

6/26/20-7/31/21

HVVETERAN HONOR RECOGNITIONS IS A COMMUNITY EFFORT

Since the inception of our Honor Recognition /Salute Program that began for Hospice of Orange and Sullivan Counties, Inc. in 2015, they have always been a community effort. Reaching out to senior centers and local crafters to make patriotic blankets for the Veterans in our care and involving school-aged children to make thank you for your service cards are continued projects as well as keeping in contact with our local Veteran organizations to provide salutes. The last year proved challenging with the shutdowns, but with continued outreach, we received more blankets than ever. Over 100 were made and donated and we continued to receive cards.



Aubrey Buckner is in 3rd grade and goes to Stephen J. Gerace Elementary in Pequannock, NJ. Daughter of Hospice Aide Specialist Dakota Buckner, Aubrey continues to support our Honor Salute/Recognition program for the Veterans we care for. She spearheaded a class project to make Thank You for your Service cards. These cards are an important part of the recognition our Veterans receive for their service. Thank you, Aubrey, and your class!



Thank you to the Orange Blossoms American Legion Auxiliary of Chester, NY for their continued support in providing Patriotic Blankets for our Veterans. Janice Marion (2nd on the left) a Hospice Volunteer, arranged for the group to make more blankets when we were in need during the past year.

(Photo used was taken pre-covid restrictions)



Quilters of the Hudson Highlands



Heart & Soul Group Lutheran Church Fishkill, NY

6/26/20-7/31/21

VETERANS IN THE NUMBERS



239

Total Number of Veterans Served from 6/26/20 – 7/31/21

52

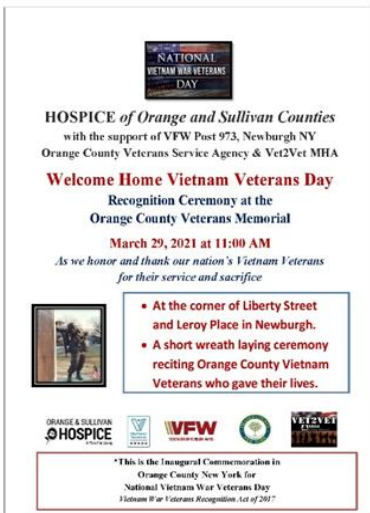
Recognitions (Restricted due to covid pandemic)



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Welcome Home Vietnam Veteran Event: March 29, 2021

Held at Orange County Veterans Memorial in Newburgh, NY.



Flyer



Veteran Card Front



Veteran Card Back

IN THE NEWS! MID-HUDSON NEWS ONLINE

NEWBURGH – Veterans and veteran families honored the service and sacrifice of Vietnam War Veterans, Monday, at the Orange County Veteran's Memorial, for National Vietnam War Veterans Day.

Vietnam War Veterans Day became a national holiday in 2017 and is held on March 29th, the day in 1973 the last of the U.S. troops were withdrawn from Vietnam.

County Veteran Services Director Christian Farrell said Vietnam veterans may be the most forgotten of the groups of living veterans and were treated the worst upon coming home from war. He said it was a long time coming for those servicemen to their own day of recognition and hopes that maltreatment of U.S. soldiers will never happen again.

"There's an expression that says you may not support the war, but support the warrior and in that case, going back 50 years ago, not even the warriors were supported of our country who wore our uniform," said Farrell. "Let's hope that going forward that all the men and women who've served our country, or continue to serve our country, during peace or war, are always recognized and we don't have to have a ceremony like this," he said.



Commander of the Military Order of the Purple Heart Ch.1782, Rich Drago, said he felt fortunate to come home early and not be subjected to the disdain aimed at young, returning veterans. He recalled a specific memory of protestors demanding soldiers remove their uniforms and said he hopes the celebration of this national holiday will set a precedent for civilians to always respect young soldiers and for young soldiers today to have pride in their uniforms.

"The kids today, they should know that they should not have to walk down the block and feel like they need to change their uniforms. They shouldn't have to take one step out of their uniforms," said Drago. "This day is a day that reminds me and all the general public that the Vietnam vets, I believe, paved the way for the kids today," he said.

Residents were encouraged to fly their flags in honor of the 58,000 U.S. soldier lives lost in the Vietnam conflict.

Hospice of Orange and Sullivan Counties led the Inaugural Observance of National Vietnam Veteran War Day in Orange County as a commitment to the veterans they care for and the veterans in the community.



