



Gala

2018 NATIONAL HOSPICE
HONORING THE INNOVATORS OF HOSPICE

Tonight we are privileged to celebrate the innovators of hospice and palliative care.

We honor the visionaries that made significant contributions at a pivotal point in time. They lead the way, listening and navigating thoughtfully. Responding and adapting with grace, spirit, and grit.

These passionate individuals were the force that made the Medicare Hospice Benefit a reality, cared for HIV/AIDS patients, and brought national attention to quality, end of life care.

We are at a critical moment where we need to move hospice and serious illness care to the forefront of the healthcare discussion. And to do so requires innovative ideas, and innovative people behind those ideas.

This card represents one bold innovator who forged ahead in the face of conventional wisdom for a vision of a world where everyone facing serious illness, death, and grief will experience the best that humankind can offer.

HOGAN LOVELLS

honors **Ann Morgan Vickery**

Ann Vickery was a long-time partner at Hogan Lovells (formerly Hogan & Hartson) and the leader of the firm's health practice from 1991 to 2010. As a young associate, she was asked by a partner to help a small new client, the National Hospice Organization (NHO), work to get hospice care added as a Medicare benefit.

The tremendous efforts of Ann, and many other early innovators, bore fruit with enactment of the Medicare hospice benefit in 1982. Ann went on to work with NHO, now NHPCO, as its outside legal counsel for many years. In that role, she crafted, lobbied for, and shepherded through numerous changes to the Medicare hospice statutes and regulations. A strategic thinker, she helped NHPCO anticipate changes in federal health policy and expand access to hospice services. She also served on the board of the National Hospice Foundation.

Ann is the recipient of many awards and accolades including 2005-2007 Washington, D.C. Super Lawyers, and 2007 Health Care Woman of the Year.

Ann was passionate about the value of hospice care. And we thank her for her service.

KINNSER SOFTWARE, INC.

honors **Barbara Karnes**

At the bedside of hundreds of people during the dying process, Barbara Karnes, RN noticed that each person was going through the stages of death in almost the same manner. And most families had the same questions. These realizations inspired her in 1985 to write *Gone From My Sight: The Dying Experience*. In doing so, Barbara effectively created one of the most important tools in the hospice movement: the patient/family educational booklet.

Written in non-medical language, *Gone From My Sight* is short, simple, and easy to read. Consistently in print for more than 30 years, it has been translated into ten languages and has helped millions around the world. This modest, frank, and compassionate booklet has come to be known simply as “the hospice blue book.”

Throughout her career as an educator, speaker, and author of many books, Barbara Karnes has dedicated herself to the education, care, and comforting of dying people and their loved ones. She is the expert who hospice and healthcare professionals count on to explain the dying process to families. She has helped focus the attention of the public and the medical community on an essential fact – that dying is not a medical event.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS
honors **Dr. Bernice Catherine Harper**

Dr. Bernice Harper is a social worker nationally recognized for her work at the City of Hope in California and her distinguished career with the federal government. She was instrumental in developing long-term program policies which highlight continuity-of-care, including community and institutional care, and the importance of psychosocial components. Her insight and commitment to professionals as they work with patients in the final phases of their lives, motivated her to write *Death: The Coping Mechanism of the Health Professional*, a definitive publication on death and the special needs for professionals to cope with their related stress.

In 1999, Dr. Harper was the founding president of the Foundation for Hospices in Sub-Saharan Africa, now Global Partners in Care. Since that time, Global Partners in Care has expanded to nations beyond Sub-Saharan Africa.

Dr. Harper was the first recipient of the NASW Foundation's Knee/Wittman Outstanding Achievement in Health/Mental Health Policy Award. In 2017, Harper was inducted into the California Social Work Hall of Distinction.

Due to her renowned work in health care, health care policy formulation, and hospice, Dr. Harper's influential contributions have personified the values and ethical standards of the social work profession.

