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## OPEN INVITATION

To our neighbors throughout Hancock County who serve veterans and their families:

American Legions  
Veterans Clubs  
Veterans of Foreign Wars  
Disabled American Veterans

Dear Representatives of Veterans Serving Organizations,

We are very grateful for the opportunity to serve veterans who are living at the end of life and their families and we admire the work that you do to honor the service of your members. We are committed to furthering the conversation between your members and our hospice and bereavement support providers. We know we could learn from you about the needs of veterans and their caregivers and would like to let your members know more about the free services that we provide which are available to assist them as they live near the end of their lives.

Hospice Volunteers of Hancock County has been providing support and comfort to those living at the end of life and their caregivers for over 30 years. While we have always served veterans, we have, over the past two years, committed ourselves to several efforts that will equip us to better serve veterans and their families and we know that you are the experts on this, so our ability to connect with you and learn from you is a strong goal for us.

We know that the needs of veterans and their families are complex – in physical, emotional and spiritual ways, and we want to serve those who have served our country more fully and sensitively in the future. Begun with a grant from the Eastern Area Agency on Aging representing the Weinberg Foundation, we put a program in place to improve our outreach and services to Veterans and their caregivers, and our commitment is ongoing – we want to partner with you and your members in more ways in the future.

We would be happy to host a meeting with a group of any size representing your membership to hear more from you about what you see as the needs of veterans and their families when dealing with end-of-life issues. Please contact us to arrange a meeting to discuss this possibility.

Thank you for your openness to working with us on these issues. Feel free to call us with any thoughts or questions you may have about our Veterans and Caregivers Outreach efforts.

Best wishes to you and all the Veteran members you serve!

Sincerely,

Jody Wolford-Tucker, PhD  
Executive Director



## **Veterans and Caregivers Outreach Program Goals**

The goals for this program are multi-faceted:

- To provide services more specifically geared to the special issues faced by veterans and their caregivers;
- To partner with our local veterans-serving organizations to insure we are well-informed about the needs of those they serve;
- And, to become knowledgeable enough about available veterans benefits to help connect veterans and their families with the appropriate benefits representatives.

### **VCOP Components**

- Partnership with community colleagues to ensure the most effective veterans-specific services possible;
- Veterans-awareness training for all of our direct-service volunteers, both patient care/caregiver support volunteers and bereavement volunteers;
- Outreach to local veterans service organizations to learn how we might partner with them to serve those they serve;
- Support groups for caregivers and family members who have either lost a veteran loved one or are in the process of serving a veteran living at the end of life.

### **For More Information**

Please call the Hospice Volunteers of Hancock County office at 667-2531. We would appreciate hearing from you.