



**HOSPICE OF  
ORANGE & SULLIVAN COUNTIES, INC.  
WE HONOR VETERANS  
LEVEL V  
ANNUAL REPORT**

**08/01/2022 TO 07/31/2023**



# Hospice of Orange & Sullivan Counties, Inc.

## We Honor Veterans

### Level V

## Annual Report

08/01/2022 to 07/31/2023

*Hospice of Orange & Sullivan Counties Takes Pride in Caring For and Recognizing Veterans*



According to the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization (NHPCO) and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), one out of every four dying Americans is a Veteran. Hospice of Orange & Sullivan Counties is the leading community resource for providing patients and families with compassionate physical, emotional, and spiritual end-of-life care with comfort, dignity, and respect.

As part of its goal to care for and honor Veterans, Hospice of Orange & Sullivan Counties offers Veterans the opportunity through its Veterans Program, to be honored and thanked for their service.

Each recognition is tailored to the patient's and family's preference, which may include a pin, a certificate of service, a patriotic blanket (hand-made by a local crafter), a thank you card (made by a child from one of our local communities), and/ or an Honor Salute. Hospice of Orange & Sullivan Counties continues to create partnerships with Veterans organizations throughout Orange and Sullivan Counties to provide these salutes to honor Veterans.

Veterans have done everything asked of them in their mission to serve our country, we believe it is never too late to give them a hero's welcome home!



# Proud to Work in Partnership With

- 101.5 WPDH
- 105th Airlift Wing Alumni Association
- AJ Ross Creative Media
- Beth-El Post #29 Middletown New York
- Castle Point VA
- Catholic War Veterans Post 386
- The Cornwall Yacht Club
- Design Intervention Studio
- Anne and Michael Donovan
- Christin Farrell, Director, Orange County Veterans' Service Agency
- Foam and Wash Car Wash
- The Grout Family
- Assemblywoman Gunther
- Mrs. Angelo J. Ingrassia and Maria Ingrassia
- Jeff Bank
- John T. Kenney VFW Post 973
- Lakeland Bank
- A. Vince Mazzie
- Mental Health Association in Orange County, Inc., Joseph P. Dwyer - Vet2Vet Program
- Mid-Hudson News
- Mid-Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union
- Nam Knights of America Motorcycle Club
- Newburgh Free Academy Air Force JROTC Color Guard
- Patriotic Insurance Group
- Purple Heart Museum
- Vincent Serrano, member of Marine Corps League Greater Newburgh Detachment #249
- Stewart Air Force Base
- Times Hudson Valley Media
- Verizon Wireless Zone
- WALL Radio
- WTBQ AM 1110 FM 93.5 & WGHT AM 1500 FM 98.3
- YIT Foundation

# Veterans by the Number



Total Number of Veterans Served 140

Total Number of Veterans Recognized 55





# Hospice of Orange & Sullivan Counties' Veteran Recognitions Are a Community Effort

Since 2015, Hospice of Orange & Sullivan Counties' Veteran Recognitions have been a community effort. Hospice of Orange & Sullivan Counties reaches out to senior centers and local crafters to make patriotic blankets that are given to Veterans in its care. It also reaches out to local school-aged children to make "Thank You for Your Service" cards that are distributed to Veterans in its care and are always well received. In addition, Hospice of Orange & Sullivan Counties is in continual contact with local Veterans organizations which provide Honor Salutes, when requested. Even though COVID-19 restrictions were lifted this past year, Hospice of Orange & Sullivan Counties still experienced challenges with in-person Honor Salutes.

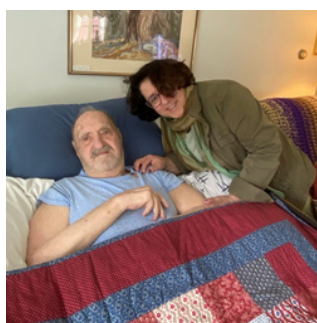
Veteran Recognitions – The following photos and captions are samples of the work Hospice of Orange & Sullivan Counties did this past year recognizing the Veteran patients it serves.