SUNCOAST SOLUTIONS, BY COMPLIA HEALTH *honors* **Bluegrass Care Navigators**

Complia Health is pleased to honor Bluegrass Care Navigators for 40 years of innovative work caring for the seriously ill of Kentucky.

Over the past four decades, Bluegrass Care Navigators (BCN), previously Hospice of the Bluegrass, has developed a post-acute continuum of care including personal care, private duty, transitions, palliative, hospice and community grief care.

Just recently, BCN added home primary care and adult day health care to its compliment of services, furthering its mission to provide patient-centered care to the seriously ill and their families.

As a two-time Circle of Life awardee, 2017 Modern Healthcare Best Places to Work recipient and 2017 Hospice Honors Elite recipient, BCN is being recognized by its healthcare partners, patients and families as well as employees, as a true innovator and leader in care.

Last year, Bluegrass Care Navigators impacted the lives of more than 12,000 patients and countless family, friends, healthcare partners and community members.

As Complia Health continues to partner with BCN to expand their services and bring future innovations to life, we are proud to recognize their unyielding dedication to the communities they serve, and the hospice industry as a whole.

SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY
honors Dale G. Larson

Dale G. Larson, Ph.D., Professor of Counseling Psychology at Santa Clara University, Fulbright Scholar, Fellow in the American Psychological Association, clinician, and researcher has made pioneering contributions to end-of-life care and training throughout his career.

In the early days of hospice, Dale conducted an influential NIMH-funded national mental health skills training program. In the 1990's, he chaired the National Hospice Organization's First National Conference on Hospice Volunteerism, and authored the award-winning book, *The Helper's Journey: Working with People Facing Grief, Loss, and Life-Threatening Illness*. In 2001, Dale was Senior Editor and a contributing author for *Finding Our Way: Living with Dying in America*, the Robert Wood Johnson-funded national newspaper series that reached seven million Americans.

Dale's deep commitment to better care for the dying and the bereaved, and his insightful and inspiring vision regarding the importance of end-of-life care, have made him a prominent speaker and trusted ambassador for that care both here and abroad.

We thank Dale deeply for his innovative efforts to improve end-of-life care and training. These contributions will continue to reverberate far into the future, helping all those who will need this care, and the caregivers who come to their aid.

CARLA DAVIS

honors **David Rehm**

As CEO of Hospice Care of RI (HCRI), David Rehm was among an elite group of visionaries at the forefront of the modern hospice movement in the US. When I met David, he and other industry leaders were building VistaCare Hospice, a national program whose mission was to transform end-of-life care by breaking down the traditional barriers people experienced to access care.

During this time, David taught me how I could truly change the world by first changing myself. He taught me how to lead, gave me confidence in my strengths and softened my weaknesses. He generously shared his wisdom and compassion to build future hospice leaders.

Later in his career, he joined and retired from Hospice & Palliative Care of Cape Cod (HPCCC). At HPCCC, David made a commitment to serve all eligible hospice patients regardless of the cost or complexity of their care, demonstrating that it is possible to be operationally viable and financially profitable.

David's entire career has been based upon innovation around access to care, quality outcomes and leadership development. There are many hospice leaders that have been influenced by David's kindness and leadership. I am forever grateful to be one of them.

SNOWLINE HOSPICE
honors Douglas Tustin

Dr. Douglas Tustin had an epiphany while on rounds as a medical student in the 1960s. The Chief of Medicine marched the class into a room, stood over a dying patient, and, without acknowledging the man, academically discoursed about him. The outraged nurse shouted: "Stop it! This is a human." Dr. Tustin understood then that as a society we needed to incorporate compassion for the dying and their families into medical care.

In late 1979, re-inspired by new thought in the medical field, Dr. Tustin brought together fellow innovative and progressive thinkers to answer the questions: "Can hospice happen here? Can we make it happen?" And "Snowline," a name chosen by Dr. Tustin for its metaphysical connotation of the transition to another space, with death being a symbolic passing over that line, was established.