There were 40+ in attendance for the ceremony. The event was videoed and shared on our social media platforms, with 668 views.

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BEST MOMENTS FROM LEVEL 5

Veteran Breakfast 2020 Re-Invented!



Original Breakfast Flyer



Revised Event Flyer



Card that held Special Pin



On November 5, 2020, Hospice of Orange and Sullivan Counties presented a Salute to Our Veterans, in honor and recognition of their service to our country.

This virtual presentation replaced our annual Veteran's Breakfast for 2020 and was held at The Newburgh Armory Unity Center. **30 in attendance, and streamed on social media with 92 views.**

Highlights included:

- *SGM MaryKay Messenger will proudly sing our National Anthem
- *A presentation of our We Honor Veterans Program
- *A family testimonial from Patricia Larkin
- and special guest speaker Author and Screen Writer of American Sniper Jim DeFelice.

To view community presentation go to: <https://youtu.be/RhqeYsk-Hv4>

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Photos from A Salute to Our Veterans Presentation/Event



- 1. SGM MaryKay Messenger 2. Author Jim DeFelice 3. Kim Warner presents Vet2Vet Award to Hospice Veteran Vol. Pete Adams 4. OC Executive Steve Neuhaus 5. Patricia Larkin 6. Dan Grady, Pres. CEO Hospice of Orange and Sullivan Counties, Inc.**

VIETNAM VETERAN BEAD PROJECT



On July 14, 2021, Hospice Veteran Volunteer, Ted Lewandowsky, a Vietnam Veteran, and Vietnam Era Veteran Dan Byan put together 50 veteran bead keychains for our We Honor Veterans Program.

They represented the Catholic War Veterans Post 1937 and American Legion Post 1308 in Pine Bush NY.

From June 2020 – July 2021, we have cared for 42 Vietnam Veteran patients who received these pins/keyrings.



OUTSIDE OF THE REQUIREMENT

Hospice of Orange and Sullivan Counties, Inc. continues to develop relationships with Senior Centers by engaging the crafters to make patriotic blankets for Veterans on our program. These relationships have allowed our agency to speak to many seniors about Hospice care and services and our We Honor Veterans Program.

- Cornwall Stitchers/Cornwall Seniors
- Mulberry House Crafters
- Quilters of the Hudson Valley
- Mamakating Seniors/The Chain Gang
- Greenwood Lake Senior Center
- Trinity Lutheran Church, Walden, and individuals who continue to provide us with blankets.



Hospice of Orange and Sullivan Counties has made and continues to make great relationships with the Veteran Organizations throughout our service areas. The Veterans partner with us to assist in the honor salutes we give to those Veterans who served our nation and who are now being cared for by our Hospice.

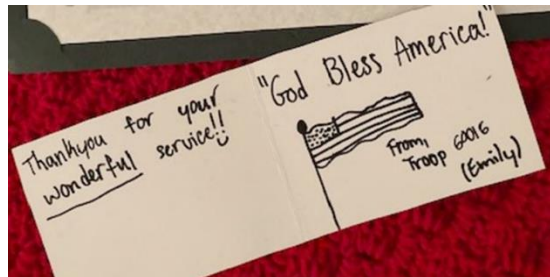
- Orange County American Legions
Sullivan County Am. Legions
- Orange County VFW's
- American Catholic War Veterans
- Rolling Thunder
- Marine Corps League
- Military Order of the Purple Heart



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Hospice works with local schools, Girl Scout and Boy Scout groups for handmade children thank you cards for our Veterans as part of our Honor Salute Recognitions.



In 2020, Emily from GS Troop 64016 made cards for Veterans who were in our care. Veteran Litz from Sullivan County received one of her cards and it put such a smile on his face, his social worker took a picture and had it sent to Emily. Emily responded by sending her photo to Veteran Litz.



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Veteran Community Outreach Initiatives

November 5, 2020, Community Packet Distributions



As part of our Salute to our Veterans presentation to the community, packets containing a mask, salute veteran pin, and information about our Veterans Program were distributed to veterans residing in various assisted living facilities, nursing homes. A total of 180 were delivered to community veterans, 30 to attendees of Salute to our Community presentation, as well as 30 to the veteran patients who were in our care.

