

## PRESS RELEASE

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### Rising Veteran Population Sees Increase in Specialized Hospice Care

HOUSTON, TX – Houston Hospice, in partnership with We Honor Veterans (WHV), a program of the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization, and in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has developed a specialized hospice care plan for the increasing number of Veterans who are nearing end-of-life. To meet the needs of this growing population, Houston Hospice Veterans Program, focusing on education, advocacy, and mentorship, has reached WHV Level 5, the highest level of advanced, Veteran-specific hospice care dedicated to the unique needs of those who served in the U.S. Armed Forces and their families.

For those who served during WWII, Vietnam Era, and Korean War, increased access to quality hospice care is in higher demand. The U.S. Veteran population is estimated at 20.3 million according to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics. It is estimated that 1.6 million Veterans reside in Texas and of those, 636,000 are 65 years of age and older. By 2027, the state is projected to be the number one place of residents for Veterans in the U.S. With this influx of Veterans who are reaching advanced ages, the top hospice care programs will need to focus on education and collaboration.

“Houston Hospice is honored to be the first organization in our region to reach Level 5 of the We Honor Veterans Program,” said Rana McClelland, President & CEO, Houston Hospice. “As a leader and mentor in Veteran-centric hospice care, we provide Veteran-to-Veteran volunteer programs, training on conflict-specific medical and mental health concerns, and assistance in navigating VA benefits,” continued Ms. McClelland.

To commemorate this milestone, a special lapel pin was designed for hospice Veterans. These pins are presented along with handmade, patriotic quilts, pillowcases, and certificates of appreciation to those in hospice care. In addition, the organization is increasing its community outreach by partnering with Veteran-centric organizations in its 13-county service area.

#### **About Houston Hospice**

Houston Hospice is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that provides compassionate, end-of-life care to all patients and families across 13 counties across Southeast Texas. Established in 1980, we are the oldest, largest, independent, nonprofit hospice in Houston and a proud member of the Texas Medical Center. For more information visit [www.houstonhospice.org](http://www.houstonhospice.org).

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