Thank you for your service, Veteran Richard Gore.



Thank you for your service, Veteran George Turner.



Thank you for your service, Veteran Raymond Dolfini.



Thank you for your service, Veteran Charles Ladka.



Thank you for your service, Veteran Lewis Marchant.

# Hospice of Orange & Sullivan Counties' Veteran Recognitions Are a Community Effort

(continued)



Thank you to Susan Staples, RN, Hospice of Orange & Sullivan Counties, for this beautiful, handmade blanket to go to a Vietnam Veteran.



Thank you to Karen Hansen for generously donating fidget blankets to provide sensory and tactile stimulation for the restless hands of someone with Alzheimer's or other forms of dementia.



Thank you Joan Romanyschyn for generously donating several handmade blankets for Veterans.



Thank you Janice Marion and American Legion Orange Blossom Post 1167 in Chester, NY, for their generous donation of homemade blankets.

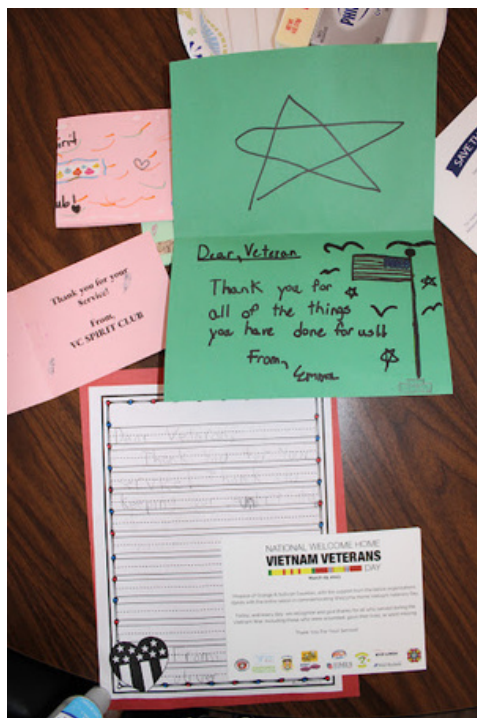


Thank you Irene Ronda for handmaking this beautiful blanket in support of our Veterans Program.



# Hospice of Orange & Sullivan Counties' Veteran Recognitions Are a Community Effort

(continued)



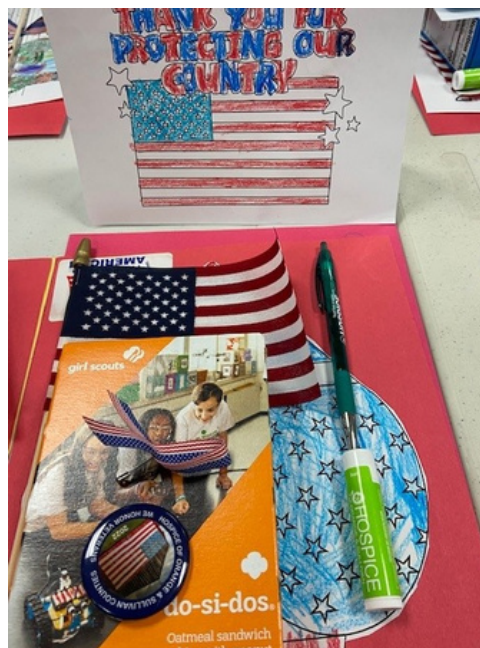
Handmade thank you cards made by local school-aged children are included as part of a Veteran Recognition package. In March 2023, Hospice of Orange & Sullivan Counties reached out to local school contacts and asked for students to once again create these beautiful and meaningful cards.



Every year Girl Scouts sell cookies to donate to Veterans, and every year Hospice of Orange & Sullivan Counties works with Girl Scouts to receive these donations to share with Veterans at events and/ or recognition ceremonies. Special Thank You to Girl Scout, Faith Starr, and her mentor, Denise Noyes.