The goal was to move end-of-life care to patients' homes and help families become team members by teaching and guiding them as comfort caregivers. Making end-of-life care "portable" instead of hospital-bed-bound was paramount. It was no coincidence that Dr. Tustin carried patient files in his famous wooden apple crate. Not only does it symbolize a portable office, but that patient care was portable to the patient's home, too.

THE ELIZABETH HOSPICE

honors **Elizabeth W. "Betty" Bulen**

The Elizabeth Hospice celebrates 40 years of caring for our community in 2018, and honors its founder, Elizabeth W. "Betty" Bulen, a registered nurse and Army veteran.

The Elizabeth Hospice was only one of 59 hospice programs operating in the United States back in 1978. Betty's vision helped to shape the hospice and palliative care movement locally and nationally, touching the lives of thousands of individuals of all ages impacted by illness, grief, and loss. Today, The Elizabeth Hospice is recognized as a trusted mission-driven community resource, and the largest, most experienced, nonprofit program in San Diego County, and also serving Southwest Riverside County.

"Betty was the catalyst for a long tradition of caring for those facing a serious illness. Her aspiration to bring comfort to those nearing their end-of-life journey will live on, as her philosophy and desire to help others continues to inspire the team of staff and volunteers here at The Elizabeth Hospice," said Jan Jones, President and CEO.

The Elizabeth Hospice is proud to continue Betty's legacy of caring for adults and children in our community. "We encourage people to live, really live, before they die. People think that hospice is about dying, but it's really about celebrating life."

FURST GROUP & NUBRICK PARTNERS
honors **Everyone in Hospice as an Innovator**

Today's hospice care started with an idea ... it has now grown into the biggest of initiatives, providing care that was once just imagined.

We believe that leadership and innovation happen at every level. Innovators think beyond what lies ahead and imagine the possibilities to create solutions for a brighter, more compassionate tomorrow. In the case of hospice and palliative care, these heroes number in the tens of thousands ... from the executive who envisioned a new fundraising source to the respiratory therapist whose idea brought comfort to one patient ... from the landscaper who carefully sculpted grounds with pleasing sightlines for wheelchair users to the accountant who streamlined a confusing metric and found significant cost savings for the organization.

The patients and families you serve may not know all of your names, but their gratefulness is forever etched in their hearts.

Thank you from Furst Group & NuBrick Partners.

MUMMS SOFTWARE
honors **Florence Wald**

Florence Wald was a true visionary and innovator from birth, born in 1917 to social activist parents. Wald began her career in the New York Visiting Nurse Service, where she saw minimal interaction between terminally ill patients, family members and medical staff. She knew that was not the level of care she wanted for her patients.

Inspired by Cicely Saunders from Saint Christopher's Hospice in London, Wald went to work with Saunders to experience her hospice, designed as a warm, peaceful setting where patients were assisted to die with dignity, respect and compassion.

After working with Saunders in England, Wald returned to the U.S. to conduct research and learn more about the needs of terminally ill patients. Her keen intellect, courage and perseverance lead to the organization of the first American hospice in New Haven, Connecticut in 1971.

Under Wald's influence, the American hospice movement grew to 1,000 hospices in less than 15 years. Her leadership transformed the delivery of healthcare to the dying.

We honor Florence Wald for her unwavering commitment to social justice and reverence for life.

BOB WARD

honors **Galen W. Miller, PhD**

Galen W. Miller, PhD, dedicated his life's work to advancing care at the end of life. His passion and work on behalf of the hospice and palliative care community, national and global, serve as an ongoing inspiration to many.

From 1991 to 1998, Dr. Miller served as a Vice President at NHPCO (then NHO). From 2001, until his time of death in 2013, he was the Executive Vice President of NHPCO and its affiliates. In addition to his long history dedicated to education, research and external relations, he provided leadership in HIV/AIDS care, access to care in underserved populations and diverse communities, issues relating to rural care provision, innovations in end-of-life care, and strategic planning. Many people who will die in this country, and who never knew him, will benefit from his skill, insight and dedication.

