



# HOUSTON HOSPICE

*Life Matters*

VOLUME 21 | ISSUE 2

## SPIRIT AWARD DINNER

### HONORING ROSANETTE “ROSE” CULLEN AND FEATURING J.R. MARTINEZ

Our 23rd annual Spirit Award Dinner will be held October 19th at the River Oaks Country Club. We are pleased to honor Rosanette “Rose” Cullen with the Laura Lee Blanton Community Spirit Award for her life-long commitment to our community and for her support of Houston Hospice.

When her friends, Linda McReynolds, Cathy Brock and Franelle Rogers, learned that Rose was being honored, they immediately agreed to chair the event. “Houston Hospice is thrilled to have such a prestigious team leading this year’s Spirit Award Dinner, which raises critical operating funds to cover services like charity care, bereavement and veterans’ services,” said Aida Matic, CFRE, vice president of development & community engagement, Houston Hospice.

Rose was raised by loving parents who taught her to be charitable at a young age. A native Houstonian, Rose is committed to giving back to her home town. She has contributed her time, talent and treasure to a host of local organizations and even chaired a past Spirit Award Dinner.

“In Houston, the Cullen name is synonymous with generosity,” said Houston Hospice President & CEO Rana S. McClelland. “We are grateful for Rose and the Cullen family’s foresight and investment in our community that continues to reach more organizations and people in need each year.”

Motivational Speaker, J.R. Martinez, is this year’s featured speaker. The Army Veteran and burn survivor has many accolades to his name including, actor, *New York Times* best-selling author and *Dancing with the Stars* Season 13 Winner.

J.R. devotes himself to showing others the true value of making the most of every situation, no matter what life may throw our way. His message of courage, resilience, and triumph has been received throughout the world and reminds us to take time for self-care and rejuvenation as we continue to heal from the effects of COVID-19.

For more information, please visit

[www.houstonhospice.org/SpiritAwardDinner2021](http://www.houstonhospice.org/SpiritAwardDinner2021)



CARING, COMFORT, LOVE *and*  
HOUSTON HOSPICE  
2021 SPIRIT AWARD DINNER

## HELP US SPREAD THE WORD about hospice care in November!

November is National Hospice and Palliative Care Month. This year’s theme is “Meeting You Where You Are” and serves as a reminder that Houston Hospice cares for people wherever they need us. Although some hospice care is provided in our Margaret Cullen Marshall Hospice Care Center, in hospitals, or nursing homes, most patients are cared for in the place they call home surrounded by loved ones and personal belongings.

“Throughout the month of November, we look forward to celebrating our work and educating the community about the caring and compassion that comes through hospice care,” said Rana S. McClelland, President & CEO. As a supporter of Houston Hospice,

you already know how hospice care helps patients and families make the most of every moment they have left together. We hope you will help us spread the word about the many benefits of hospice care.

Follow us on Facebook throughout November for a series of educational posts about how hospice and palliative care can help people live a quality life.



## HOUSTON HOSPICE ATTAINS THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF WE HONOR VETERANS

Having launched veteran-specific services in 2014, Houston Hospice recently achieved the Level 5 designation within the We Honor Veterans initiative and now serves as a mentor to other providers seeking to improve their own programs for current and former military patients and families.

The purpose of the program is to respectfully celebrate veterans and their service to our country while providing care that recognizes the unique challenges that exist in military families.

Our care teams are specially trained on conflict-specific medical and mental health concerns. They conduct a thorough psychosocial assessment, including the impact of military service on both the veteran and the family members to determine the specific needs of each veteran, whether those include clinical care, navigating VA benefits or bereavement services.

Other important aspects of the program include matching veteran patients with veteran volunteers whenever possible. In addition to spending time with patients and families, these volunteers commemorate each veteran's service through a pinning ceremony. This honor has had a tremendous impact on patients and families.

We Honor Veterans is implemented throughout the year and serves approximately 250 veterans and their families annually. Houston Hospice relies upon contributions to ensure that our veterans receive the dignified end-of-life care and recognition they deserve.

To learn more about the program, contact [Monica James](mailto:mjames@houstonhospice.org) at [mjames@houstonhospice.org](mailto:mjames@houstonhospice.org)



Post Commander of the VFW Post 4474 in Wharton, Houston Hospice Volunteer Daniel Garza and his Quarter Master, Ray Kacer, working on building a ramp for a disabled veteran.



### HELP SUPPORT OUR VETERANS PROGRAM:

- Assist in Veteran volunteer recruitment
- Financially support our program with a donation
- Refer Veterans to us when in need of hospice care
- Introduce us to people or events through which we can reach and educate more Veterans
- Join us in celebrating Veterans Day on November 11

## FAMILY SHOWS THEIR APPRECIATION FOR THE CARE PROVIDED TO THEIR FATHER



After seeing the care provided to his sister-in-law at our in-patient unit, John Saur told his daughter Suzanne and son-in-law Charles, "this is where I want to come when my time comes."

So when his oncologist recommended end-of-life care, John was quick to say he had already chosen Houston Hospice. He

settled into his daughter's home where he had spent countless good times.

Suzanne recalls the respect and professionalism of the Houston Hospice staff, "I was impressed from the beginning by the intake nurse who asked all the right questions. When the hospital equipment we needed arrived the next day, we didn't have to lift a finger." (The intake nurse and Suzanne have since become great friends and Suzanne is even officiating at her wedding).