# Hospice of Orange & Sullivan Counties' Veteran Recognitions Are a Community Effort

(continued)



On November 11, 2022, Hospice of Orange & Sullivan Counties' Veterans Committee Members put care packages together to deliver to Veterans on Hospice of Orange & Sullivan Counties' services on Veterans Day.



# Welcome Home Vietnam Veteran Day

(National Vietnam War Veteran's Day)

## March 29, 2023 -

Hospice of Orange & Sullivan Counties Veterans Committee hosted its 3rd annual Thank You and Memorial Ceremony in observance of National Vietnam War Veterans Day at The Cornwall Yacht Club. Community partners included:

- 101.5 WPDH
- 105th Airlift Wing Alumni Association
- John T. Kenney VFW Post 973
- Mental Health Association in Orange County, Inc., Joseph P. Dwyer - Vet2Vet Program
- Mid-Hudson News
- Nam Knights of America Motorcycle Club
- Newburgh Free Academy Air Force JROTC Color Guard
- The Cornwall Yacht Club
- Times Hudson Valley Media
- Vincent Serrano, member of Marine Corps League Greater Newburgh Detachment #249
- WALL Radio
- WTBQ AM 1110 FM 93.5 & WGHT AM 1500 FM 98.3

In early 2017, Congress passed the Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Act, establishing March 29 as National Vietnam War Veterans Day. The holiday is also known as "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day."

This day is an opportunity to recognize and give thanks for all who served during the Vietnam War, including those who were wounded, gave their lives, or went missing. National Vietnam War Veterans Day is the hero's welcome they never received. It underscores the need to heal their painful wounds and allows us the occasion to pause and give respect, admiration, and thanks to the patriotic men and women who sacrificed so much in service to their nation. The ceremony included reading the names of the soldiers from Orange and Sullivan County who never came home, and concluded with the playing of Taps.





# Veteran to Veteran Café

## February 14, 2023 - National Salute to Veteran Patients Week

During National Salute to Veteran Patients Week, February 13-17, 2023, Hospice of Orange & Sullivan Counties' Veterans Committee members recognized Veterans in nursing homes throughout the two-county territory we serve and ran Vet to Vet Cafés at 10 Nursing Homes. Hospice of Orange & Sullivan Counties joined others across the country in honoring and paying tribute to Veteran Patients. Gift bags consisting of playing cards, notebooks and pens, non-slip socks, stuffed decorative hearts to hang, ChapStick, and greeting cards were delivered to 166 Veterans in 10 different nursing homes. In addition, a video was shared at each location of Hospice of Orange & Sullivan Counties, Veteran Volunteer, Bob Burton, Retired MSGT, who recounted his 22-year military career in an interview.



# Veteran Partnership Community Events

## September 15-19, 2022 - The Wall that Heals

Vietnam Veterans Memorial replica The Wall That Heals was in Middletown, NY, September 15-19, 2022. The traveling exhibit honors the men and women who served and made the ultimate sacrifice in Vietnam. Hospice of Orange & Sullivan Counties was a sponsor of the event, with a table on-site, and representatives present throughout the day all five days.



## December 17, 2022 - Wreaths Across America

Hospice of Orange & Sullivan Counties' employees and Veteran Volunteers participated in Wreaths Across America at Orange County Veterans Cemetery. Laying wreaths on Veterans' graves.





# Veteran Partnership Community Events

(continued)

## June 9, 2023 - How Hospice Benefits Veterans Webinar

Hospice of Orange & Sullivan Counties' Veterans Committee hosted a free virtual, educational, lunch & learn webinar for Medical Professionals, Social Workers, and Caregivers in the region who care for Veterans. Hospice of Orange & Sullivan Counties shared how hospice care can benefit Veterans with a life-limiting illness. Over 60 individuals participated with some from other states around the country. Participants learned about the We Honor Veterans Program, medical conditions that benefit from hospice care, the pattern and problem of late referrals, use of community doctors, and community partnerships and providers.



