



## *Volunteers for Veterans*

**Old Colony Hospice**, serving southeastern Massachusetts, has begun a specialized program to provide enhanced care to our patients who have served in the armed forces. According to the Veterans Affairs health care system, more than 1,800 veterans die each day. The *Volunteers for Veterans* program seeks to recognize and honor the contributions made by veterans as they near the end of life.

A select group of patient-care volunteers (veterans themselves who represent all branches of the military) has received training on the unique skills needed to help acknowledge and support veterans, especially those who have been in combat, as they share their stories and memories. These stories, which speak of love and loss, courage and fear, youthful optimism and the wisdom of years passed, endure as a lasting legacy long after they have served.

In addition to having trained volunteers available to provide friendly visits and respite to veterans and their caregivers, Old Colony Hospice also presents each veteran with an individualized certificate, which commemorates their service to our country. These certificates create a meaningful yet simple reminder to express our gratitude and thank these men and women for their service. And yet, it is always the veteran and their family who seem to be more appreciative, often moved to tears by the gesture. As the wife of one veteran said, “with all the turmoil going on in the world today – it would be easy to forget those that went before. You did not. We both thank you.”

If you are interested in learning more about Volunteer opportunities at Old Colony Hospice, please call Christina Finelli, Volunteer Coordinator, at 781-341-4145, ext. 201.