Dr. Miller supported a wide range of charitable and non-profit organizations that extended beyond his work in care at the end of life and was a champion of educational initiatives.

We remember Galen not only for his service, but also for his breadth of knowledge, skills and insights, his warmth, and willingness to share these gifts for the greater good of others.

FRIENDS

honor **J. Donald Schumacher, PsyD**

Don Schumacher spent more than four decades of his life serving the hospice and palliative care community. Don emerged as a leader in the grassroots movement as president and founder of multiple hospice programs, most notably The Hospice of Mission Hill in Boston, which was established as one of the first HIV/AIDS hospices in the U.S. During his leadership of Hospice Buffalo, later the Center for Hospice and Palliative Care, he was instrumental in making community-based palliative care services available, increasing access to care.

Don, along with other visionaries, worked tirelessly to bring to fruition the Hospice Medicare Benefit in 1982. In 2002, he joined NHPCO to make an even bigger impact.

During his 14 year tenure as president and CEO, he developed the Hospice Action Network, launched the We Honor Veterans initiative in partnership with the Department of Veteran Affairs, expanded Global Partners in Care to nations beyond sub-Saharan Africa, and made the National Center for Care at the End of Life a permanent home for NHPCO and its affiliates.

Don's leadership has strengthened and unified the hospice and palliative care community. His friendship and compassion has touched many lives. We are grateful for the time and talent he has shared with all of us.

BAYADA HOME HEALTH CARE

honors **J. Mark Baiada**

"I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples."

Whether or not Mark Baiada intended it, Mother Teresa's poignant words reflect the lasting impact he has had on a movement that continues to flourish to this day.

In 1979, four years after founding his own home care agency, Mark joined an innovative team of home care professionals to bring the relatively new concept of compassionate end-of-life care to southern New Jersey. Their visionary work resulted in the area's first hospice, even before the implementation of the Medicare Hospice Benefit.

Mark's contributions were many: He wrote the hospice plan to help patients and families find more peace and less fear during the final journey. He held multiple leadership roles at what is now Samaritan Hospice, including founding director, second president, and board member for 17 years. Always a hands-on leader, Mark was a member of the first team of volunteers.

A true pioneer in the hospice movement, Mark continues to extend the ripples of his work through BAYADA Home Health Care, which now brings end-of-life care to people in NH, NJ, PA, and VT. It is part of his lasting legacy vision of helping millions of people worldwide experience a better quality of life at home.

JOAN AND DON HARROLD

honor **John (Jay) J. Mahoney**

Jay Mahoney has been a leader in the hospice movement since working to formulate, negotiate, and pass the Medicare Hospice Benefit in 1982. As Executive Director, he then led Boulder County Hospice to become one of the first Medicare-certified hospices and open one of the first inpatient units in a certified hospice.

In 1984, Mahoney accepted the position of President of the National Hospice Organization. For more than 14 years, he led NHO's efforts to establish and advance hospice care across the US.

Mahoney founded Summit Business Group in 1998, providing consulting services across the country. He then founded The Hospice Compliance Network (2000) and the Hospice House Network (2011). His articles and comments have appeared in the New England Journal of Medicine, the American Medical News, and the Journal of Palliative Medicine. He has co-authored several publications and provided testimony on hospice care before numerous Congressional committees and Administration task forces.

Mahoney has received the Founders Award from the National Hospice Foundation, the Inspector General's Integrity Award from the HHS Office of the Inspector General, and the Administrator's Achievement Award, from the (now) Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. He and his wife Laura now live in New York.

STATESERV MEDICAL - HOSPICELINK
honors **Josefina B. Magno**

Dr. Josefina B. Magno, a Philippines-born oncologist, established some of the first hospice programs in the U.S. and helped bring the hospice concept into the medical mainstream.

In 1972, Magno underwent a radical mastectomy and intensive chemotherapy for breast cancer. The experience made her more aware of the physical and emotional pain suffered by the terminal patients around her, and how little the medical profession had to offer the dying.