December 14, 2020, at 7:00 PM



A zoom presentation was given to the Quilters of the Hudson Highlands Cornwall, NY of our We Honor Veterans Program. The conversation about the care we give our veterans and the honor recognitions/salutes received opened a wonderful opportunity for others to share their own hospice experiences, with quite a few had experienced a recognition and or salute for their own loved one. We established a good connection and received the most beautiful quilts from this group. (20 attendees)

April 8, 2021, 7:30 AM



An in-person presentation of our We Honor Veterans Program was given to the West Point Highland Mills Rotary Club at the Thayer Hotel. A video was shared of the honor salute that was received by the late Senator William J. Larkin. A special quilt was given to the club in honor and memory of all West Point veterans. We look forward to when it will be displayed on the grounds. (18 attendees)

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June 1, 2021, 11:30 AM



Our Nonprofit Notebook with Hospice of Orange & Sullivan Counties radio show broadcasted on WTBQ Radio, Warwick, NY was dedicated to educating our listeners about the care we give to veterans and our Level 5 Partnership with We Honor Veterans. Regina Clark, President of the Goshen Chamber of Commerce spoke of the care her dad, Veteran John O'Dowd received and of his Honor Salute presented by his hospice care team and the Goshen American Legion Post #377. Average Listenership for the show: 5K

July 18, 2021

Veterans Service Fair: Newburgh Armory Center

11:00 am – 1:00 pm

Our hospice volunteers attended the Veteran's Service Fair, hosted by Congressman Sean Patrick Maloney. The event had many other veteran agencies in attendance. Congressman Maloney awarded a Purple Heart to the family of a veteran who passed away before he was to receive the recognition. Approx 75 attendees.



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July 29, 2021, Hudon Valley Veteran Partnership Panel Education: 64 Attendees

**Suicide Prevention Training
for Terminally Ill Veterans**
*Learn about identifying risks,
safety planning w/ families, and VA resources*



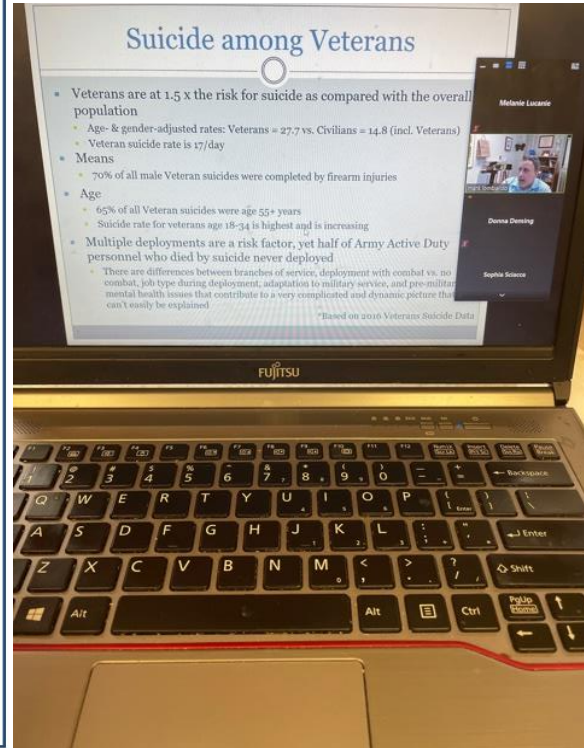
July 29th 1:00-2:00 PM
Via Zoom Line
Sign Up - RSVP w/ Melanie Lucanie, LMSW, ACHP-SW
melluc@hospiceoforange.com
For Zoom Link

Presented by a panel including
Two experts in the field from the
VA Hudson Valley Health Care System

Mark Lombardo, Psy.D.
Suicide Prevention Coordinator
EAP Coordinator
DBT Team Leader / ACT Regional Consultant
Assistant Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Science, NY Medical College

Dr. Susan Vitti
Clinical Psychologist and Suicide Prevention Coordinator





“Computers for Veterans” Lap Top Initiative with Larry Newman, Veterans Task Force, Kevin Merand, The Computer Guy, Jason Henderson, an Independent Consultant.

In June 2021, our Hospice Veteran Program received a donation of 3 laptops, with camera's from Valley Central School district to use for virtual salutes, and other program needs. This was a callborative effort throught the school district, the Veterans Task Force and The Computer Guy, a small independent local business.