# Hospice of Orange & Sullivan Counties Veteran Program

**Hospice of Orange & Sullivan Counties Veteran Program Pamphlet and Distribution** – Throughout the year Hospice of Orange & Sullivan Counties hosts, attends, and presents at various community and civic organizations. In addition to the community efforts highlighted in this report, Hospice shared information about We Honor Veterans and the need for Veteran Volunteers at the following additional locations and events:

- Blooming Grove Senior Center
- East Wallkill Rotary
- Fox Hill Community Breakfast
- Minisink Rotary
- Minisink Valley Kiwanis Club
- Montgomery Senior Citizens Health Fair
- Monticello Kiwanis Club
- Monticello Senior Center
- Mulberry House
- Orange County Caregiver Symposium
- Port Jervis Library
- Port Jervis Rotary
- Sullivan County Office of the Aging
- Sullivan County Social Services
- Warwick Rotary

Pamphlet distributed throughout the community.

**Veteran Recognitions**

**Our Mission**  
To be the leading community resource for providing patients and families with compassionate physical, emotional, and spiritual end-of-life care with comfort, dignity, and respect.

**Hospice-Veteran Partnership**  
**What is a Hospice-Veteran Partnership?**  
A Hospice-Veteran Partnership is when the Department of Veterans Affairs, community hospices, state hospice organizations, and others work together to ensure excellent end-of-life care is available for our nation's Veterans and their families.

**Honor Salutes**

**Veterans Program**

**About We Honor Veterans**  
**We Honor Veterans**, a program of the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization in collaboration with the Department of Veterans Affairs, is a program focused on respectful inquiry, compassionate listening, and grateful acknowledgment. By recognizing the unique needs of America's Veterans and their families, community providers, in partnership with the VA, guide Veterans toward a more peaceful ending.

**Veteran Volunteers**  
Part of Hospice's interdisciplinary approach includes volunteers. In fact, a percentage of all Hospice services must be performed by volunteers. Therefore, we have an extensive Volunteer Program.

**Veteran Recognition**  
As part of our mission to serve and honor Veterans, our Veterans patients are offered the opportunity to be recognized and thanked for their service.

**Options include:**

- Private Recognition with Social Worker
- Recognition Celebration with Family and Care Team
- Honor Salute Recognition With family/friends and care team, community Veteran representatives provide salute, giving Veteran patient the opportunity to salute back.

**VETERAN SERVICES PROVIDED**

- Identify Veteran Patients on our Hospice Program
- Collaborate with VA Medical Centers and Organizations
- Assist in Establishing Health Benefits
- Burial Benefits
- Survivor Benefits
- Veterans-to-Veteran Volunteer Support
- Veteran Recognition
- Honor Salutes

**HOSPICE of ORANGE & SULLIVAN**  
(845) 561-6111  
hospiceoforange.com  
800 Stony Brook Road  
Newburgh, NY 12550

**WE ARE Thankful FOR YOUR SERVICE**

Information card available at events.

If you would like to attend a future Hospice Veteran event - please fill out so we have your most recent information.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

I am interested in participating in the Honor Salute Program: Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

I am interested in becoming a Veteran Volunteer: Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

# Vietnam Veteran Bead Project

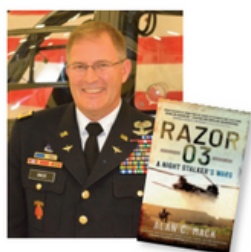
## February 23, 2023 - Vietnam Veterans Bead Making

In partnership with the 105th Airlift Wing Alumni Association, Hospice of Orange & Sullivan Counties brought together Vietnam Era Veterans at Stewart Air National Guard Base to make Vietnam themed keychains while enjoying the comradery of fellow Vietnam Era Veterans.





# 2023 Veterans Celebration Breakfast



#### Featuring Special Guest

#### Alan C. Mack, Author, *Razor 03: A Night Stalker's Wars*

Chief Warrant Officer Five, retired, Alan Mack, served over 35 years in the US Army. His awards include the Legion of Merit, 2 Distinguished Flying Crosses, 3 Bronze Stars, 10 Air Medals (one with Valor Device), and a Combat Action Badge. He logged more than 6,700 flying hours. As a Special Operations Flight Leader, Mack collaborated with Army Rangers, Delta Force, Special Forces, Navy SEALs, amongst other Government agencies. Mack served as Commander of the West Point Military Academy Aviation Detachment. His first book, *Razor 03: A Night Stalker's Wars*, was published in 2022. Mack currently serves as the Deputy Commissioner for Orange County, NY's Division of Emergency Management, and resides in the Hudson Valley with his wife, Patti.

