



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Honoring Our Veterans Even at the End of Life

DUBLIN, CA (November 11, 2008) Americans across the country celebrate Veterans Day on November 11, a time to pay tribute to the brave men and women who have served our country faithfully.

This national awareness reminds us also of the need for the care and support of frail veterans who deserve to live as fully as possible during their final days, with the special care hospice provides.

The number of older veterans is growing rapidly. Veterans age 75 and older will increase by 12 percent by the year 2010, and veterans 85 years and older will triple during that same period. Hospices are providing a critical link in the care of these veterans by providing care and support to wherever the patient calls home.

“Hospices are caring for many veterans, particularly those who fought in World War II, and play an important role in helping these Americans find peace and the compassionate care they deserve,” remarked J. Donald Schumacher, president and CEO of the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization.

Increasing access and education among veterans and providing them with more choices regarding care during the final phase of their lives is critical.

Today, Hope Hospice has the honor of serving many Tri-Valley veterans, providing them with dignity and supporting their quality of life. In the course of the work, the Hope

Hospice team has been witness to many touching stories that veterans have shared about their service and accomplishments.

Captain Jesse Barker, USN, Retired, a Dublin resident, served as a fighter pilot and a dive bomber pilot from the Hornet, Enterprise, Independence, and the Intrepid. During his 24 years of service, Captain Barker flew 117 different models of naval aircraft including various prop and jet powered land and seaplanes. He is most proud of his appointment as Executive Officer on the USS Hancock, an aircraft carrier based in Alameda.

Ozella (“Zell”) Aikers, Yeoman 3rd Class, a resident of Castro Valley, is proud of her service in the U. S. Coast Guard Women’s Reserve.

First Lieutenant Joseph Myers, USAF, Retired, served as a B-17 bomber pilot in World War II between 1942 and 1945. He was stationed in England and flew over 30 missions. When asked why he joined up, he replied, “I love to fly...even though it’s a little scary.”

Our nation’s veterans have given their last full measure in service to their country and the Hope Hospice team is proud to provide the highest quality of care for them as they near the end of their lives.

As neighbors, friends, and family members, there is a role every person can play to support quality care. If you know a veteran who is in need of the special care hospice provides, reach out and encourage them to learn more information by calling Hope Hospice at (925) 929-8770.

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