees the program, said she continues to be amazed by the community’s fervent response to the purpose of the program. “This Veterans Day weekend of events is an incredible demonstration of how volunteers, schools, active-duty and retired military, businesses and more share our commitment to veterans,” she said. “Our organization only considers itself the caretaker of the program. Truthfully this is a community program conducted by the most generous individuals we’ve known.”

For details on the program, visit www.hospicechesapeake.org/hospice-palliative-care/care-for-veterans. To volunteer, call 410-987-2003 or email joinus@hospicechesapeake.org.

Six images follow. High resolution photos available on request.



(11/9/2019) Members of the U. S. Naval Academy Midshipmen Action Group perform an Honor Salute for the veterans attending the Patriotic Breakfast at the St. John Neumann Knights of Columbus Assembly 1763 in Bowie. Photo by Elyzabeth Marcussen



(11/9/2019) Members of the Archdiocese of Washington District Supreme Knight J. Kemp Cook 4th Degree District Choir performed the Star Spangled Banner along with several patriotic songs at the Patriotic Breakfast at the St. John Neumann Knights of Columbus Assembly 1763 in Bowie. Photo by Elyzabeth Marcussen



(11/11/2019) The Calvary United Methodist Church Men's Choir sings "The Star-Spangled Banner" as the Northeast High School Marine Corps Junior ROTC Color Guard presents the colors at the Veterans Day Celebration honoring 41 Veterans living at Brightview Senior Living in Annapolis. Photo by Elyzabeth Marcussen.



(11/11/2019) On behalf of his fellow veterans retired Navy Admiral Grady Jackson expresses his gratitude to the families who supported them while they were in service to their country during the Veterans Day Celebration honoring 41 Veterans living at Brightview Senior Living in Annapolis.



(11/12/2019) From left, Carter Rardon, retired Army Capt. Jim Welday and retired Army Col. Bert Rice, members of Hospice of the Chesapeake's We Honor Veterans committee, gratefully accept colorful thank you cards written by Jones Elementary School students to veteran patients of the nonprofit. Photo by Elyzabeth Marcussen



(11/12/2019) Jones Elementary School student Jack Bigelow reads aloud about the history and meaning of Veterans Day to his schoolmates. Also pictured, from left, are Ulysses Nelson, Nick Cregar and Haley Elfenbein. Photo by Elyzabeth Marcussen

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For 40 years, Hospice of the Chesapeake has been caring for life throughout the journey with illness and loss. For more information, visit www.hospicechesapeake.org.