



Love Never Dies

We hurt so much in grief because of the love that fills our hearts for people who have shared our lives. We hurt so much in grief because of the connections to dreams and hopes and wishes that may have been all we ever wanted. Each of us has a personal story that reflects the power of love and tells how its presence has affected our paths.

The experience of love in our relationships holds memories and meanings of days past and lives built together. Love is a very personal and powerful gift. The love of a husband for a wife, a parent for a child, a friend for a friend, a child for a parent, all connects us to our hearts. Even in relationships that were ambivalent or problematic, there is cause to grieve for the potential of what could have or might have been... Love does not end. Although our anguish challenges us to integrate the separation and the changes, there is healing in us. Facing the world without one who knows us deeply is a lonely and difficult challenge. We do not get over grief, but we redesign the fabrics of our existence with the colors that have brought out the best of who we are. We move forward by cherishing and owning this love as forever a part of our identity.

Lives are transformed because of love. As we wrestle with the reality of the loss and the circumstances that have brought it about, let us never forget the love. How am I different because I have known you? What were our struggles, our joys, and our purpose in spending time together? Beyond death, there is life that has enriched us, defined us, and even challenged us. As we live through the darkness and the winter of grief, it is wise at times to rest in the heart. Open the heart. Our ability to love is what gives our lives meaning. Bring the broken and hurting parts of you to the healing center of your heart.

Patrick Stroup, Spiritual/Bereavement

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The Good and The Bad

In hospice care, we often hear patients say they have “good days and bad days”. In life, we all seem to have good days and bad days. Good things happen and sometimes bad things happen to us all. Sometimes we have more good than bad, but sometimes the bad outweighs the good. But we know that we are going to have both and so it has been with High Desert Hospice the past few months.

In April, we moved our offices to a new location near the hospital and many of the doctors’ offices. The offices are very nice, centrally located and lots of parking. Meetings are easier as we have enough room at the table for all the staff.

We get busy, things are going well and then the bad thing happens. Something you never expected, something that changes your world and brings you to your knees. You get a call and are told that one of your own, a nurse, died in her sleep. This can’t be true because she wasn’t sick. She didn’t feel bad. We were talking on Friday about our kids and pets. How can she be gone? We didn’t get to say good-bye and tell her how much we appreciated her and what she meant to us.

We are hospice. We understand death comes for us all, we care for people during the last transition of their lives, we help them cope with physical, emotional and spiritual pain and we support their loved ones. And yes, we become friends and care about these special people we are privileged and honored to serve. We grieve when they are gone. This is the circle of life and we face this on a daily basis.

We will once again walk through grief and work through the pain. We have taken this walk many times and will take it many more times. Most of us know that even if time doesn’t “heal” our pain, it will change it and we will go on with our lives feeling honored to have had Mari “Kathy” Bensel as a colleague and a friend. Good-bye, Mama Kat. You are loved.

Teresa Pastorius, Administrator



It's Never too Late to Thank a Veteran, Even at the End of Life

Americans across the country celebrate Veterans Day on November 11, a special day to salute the men and women who have bravely served our country in the military.

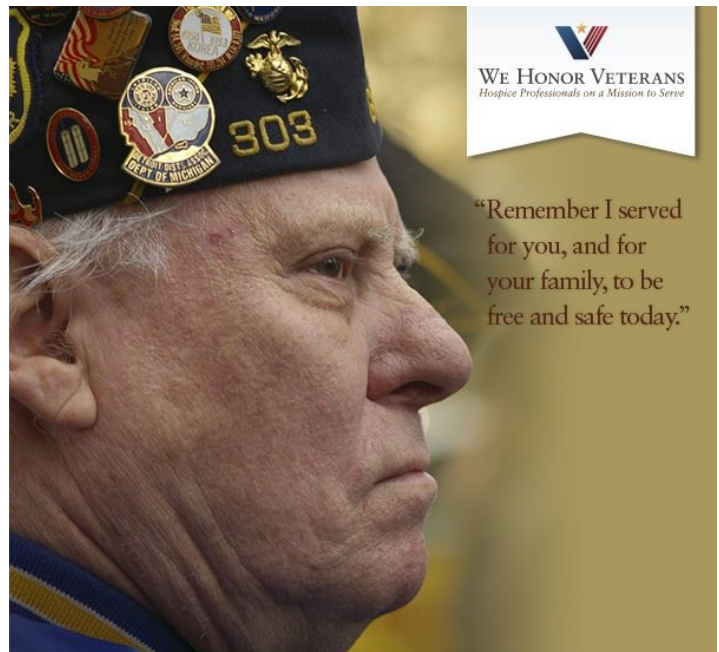
These fellow Americans have made profound sacrifices in defense of freedom and they deserve our heartfelt thanks and appreciation. Honoring our nation's Veterans includes supporting them throughout their entire lives, especially at the end.