On June 14, 2023, Hospice of Orange & Sullivan Counties hosted a Veterans Celebration Breakfast, to honor and thank Veterans for their service. Over 200 guests, mostly Veterans, attended the event. Community sponsors included:

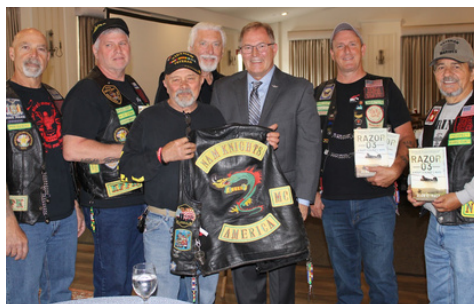
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- AJ Ross Creative Media
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- Catholic War Veterans Post 386
- Design Intervention Studio
- Anne and Michael Donovan
- Foam and Wash Car Wash
- The Grout Family
- Assemblywoman Gunther
- Mrs. Angelo J. Ingrassia and Maria Ingrassia
- Jeff Bank
- Lakeland Bank
- Vince Mazzie
- Mid-Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union
- Nam Knights Motorcycle Club of America Orange County Chapter
- Patriotic Insurance Group
- Verizon Wireless Zone
- WTBQ AM 1110 FM 93.5 & WGHT AM 1500 FM 98.3
- YIT Foundation

The 105th Airlift Wing, Stewart Air National Guard Base, Honor Guard, presented the colors and U.S. Army Sergeant Major, MaryKay Messenger, sang the National Anthem. Kim Warner, Director of Social Work and Bereavement, and Hospice of Orange & Sullivan Counties Veterans Committee Chair presented the Hospice of Orange & Sullivan Counties Paul V. Rader, Vet-to-Vet Volunteer Award to Robert M. Burton, retired U.S. Air Force Master Sergeant, in recognition of his dedication and support to fellow Veterans. Guest speaker Alan C. Mack, retired Chief Warrant Officer Five, spoke about his experiences and his book *Razor 03: A Night Stalker's Wars*. Guests received a commemorative pin from the event and a copy of Alan Mack's book.

# 2023 Veterans Celebration Breakfast

(continued)

## Veterans Celebration Breakfast Photos



We Honor Veterans, by recognizing the unique needs of America's Veterans and their families, community providers, in partnership with the VA, can guide Veterans toward a more peaceful end-of-life journey. Hospice of Orange & Sullivan Counties is a Level V Community Partner of We Honor Veterans and is committed to improving end-of-life care for Veterans.

[hospicefororange.com](http://hospicefororange.com)  
845-561-6111





# 2023 Veterans Celebration Breakfast

(continued)

## Paul V. Rader Vet-to-Vet Volunteer Award

Presented to Veteran Volunteer Robert Burton. The Paul V. Rader Vet-to-Vet Volunteer Award is given out annually highlighting commitment, dedication to the Hospice of Orange & Sullivan Counties Veteran Program, and spirit of giving as a Veteran to Veterans.



# Community Outreach

## **August 17, 2022 - Atlantic Global Corporate Meeting at Thayer Hotel, West Point, NY**

Atlantic Global Risk held a Build-A-Wheelchair with iPads event at the Thayer Hotel at West Point. The event included over 40 representatives from around the United States and Canada. At the end of the day, Atlantic Global Risk donated 8 wheelchairs to local organizations for the exclusive use of Veterans. Hospice of Orange & Sullivan Counties was the beneficiary of 5 of these wheelchairs to be used for Veterans. Sandra Cassese, RN, MSN, CNS, President & CEO, of Hospice of Orange & Sullivan Counties addressed the group, thanked them for their donation, said a few words about the organization, and spoke about We Honor Veterans.