After her recovery, Magno went to England to study their hospice approach, which combined pain management with psychological and spiritual counseling. When she returned in 1976, she created a pilot hospice program at Georgetown, persuading Blue Cross-Blue Shield to cover expenses for six months, pointing out that fees would be half what hospitals charged. Magno's pilot program and data helped persuade Congress to pass legislation to include hospice under Medicare.

In 1980, Magno became the first executive director of the National Hospice Organization (now NHPHO), a position she held for almost three years.

Throughout her life, Magno developed and spread hospice care internationally. Her drive and determination to make hospice accessible around the world served as an inspiration to many.

VISITING NURSE ASSOCIATION HEALTH GROUP
honors **Keri Linardi**

Keri Linardi was born to be a hospice nurse and leader. The focus on hospice care is to alleviate pain and suffering, whether physical or spiritual. Goals of care and quality of life are the emphasis of focus at end of life. Keri has been a leader and innovator in ensuring that the VNAHG follow these standards for every individual to die peacefully and with dignity. The processes she has put in place and the quality of care she wants delivered have led to beautiful end-of-life experiences.

Keri was involved in a grant for an inner city program where guards were being used for visits. The grant allowed community social workers, rather than guards, to make visits, allowing us to enmesh ourselves within the community, creating trust, care and genuine concern. These are communities that are struggling, and they deserve to receive care without barriers, judgement or limitations. Keri does not see people by their race, religion or socioeconomic class. She sees people as individuals who need our help and will do whatever she can to provide it.

We have come so far yet have so much further to go. With Keri Linardi's leadership and guidance, everything is possible.

ONEPOINT PATIENT CARE

honors **Larry J. Mayhew**

Larry J. Mayhew was a visionary hospice pharmacy pioneer. After graduating from Drake University College of Pharmacy and Health Services, he began working as a staff pharmacist in Phoenix, Arizona. Seven years later in 1979, at age 35, he bought out the owners and expanded beyond prescription dispensing to orthopedic supplies, durable medical equipment, compounding and long-term care facility services.

After meeting in a church basement in 1985 with Joan Lowell and Jean-Marie Stockton, founders of Arizona's Hospice of the Valley, he recognized the need for a local, dedicated hospice pharmacy. He soon focused exclusively on serving hospice patients 24/7, 365 days a year, with custom compounds, same day delivery, STAT orders, after-hours dispensing and an extensive inventory of hospice drugs, dosage forms, strengths and concentrations.

His commitment to compassionate, dignified care of patients near the end of life led to the rapid adoption of his services, and he continued to help Susan Levine and other Hospice of the Valley leaders grow the market by educating healthcare workers and patients on the value of hospice.

Larry's vision became the foundation of what is now OnePoint Patient Care, whose patient-first mission remains unchanged from its humble beginnings in a church basement.

BOB WARD

honors **Linda Rock**

Linda Rock has a BA degree in Sociology from Central Michigan University and has dedicated more than 34 years developing, leading and sustaining hospice and palliative care programs in Michigan and Nebraska, as well as supporting programs in other states. Linda has served on various committees in leadership roles at both the state and national level. She also served as NHPCO's Board Chair during a significant change and transition as they searched for a new President and CEO.

For her outstanding leadership, and high level of dedication and passion, Linda has received the Nebraska Hospice and Palliative Care Association's Shining Star and State Impact awards, and the Galen Miller Leadership Award.

Linda has worked tirelessly on behalf of hospice at the local, regional and national level. John Mastrojohn III, NHPCO, described Linda as "A stalwart advocate on behalf of rural hospice care, Linda has been a proponent of greater access and the development of high-quality care for her entire professional life." One of Linda's beliefs is that "We can keep the sacredness of what hospice is and does, ensuring a caring, compassionate service while maintaining a quality, ethical, competent and compliant organization."