Charles was tasked with taking care of John's medications and appreciated the way in which the staff provided a detailed plan. He said, "One night, I called at 2am because John was so uncomfortable. A nurse answered my call right away and gave me a solution that helped him settle down."

Suzanne recalls, "The specially-tailored approach of the staff put my dad at ease and he was not afraid to die. They always did what they said they were going to do. We are grateful to the nurse who was assigned to his care and attended his memorial service. And the nurse who came to pronounce his death showed the utmost kindness and empathy."

To show their appreciation, John's family included in his obituary a request for contributions to Houston Hospice in lieu of flowers. They have also purchased a commemorative leaf to be displayed near our Virginia Harris Cockrell Chapel as a lasting tribute to John. If you would like to honor a loved one in such a way, please visit the website.

[www.houstonhospice.org/donate](http://www.houstonhospice.org/donate)  
or call 713-677-7123.



During George Jewell's final days in our in-patient unit, he had a special visitor—his black Labrador, Blackie Wackie. His wife Marilyn recalls how thrilled she was that the hospice care team made such a visit possible. "The nurse laid George's hand on Blackie and as soon as Blackie recognized his cherished owner, he immediately curled up on the bed to spend the night."

George was referred to Houston Hospice by his palliative care physician after a valiant battle with cancer. At that point, he was in so much pain that the slightest touch was agonizing for him. His care team was able to manage his pain symptoms so that he felt relief and Marilyn was at peace knowing that he was no longer suffering. He passed away after 6 days in our in-patient unit.

Marilyn had long recognized the value of endowment giving as a way to leave a lasting legacy. She had established several endowments at her father's alma mater, Texas A&M, including one in honor of their yellow lab, Kool Whip Willie. Her father's drive and determination were an inspiration to her.

In gratitude for the service she and George received at Houston Hospice, Marilyn established the Blackie Wackie, George & Marilyn Jewell Endowment to support unfunded patient care and to help cover costs associated with the in-patient unit and the garden. The endowment is funded annually through Marilyn's traditional IRA distribution and the full amount of the IRA will be contributed to Houston Hospice upon her death.

"I have such respect and gratitude for Marilyn and donors like her who choose the long-lasting resources made possible through the establishment of an endowment," said Aida Matic, CFRE, vice president of development & community engagement. "I like to think of endowment giving as planting a seed for the future—something Marilyn learned from her hard-working father."

### HOUSTON HOSPICE LEGACY SOCIETY

As the end of the year rapidly approaches, please consider joining Marilyn as a member of our Legacy Society by including a gift to Houston Hospice in your will or living trust. And let us know so we can thank you.

Please contact the development department at Houston Hospice at 713-677-7123 for more information on how to become a member of the Legacy Society and special donor recognition.

## MEET OUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS

HOUSTON HOSPICE WELCOMES TWO NEW BOARD MEMBERS:

**Seth Hopkins, JD**

Managing Counsel of the Defensive Litigation and Real Estate Divisions  
Harris County Attorney's Office



Our parents and grandparents spend the best years of their lives comforting us and relieving our pain. When their bodies fail and medicine can offer no hope, it is our turn to give them the best care possible and assure them they are

loved and not alone. I learned about Houston Hospice from Dr. Paul Mansfield, a brilliant and compassionate physician who served as Chair of the Board last year. Houston Hospice helps families say goodbye with dignity and I am fortunate to have the opportunity to help with this mission. I hope to bring practical solutions to Houston Hospice, support its staff and patients, and provide informed advice.

**Jiali Sun, MD, PhD, MPH**

Medical Consultant  
Community Health Network



When I was a college student, I started to think about the meaning of life and death after the passing of my beloved father. Since everyone is mortal, to help others in their final journeys is also to help ourselves. As a previous

volunteer of Houston Hospice, I feel honored to have the opportunity to serve on the board and contribute to the continuing legacy of the organization. Based on my cross-cultural competence, I can offer a new perspective and introduce Eastern wisdom and philosophy to end-of-life care. I am also committed to advocating for palliative care and hospice, particularly for the underserved or non-English-speaking patients and families.

The Board of Directors at Houston Hospice is comprised of a growing, diverse group of community leaders who volunteer their expertise, guidance and passion to assure Houston Hospice's continued success. Thank you for all you do for Houston Hospice.

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

The Newsletter is published by Houston Hospice, a nonprofit organization providing comprehensive end-of-life services and education to Greater Houston and surrounding communities.

### SPECIAL FEATURE: SPIRIT AWARD HONOREE PROFILE



[www.houstonhospice.org](http://www.houstonhospice.org)

713-467-7423

Houston Hospice is a member of the Texas Medical Center



## SUPPORT OUR HISTORIC GARDENS

Proceeds from The Garden Club of Houston's Bulb and Plant Mart support beautification, education, horticulture, and conservation projects in the greater Houston area, including the historic gardens at Houston Hospice.

The 79th annual Bulb & Plant Mart takes place October 14-16 at The Church of St. John the Divine. **To learn more, including the schedule of speakers, please visit [www.gchouston.org](http://www.gchouston.org)**

*Thank you to The Garden Club of Houston for its dedicated support of Houston Hospice and its legacy of philanthropy in our community.*

## TREE OF LIFE

Looking for a way to honor and remember your loved one? Watch your mail for our annual Tree of Life mailing. You can dedicate an ornament for our Tree of Life in memory or honor of your loved ones. The tree will be displayed at the Margaret Cullen Marshall Hospice Care Center to brighten the holidays for patients and families.