## **August 27, 2022 - Veteran Appreciation Day at Dutchess Stadium**

Hospice of Orange & Sullivan Counties attended the 8th Annual Veteran Appreciation Day at Dutchess Stadium. Local agencies were invited to host tables with information on how they support Veterans. Approximately 750 Veterans and their family members were in attendance that evening, with an additional 100 Veterans participating in the opening ceremony. Hospice of Orange & Sullivan Counties provided information about We Honor Veterans, Veteran Recognitions, Veteran Volunteer Program, and other ways to support Veterans.





# Community Outreach

(continued)

## September 20, 2022 - Donation of Wheelchair for Veteran

Warwick Valley VFW Post 4662 donated a wheelchair to be used by a Veteran. Hospice of Orange & Sullivan Counties' medical supply company, Central Medical, graciously offered to pick-up, care for, and store the wheelchair until it could be placed with a Veteran. Special thank you to Carmine, from VFW Post 4662, and Bruce, from Central Medical Supply Company, for helping organize this transfer so seamlessly.



## May 31, 2023 - Office of the Aging Senior Health and Fitness Day

Hospice of Orange & Sullivan Counties coordinated an information table for seniors and Veterans, staffed by volunteers. Over 300 seniors registered and attended the event.





# Community Outreach

(continued)

## The Focus

Hospice of Orange & Sullivan Counties' Newsletter, The Focus, is published twice a year and mailed to over 5,000 households. It is also distributed via email, social media, and posted on the website. Every Focus features We Honor Veterans initiatives and seeks to recruit Veteran Volunteers.

## Spring 2023

### Veterans Initiatives



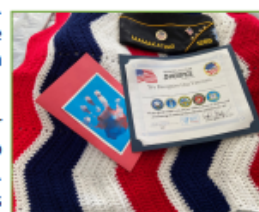
#### Veteran Honor Salute Program

Hospice of Orange & Sullivan Counties is a Level V, Community Partner, of We Honor Veterans, a program of the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization (NHPCO) in collaboration with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). By recognizing the unique needs of America's Veterans and their families, community agencies, learn how to accompany and guide Veterans through their end-of-life journey toward a more peaceful ending.



As part of our Veterans Initiatives, we recognize all Hospice patients who have served in the military with a special ceremony of their choosing. Each Veteran is presented with a pin, framed certificate of service, a patriotic quilt or blanket, and a card from a child thanking them for their service.

If a Veteran on our program agrees to receive an Honor Salute, we work with local Veterans Organizations to have them come salute the Veteran on our program. Giving our Veteran the opportunity to salute back. This



program gives Veterans the opportunity to honor, recognize, and thank each other.

- ♦ If you are a Veteran, or part of a local Veterans Organization, and would like to be called upon to salute a Veteran receiving Hospice services, or
- ♦ If you are a member of a local Knitting or Crochet Group and would like to donate patriotic blankets, or
- ♦ If you would like your children's group to make thank you cards for Veterans

Please contact the Advancement Department at (845) 561-6111 or email [advancement@hospiceoforange.com](mailto:advancement@hospiceoforange.com)



Hospice personnel, volunteers, and Veteran volunteers assembled packages to be delivered to Veterans in nursing homes throughout Orange and Sullivan Counties for National Salute to Veteran Patients Week

#### Vet to Vet Café

February 12th through 18th was National Veteran Patients Week. More than 9 million Veterans receive medical treatment each year, and just under 100,000 receive medical treatment each day. On February 13th and 14th in honor of National Salute to Veteran Patients Week Hospice of Orange & Sullivan Counties Veterans Committee visited 163 Veteran patients at 10 different nursing homes throughout Orange & Sullivan Counties to thank and recognize them for their service. Each Veteran was given a gift bag with a Valentine's Day Card, thanking them for their service, written by a child, playing cards, non-slip socks, and other items as a gesture of our appreciation for their service.

