



**HOSPICE OF THE VALLEY, SAN JOSE HONORS AND CARES  
FOR VETERANS AT THE END OF LIFE**

*Thirty-three Santa Clara County residents recognized for their military service*

**SAN JOSE Calif. – November 21, 2011** – One in four dying Americans are Veterans and as the nation commemorated and honored our American heroes for their military service this past Veterans Day, November 11 – it's important to remember that Veterans also deserve compassionate care at life's end. Hospice of the Valley, San Jose is on a mission to serve Veterans through the challenges they may be facing from serious illness, isolation or traumatic life experience. With that in mind, thirty-three Santa Clara County veterans were honored and recognized for their military service by Hospice of the Valley, San Jose.

Hospice of the Valley's team *mobilized* to celebrate and pay tribute to these brave men and women who are currently receiving compassionate care and support from the organization's renowned programs for individuals and families facing serious illness.

Each veteran was presented with a token of appreciation, a specially designed patriotic card that read: *"Thank you honored Veteran. We pay special tribute to you for your military service to America by advancing the universal hope of freedom and liberty for all."* And home-baked treats were also given.

"Honoring and caring for our nation's veterans includes supporting them throughout their entire lives with the dignity they deserve, especially at the end of their life journey," said Sally Adelus, president and chief executive officer of Hospice of the Valley. "It's about dignity and living every moment and making each day matter."

By recognizing the unique needs of our nation's veterans who are facing serious illness, hospice and palliative care providers, like Hospice of the Valley, are able to accompany and guide these men and woman towards a more peaceful life's end. For veterans who experienced combat service or other trauma, this can be particularly important as experiences from the past may resurface at the end of life.

In an effort to expand the services available to all veterans at the end of life, the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization in collaboration with the Veteran's Administration have launched the website [www.WeHonorVeterans.org](http://www.WeHonorVeterans.org), the centerpiece of the We Honor Veterans campaign. This campaign will help those who provide care at the end of life, better understand the unique needs of our nation's veterans.

**About Hospice of the Valley**

Hospice of the Valley, a leading provider and educator in advancing palliative and end-of-life care and community grief and loss counseling, affirms dignity and hope for those facing serious illness. The Community Grief and Counseling Center provides grief care for adults, teens and children and anyone experiencing a loss. The Transitions Program provides families facing advanced-illness with emotional support, education, and practical assistance.

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Seriousillness.org/santaclaracounty is a community website resource for caregivers and families. A community nonprofit serving Santa Clara County since 1979, Hospice of the Valley honors all cultures, beliefs, values, and traditions, and is committed to serving its diverse communities, provides equitable access to care for all—regardless of their financial ability. For information, call 408.559.5600 or visit [hospicevalley.org](http://hospicevalley.org).

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### **Photos and caption courtesy of Hospice of the Valley, San Jose CA**



(L-R) Hospice of the Valley social worker Connie Kay, MSW celebrates and honors San Jose resident Helen, age 88, an ensign in the Navy served as a nurse in Oakland during WWII, along with Hospice of the Valley chaplain Jane Garrison and nurse case manager Susan Pelzel, RN on Veterans Day, November 11<sup>th</sup>