INFINITY HOSPICE CARE

honors **Mary L. Bertram**

Over 30 years ago, Mary fell in love with end-of-life care and had a deep desire to make high quality end-of-life care available to everyone regardless of where they lived. In the early stages of Mary's career, she struggled to find anyone with hospice experience, and thus had to create and design new training methods, materials and processes for every discipline. Mary's desire to educate others about hospice did not stop at her staff, but continued within the community, from health care practitioners to caregivers and family members.

Mary has continued to innovate how hospice care providers are trained and how the community is educated. Her latest challenge is searching for future leaders that can make a difference in the lives of patients and families being cared for by hospices across the country. Mary wishes to thank all hospice care professionals who strive every day to provide the best care possible, as well as the leaders who continue to innovate and improve upon the way we educate staff, patients and families about hospice.

SUNCOAST HOSPICE / EMPATH HEALTH
honors **Mary Jean Etten**

Mary Jean Etten, R.N., Ed.D, F.T., C.M.P. is a pioneering leader who devotes her life to the care and well-being of the elderly and dying in Pinellas County, FL. As a nurse, she joined together with other passionate community volunteers and revolutionized the way people lived and died. They started the Elisabeth Kübler-Ross Hospice (now Suncoast Hospice), one of the nation's first and largest nonprofit community-based hospices. As founders, they led the mission with compassion, faith, grace and hope. They provided companionship, physical comfort and emotional support for elderly, pediatric and even AIDS patients, whom others turned away. They met the community's needs and always kept the focus on patients and families.

Today, Dr. Etten remains Suncoast Hospice's longest-serving volunteer still serving on the boards and supporting the larger Empath Health network. Her award-winning work on local, state and national levels has influenced and helped countless people. She has practiced nursing and music, taught best practices, developed care models, written, advocated and presented about care and taught and mentored many generations of college nursing students. Her newest venture is co-authoring a book about Suncoast Hospice – an innovative concept of care dreamed of long ago and grown into a lasting legacy.

REINHART BOERNER VAN DEUREN S.C.
honors **Mary Michal**

Mary Michal's love for elder care formed the basis for a legal career that has had a lasting impact on the delivery of hospice services. By combining her passion for care, deep industry understanding and exceptional legal acumen, Mary pioneered countless innovations to help elevate and support hospice care nationwide.

After serving as the Executive Director of Agrace, Mary joined the law firm of Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren s.c. At Reinhart, she quickly became the driving force behind the creation of one of the nation's first dedicated Hospice and Palliative Care law groups—a practice that today has grown to serve clients in 45 states and is now the preeminent supplier of legal services to hospice providers across the country.

Today, Reinhart's hospice attorneys carry on Mary's passion to deliver services that go beyond the practice of law; upholding a mission to provide legal solutions that ensure hospices can fulfill their own missions. As a result, Reinhart hospice attorneys remain uniquely suited to understand the values, passion and dedication of our clients. It is those same principles, upon which Mary Michal founded our practice decades ago, that continue to guide our work every day.

BOB WARD

honors **Marcia Licht**

Marcia Licht is an internationally known educator, lecturing before professional groups and audiences throughout the US, Canada, Europe and Australia. She has appeared on the Today Show, MSNBC and numerous other television and radio programs.

As one of the founders of Colorado's first hospice, HospiceCare became a nationally recognized education and training center under her direction. HospiceCare published manuals and materials, provided training courses for hospice professionals around the country, and became the community's source for education on end-of-life issues. One of her innovations was producing a training tape to help law enforcement officers who responded to sudden death situations.

Marcia was awarded an honorary doctorate in humane letters in recognition of her work (University of Colorado, 2005), the 1984 Winston Churchill Traveling Fellowship, the 2002 ADEC Educator Award, and NHPCO's 1995 Heart of Hospice. She received the Boulder County District Attorney's highest award in 1988, the Distinguished Service Award, for her work with victims of crime, and was named a Boulder Pacesetter in 1985.

Marcia remains a visionary today, making an impact far beyond hospice.

BOB WARD

honors **Martha Barton**

As a young girl, Martha Barton began and ended many days making home visits with her father, a country physician. This is where she learned that that “dying is as normal as birthing and just as important in terms of intention.”

