

## Barbara Bush Taught Us That Life Matters

On April 20, 2018, Houston and the Nation paid respects to former First Lady Barbara Bush. Houston Hospice will always remember her and the loving spirit she gave us. Barbara Bush brought us to the forefront in many ways. In 1995, she cut the ribbon to help open the Margaret Cullen Marshall Hospice Care Center at the Texas Medical Center. She elevated our Butterfly Program as our special guest through the years. The prospect of her presence made our Butterfly Luncheons among the most anticipated events ever, helping raise much needed proceeds to fund Houston Hospice's operations and our program of pediatric hospice care. The former First Lady had applauded Houston Hospice as one of the finest facilities she had seen among her travels around the world. Her support and warm thoughts meant the world to all on our compassionate team of physicians, social workers, nurses, hospice aides, chaplains, volunteers and staff as well as the communities we serve.



Barbara Bush's words from a commencement speech at Wellesley College in 1990 embody beliefs that we, too, hold true as we advance our mission: "...cherish your human connections: your relationships with family and friends. For several years, you've had impressed upon you the importance to your career of dedication and hard work, and, of course, that's true. But as important as your obligations as a doctor, lawyer or business leader will be, you are a human being first and those human connections --- with spouses, with children, with friends -- are the most important investments you will ever make. At the end of your life, you will never regret not having passed one more test, not winning one more verdict or not closing one more deal. You will regret time not spent with a husband, a child, a friend or a parent."

When our patients face the end of life and their loved ones search for comfort, Barbara Bush reminded people that it's holding and treasuring those irreplaceable moments in life that matter and make us human.