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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HPH Hospice Earns Highest Veterans Partnership Level

Only 3 Percent of Nationwide Hospices Achieve This Status

Hudson, FL (November 2, 2016): In partnership with the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization and the Department of Veterans Affairs, HPH Hospice earned Level 4 status for its We Honor Veterans program. Level 4 status is awarded only to hospices that achieved top levels of increased training and improved quality of care for veterans.

“At HPH Hospice, we are honored to have achieved this elite status—only 3 percent of roughly 5,800 hospices across the country have earned this distinction,” said Patrick Allen, MSW, CHA, Executive Director for HPH Hospice. “Our We Honor Veterans program focuses on the respectful inquiry, compassionate listening and grateful acknowledgement of U.S. veterans as they face the end of their lives.”

We Honor Veterans training is intensive given the fact that end-of-life needs for veterans can be very different, especially for those patients who served in combat. Staff and volunteers are educated on how each war affected its veterans and how this experience shapes the care that HPH Hospice provides. Each year approximately 20 percent of HPH Hospice patients are veterans.

“Whenever possible, military-veteran hospice patients are cared for by staff and volunteers who are veterans themselves,” shared Erika Remsberg, Manager of Social and Volunteer Services for HPH Hospice. “Even if they didn’t serve in the same war, a volunteer with a military background can draw out patients who may never have discussed their wartime experiences before.”

One of the most celebrated events that HPH Hospice offers the community is the honor pinning ceremonies associated with the We Honor Veterans program. With a special citation and a pin, hospice patients who are military veterans receive well-deserved recognition at the end of their lives for the service they provided their country. In the last six years, more than 4,250 HPH Hospice honor pinning ceremonies took place.

“In addition to pinning ceremonies, hospice patients who are veterans receive other recognition,” added Remsberg. “For example, when a veteran is admitted to one of HPH Hospice’s Care Centers, the staff hangs a flag outside the veteran’s room. Veterans also receive special patriotic blankets handcrafted by volunteers.”

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“Our Level 4 status demonstrates the commitment HPH Hospice has to ensure that no veteran dies alone and all are recognized for their service and sacrifice to our country,” emphasized Allen.

During the month of November, HPH Hospice plans to honor and remember veterans at the following events:

- Thursday, November 3, 2 p.m., Terlep Chiropractic located at 8466 Northcliffe Blvd. in Spring Hill
- Wednesday, November 9, 1 p.m., The Grande Assisted Living Facility located at 725 Desoto Ave. in Brooksville
- Thursday, November 10, 9:30 a.m., Spring Oaks Assisted Living Facility located at 7251 Grove Rd. in Brooksville; and 2:30 p.m., Forest Oaks Assisted Living Facility located at 8055 Forest Oaks Blvd. in Spring Hill
- Friday, November 11, 2 p.m., Sturgill Hospice Care Center located at 12242 Cortez Blvd. in Brooksville, there will be a ceremony to raise a new flag.

About HPH Hospice

As a not-for-profit organization since 1984, HPH Hospice is committed to excellent service through compassionate care, accountability, respect, integrity and the goal of excelling through teamwork to maximize quality of life.

About Chapters Health System

Founded in 1983 as a compassionate not-for-profit organization, Chapters Health System provides choices, education and guidance for those affected by advancing age or advancing illness through its managed affiliates: Good Shepherd Hospice, HPH Hospice, LifePath Hospice, and Chapters Health Palliative Care, located in Citrus, Hardee, Hernando, Highlands, Hillsborough, Pasco and Polk counties. In addition, Chapters Health operates HPH Home Health, which serves the needs of patients in Pasco and Pinellas counties. Learn more at www.chaptershealth.org, like us on [Facebook](#) and follow us on [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

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