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Vet2Vet Café's 2021:

1st Virtual Vet2Vet Café was held on May 20, 2021, at the Promenade Senior Living in Middletown, New York. There were 18 Veterans in attendance through Zoom. Each Veteran received a patriotic boutonniere, and a bouquet of red, white, and blue balloons was sent for the gathering room. A patriotic blanket was raffled off to one lucky veteran!



Due to the current ongoing restrictions, our efforts to hold four cafés were not possible due to regulations in each of the facilities.

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Our Veteran Committee came up with an alternative to our Veteran Cafes to continue outreach and gratitude to our Veterans in our communities. Veteran packets were put together and delivered to facilities the week of July 4th.

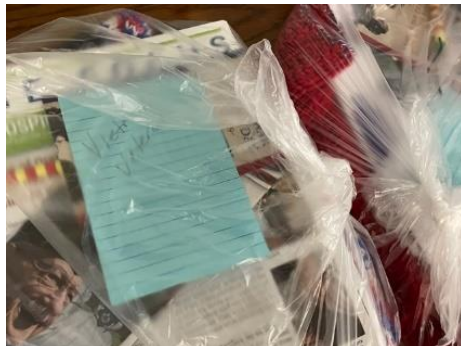
Packet: Veteran Pin, Thank You Card, Patriotic Lap Blanket, Focus, Honor Flight Info, Vietnam Beads (VV Only). Total of 46 packets delivered.

Glen Arden: 21 (1 Female, 1 VV)

Care Center at Sunset on the Lake: 5

New Windsor Country Inn: 6

Montgomery Nursing Home: 14 (2 Female, 4 VV)



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THE FOCUS is our Newsletter published three times a year and distributed through email, on social media, on our website, and mailed to over 5,000 donor households. Every Focus features a story about our We Honor Veterans Program.

A Salute to Our Veterans

On November 5, 2020, Hospice of Orange and Sullivan Counties held "Salute to Our Veterans", a virtual community presentation in honor and recognition of our Veterans for their service to our country. This presentation replaced what was to be the 3rd Annual Veterans Breakfast originally planned in May 2020.

Hospice is grateful to Mr. Bill Kaplan for the opportunity to hold the event at the Newburgh Armory Unity Center. The presentation of the We Honor Veterans Program was presented by Kim Warner and Janice Valentino. The National Anthem was performed by SGM MaryKay Messenger and a special message was given by Orange County Executive, Steve Hochstadt.

Our appreciation to Patricia Larkin, who gave an endearing personal testimonial along with the beautiful video of the Honor Salute given to Senator Larkin while he was in our care.

Hospice Veteran Volunteer, Peter Adams, received the **Paul V. Rader Veteran 2 Veteran Award** for his exceptional service to our agency and our veterans' program. Peter first became a Hospice Volunteer in 2011 and was active in the creation and cultivation of the agency's Veterans Volunteer program. Peter is an Army Veteran of the Korean War (1953-1955). We thank him for his service to our country and his service to our organization and congratulate him on receiving this award.

We were pleased and honored to have special guest speaker Jim DeFolice, author and screen writer of American Sniper and many other best-selling war novels. Jim was gracious to offer signed copies of some of his books. The entire presentation was streamed on social media and YouTube for viewing: <https://youtu.be/7lqpeYsk-Hv4> (Link to presentation or go to the Hospice of Orange and Sullivan YouTube Channel to view).

Masks and Veteran pins were provided to the limited audience we were permitted to host at the Unity Center. The rest of the masks (sponsored by Lakeland Bank) and pins (sponsored by Rob Bowen and Dan Clarkin) were sent to local Veteran organizations and to Veterans who reside in local assisted living facilities and nursing homes. A link of the presentation was sent to these facilities for Veterans to view.

Hospice is grateful for all our sponsors who originally sponsored a table for the breakfast. If it were not for each sponsor, we would not have been able to produce this virtual event.