As our nation marks Veterans Day, High Desert Hospice deepens our commitment to increase Veterans' access to the compassionate, high quality care available from the nation's hospice and palliative care providers. One of the ways we're making this happen is through our active involvement with **We Honor Veterans**, an innovative program of the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization that we created in collaboration with the Department of Veterans Affairs.

There is something else that's important for every American to do – and that is to say, "thank you" to our country's Veterans. Not just on November 11 but all year long.

Ask your friends, neighbors, coworkers and others in your community whether they have served in the military (you may be surprised how many have)—and thank those who have served for their sacrifice.

It surprises many Americans to learn that every day, 1,800 Veterans die. That's more than 680,000 Veterans every year – or 25 percent of all the people who die in this country annually.



WWW.WEHONORVETERANS.ORG

If you know a Veteran who is in need of the special care hospice brings to people facing serious and life-limiting illness, please reach out and help them learn more about care options by visiting www.MomentsOfLife.org.

To all our nation's Veterans, thank you.

If you would like to support work being done at the national level to expand care for Veterans at the end of life, please visit www.WeHonorVeterans.org/Support.

National Hospice Palliative Care Month

November 2014

Turns out even when you're dying, there can be a lot of living to do.
We're showing the world how hospice makes more meaningful moments possible for patients, caregivers and families.

See their stories at momentsoflife.org



Foundation News

Annual Parking Lot Sale

The High Desert Hospice Foundation held our second annual sale in July, This year our sale was held in the parking lot of our new location and was a great success.

There are so many people to thank. We appreciate all the great items which the community donated. We give thanks to all the volunteers who organized, cleaned, priced, set up and manned the tables, etc. We would especially like to thank Lynda B., Sabra M., and Ed M., who did lots of the work before the actual sale date.



Between the volunteers and the staff who donated hours, we had 286 volunteer hours for the sale. And it was worth it – we doubled what we made last year with a grand total of over \$2,000. Now the really good news – all

that money goes to the foundation which is dedicated to helping our patients and families with the necessities that insurance doesn't cover.

So, a huge thanks to those people who donated items, who volunteered their time, and to those who attended and purchased all the great stuff.

Donations

Just a reminder that when you donate to High Desert Hospice, these donations go to our non-profit foundation. High Desert Hospice Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and **100% of the money donated to the foundation goes directly to patients and family needs.** Administrative costs are donated by High Desert Hospice. Your contribution is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Author Unknown

Memory is a way of holding onto the things you love,
the things you are, the things you never want to lose.

~From the television show The Wonder Years ~

Volunteer Corner

High Desert Hospice celebrated our great volunteers on May 9, 2014. Volunteer appreciation week is usually the first part of April but we delayed our celebration this year because of our move to a new location. Our theme was "Hats Off to You" so we were working with a cowboy motif and had fun filling the cowboy hats with western gear puns – soap "on a rope"; "udderly smooth" hand lotion; a bucket with candle; "chap"stick; and cowboy wisdom sayings. Sabra Marano, a volunteer, had pieced together 100 beautiful rice bag covers so we used some of them as gifts. About 30 people attended the dinner

including staff and volunteers. Thank you volunteers! You are the best.

We also have a new volunteer to welcome – Lacie. Lacie comes to us with lots of training and experience with gerontology. She completed her training on May 12 and will be available shortly to work with our families. She came highly recommended by Dr. Bongiovanni, a wound care specialist, who also volunteers her services with us.

Karen Little, Volunteer Coordinator



~Call to Volunteer
(541) 882-1636~