Scan here to learn  
more about our  
Veteran Initiatives



Tips for Caregivers: Let others take part in caregiving. Take a break, go outside, do something for yourself.

HOSPICE of ORANGE & SULLIVAN COUNTIES (845) 561-6111 7

# Community Outreach

(continued)

Spring 2023

## Volunteer of the Year

Thomas P. Sullivan Award  
Hermine Gilbert



Part of Hospice's interdisciplinary approach includes volunteers. In fact, a percentage of hospice services, must be provided by volunteers. Each year, Hospice of Orange & Sullivan Counties selects an outstanding volunteer as the recipient of the Thomas P. Sullivan Award. There are so many wonderful volunteers it is difficult to select just one. Each volunteer brings something unique to their work... themselves.

This year's recipient has been volunteering with us for seven years. She is dedicated, endearing, and we are honored to have her as a volunteer. This year's recipient of the Hospice of Orange & Sullivan Counties, Volunteer of the Year, Thomas P. Sullivan Award is Hermine Gilbert.

Hermine supports patients and caregivers, and often volunteers to take on more than one patient or assignment at a time. Volunteers' responsibilities vary. Hermine recently provided transportation for a patient who wanted to do some shopping. Hermine accompanied this patient on several occasions, fulfilling this patient's wishes.

Hermine exhibits a quiet, empathetic, and calming manner. She is flexible depending on the patient's and family's specific needs, and has learned to offer as little or as much support as patients desire. Hermine offers comfort to patients through bedside companionship. She connects with her patients and has stayed in touch with patients' families.

Hermine is always willing to pitch in wherever she is needed, and often covers the reception desk at The Kaplan Family Hospice Residence. She volunteers for Hospice of Orange & Sullivan Counties Bereavement Care Program by calling bereaved family members offering them support, and recently became a mentor for a new volunteer, offering them guidance and support.

Kristin Palmieri, Bereavement Counselor, shared, "Hermine has volunteered for the bereavement department for over a year. She makes bereavement calls to hospice families 13-months after the death of their loved one. She is compassionate and a good listener and steadfast in her commitment to helping families."

"Hermine helped create a presentation for our website to reach Hospice and community members coping with the death of a loved one. She is kindhearted, a wonderful person, and an asset to the organization, and the bereavement department."

Hermine was touched to be selected Volunteer of the Year, "it is interesting that I have found myself doing this type of volunteer work. A Social Worker urged me to take the training, and I felt a calling. I find this volunteer work fascinating, rewarding, and have learned that death is not necessarily a sad thing. I also find both the bereavement and volunteer teams incredibly supportive."



To become a Hospice Volunteer  
please call (845) 561-6111 x214 or email  
[volunteerdept@hospiceoforange.com](mailto:volunteerdept@hospiceoforange.com)

## Veteran to Veteran Volunteer Program

We are actively seeking Veteran Volunteers. Our Veteran Volunteer program allows Veteran patients to be paired with a Veteran Volunteer who can provide unique comradery, bedside reminiscing, and participate in Veteran Recognitions.

To learn more please call (845) 561-6111 or email  
[volunteerdept@hospiceoforange.com](mailto:volunteerdept@hospiceoforange.com)

**Tip for Caregivers: Take care of yourself. Get the food and rest you need.  
If you do not get a full night's sleep, take a nap.**

HOSPICE of ORANGE & SULLIVAN COUNTIES (845) 561-6111 5

# Community Outreach

(continued)

## February 7, 2023 - WTBQ The Nonprofit Notebook

Hospice of Orange & Sullivan Counties provides a 30-minute radio show on WTBQ, The Nonprofit Notebook, monthly, on Tuesdays 11:30am to 12:00pm. The show on February 7 highlighted We Honor Veterans with guest speaker, Kim Warner, Director of Social Work and Bereavement as well as the Veterans Committee Chair.





Administrative Office  
800 Stony Brook Court  
Newburgh, NY 12550  
[www.hospiceoforange.com](http://www.hospiceoforange.com)  
(845) 561-6111