Thank You Sponsors	Thank You Sponsors
Lakeland Bank	Barbieri Insurance, Rob Brown
Barbieri Insurance, Rob Brown	RO/MAX Benchmark Realty, Dan Corina
9100 Atlantic Management	Oppenheimer & Co., Vince Marice
Am. Leg. Post 517 & 47th Ave 1188 Southern	Pratt Title of the Hudson Valley
Am. Leg. Orange Business Post #1287	Right at Home
Conley Group, Judith Morgan	Sullivan Tax Service
Good Care at Home Care, Home Health Agency	Joseph M. Seiler & Associates
Fraser and Walsh	State Farm, Neil Cardozo
Redwood Brook Cemetery	Stevens Heating & Cooling
Woodward House Services, Rand Realty	Thompson Realty
State Realty	G.A. Plumbert & Associates Local 312
Water Valley B&B	Verizon Wireless Zone
Waggoner Family	Wal-Mart Federal Savings & Loan
Waggoner Promotions	West Point Regional Info. History Club
W&M Mechanical	WILLARD
W&M Mechanical	(845) 357-9619
Mid Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union	

With Veterans Pat Berlin, The Promenade, Middletown shows off his "Salute to Our Veterans" pin and mask as he watched the Veterans Community Presentation on Nov. 5, 2020.

HOSPICE of ORANGE & SULLIVAN Counties, Inc.

Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day

The Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Act of 2017 was signed into law designating every March 29 as National Vietnam War Veterans Day.

On a brisk and windy March 29, 2021, **HOSPICE of Orange and Sullivan Counties** with the support of **Newburgh VFW Post 973, Orange County Veterans Service Agency and VETZet MHA** held a Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Ceremony at the Orange County Veterans Memorial in Newburgh. Close to 40 community members, mostly Vietnam Veterans, attended to honor, thank, and welcome home our Nation's Vietnam Veterans.

It was an honorable recognition that included the laying of a wreath, the reading of the 68 Orange County Vietnam Veterans names engraved on the memorial monument, and the playing of Taps (National Song of Remembrance) by Dave McLennan, VFW Post 973. Christian Farrell, Director of Orange County Veterans Service Agency spoke of the meaning of the day and Larry Neuman, from VETZet, did the honor of placing the beautiful red, white, and blue wreath at the base of the monument. The ceremony was streamed Live our Facebook page and can still be viewed on <https://www.facebook.com/Hospiceoforange>.

Presidential Proclamation Regarding Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Act of 2017

"To ensure the sacrifices of the 9 million heroes who served during this difficult chapter of our country's history are remembered for generations to come, I signed into law the Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Act of 2017, designating March 29 of each year as National Vietnam War Veterans Day. Throughout this Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War, and every March 29 thereafter, we will honor all those who answered our Nation's call to duty."

Hospice of Orange and Sullivan Counties, Inc. has reached the top tier of Community Partner Level V of "We Honor Veterans," a program developed by the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization (NHPCO) in collaboration with the Department of Veterans Affairs. Through this program we gratefully acknowledge our military and service men, women, and families. We aim to create a veteran centered organization through education, strategic partnerships, and veteran recognition. Our mission is to serve our nation's Veterans who have served our country.

Major Corps Greater Newburgh Detachment #249 - Dan Grady, Hospice CEO and Sandi Cessone, COO - Frank Fisher and Dave McLennan, VFW Post 973 - Wreath placed at OC Veterans Memorial

For more information about Vietnam War Veterans Day visit: <https://vva.org/vietnam-war-veterans-day-2021/>

HOSPICE of ORANGE & SULLIVAN Counties, Inc.

Below are photos of the virtual presentation participants:

Peter Adams, Hospice Veteran Volunteer with Veteran Award

Janice Valentino, DE Marketing and Community Outreach

Kim Warner, Director of Social Work and Bereavement Services

Dan Grady, President and CEO

SGM MaryKay Messenger

Mr. Steve Hochstadt, Orange County Executive

Hospice of Orange and Sullivan Veteran Honor Recognitions are a Community Effort

Aubrey Buckner is in 3rd grade and goes to Stephen J. Gerace Elementary in Pequannock, NJ. Daughter of Hospice Aide Specialist Dakota Buckner, Aubrey continues to support our Honor Salute Recognition program for the Veterans we care for. She spearheaded a class project to make Thank You for your Service cards. These cards are an important part of the recognition our Veterans receive for their service. Thank you, Aubrey and your class!

Photo taken pre Covid-19 pandemic.

Thank you to the Orange Blossoms American Legion Auxiliary of Chester, NY for their continued support in providing Patriotic Blankets for our Veterans. Janice Marion (2nd on the left) a Hospice Volunteer, arranged for the group to make more blankets when we were in need during the past year.

These magnificent works of art donated by the Quilters of the Hudson Highlands.

Thank You for Your Service!

Veteran Lutz **Veteran Pope** **Veteran Tomassini**

*Permission to use these images was granted

HOSPICE of ORANGE & SULLIVAN Counties, Inc.