That would lead her to become a registered nurse and then spend three decades as the executive director of Pikes Peak Hospice and Palliative Care in Colorado.

When Martha began at Pikes Peak, her first budget was written in pencil on recipe cards. It totaled \$200,000 and featured her, 17 part-time employees and 75 active volunteers. Now, the nonprofit has a budget of \$18 million, a staff of 230 and 550 active volunteers. There is an acute care inpatient unit, a robust palliative care and consultation program, and a specialized pharmacy.

Martha is universally loved and respected not just in Colorado, but around the country. Her passion for excellence in hospice and palliative care has inspired countless colleagues, employees, and volunteers.

Her vision has always remained the same – to provide the best care possible for her patients and their families.

HOSPICE PHARMACY SOLUTIONS

honors **Mary L. McKenna**

Caring for others is very familiar to Mary McKenna. Her mother, Peggy McKenna, was one of the founders of Southeast Texas Hospice, the very first hospice in Texas. Mary followed in her footsteps, becoming a founder of the Texas and New Mexico Hospice Organization (TNMHO). She served as one of its first presidents.

Mary is a true advocate on a number of key issues, including creation of the hospice state license and initiation of Texas Medicaid reimbursement.

In 2008, after Hurricane Ike, Mary stepped in to help her community, even though her own home suffered some damage. After driving by the cemetery day after day and seeing caskets floating out of the vaults, she arranged for a hospice grant to pay for reburials at the historic black cemetery. For this, Mary received the "Citizen of the Year" award from the Greater Orange Chamber of Commerce.

In 2017, Mary received the "Lifetime Achievement Award" from the TNMHO for serving dying people and their families across southeast Texas. Nationally, Mary has served as a Treasurer and Board member of NHPHO. She is a true leader in community healthcare and we honor her for her service.

VITAS® HEALTHCARE
honors **Peggy Pettit**

Peggy joined VITAS in 1983 as a registered nurse, and quickly distinguished herself with her leadership skills, becoming a team manager, patient care administrator and general manager.

In the mid-1990s, Peggy served as vice president for VITAS hospice programs in California. She was promoted to EVP and COO in 2004—a position she held until 2011, when she assumed her current role. Always, she embodied VITAS' first value: *Patients and families come first.*

Whatever her title, Peggy is an advocate for patients and families and a mentor to VITAS managers, nurses and other clinicians on the IDT team. She helped shape VITAS' initial response to the AIDS pandemic affecting so many in Sub-Saharan Africa, serving on the founding board of directors of the Foundation for Hospices in Sub-Saharan Africa, now known as Global Partners in Care.

Today Peggy is a VITAS ambassador, reaching out to organizations like the National Black Nurses Association, the End-of-Life Nursing Education Consortium, the National Alliance for Grieving Children, Community Health Accreditation Partner, NHPCO and many more, teaching, partnering, listening, and learning. And embodying VITAS' final value: *I am proud to make a difference.*

GLATFELTER HEALTHCARE PRACTICE
honors **Rafael "Rafe" Sciuлло**

With nearly 30 years as a leader in hospice and palliative care as well as hospital and home care, Rafael Sciuлло possesses a commitment and a passion to quality advanced illness and end-of-life care. He became the President and CEO of Suncoast Hospice/Empath Health after 12 years as the leader of Family Hospice and Palliative Care in Pittsburgh, PA which became one of the largest and most highly-regarded organizations in Pennsylvania.

Rafael serves on the Hospice Action Network Board of Directors and the Florida Hospice and Palliative Care Association. He previously was Chairperson of the NHPKO Board from 2001-2003, recipient of the Founder's Award and has served on the Governance, Professional Education and Public Policy Committees. He also served for five years as the President of the Hospice Council of Connecticut.

Rafael blends his propensity for attention to detail and fiscal soundness with heartfelt empathy and concern for patients and families. He is a compassionate, collaborative leader that has championed end-of-life care for many years.

Rafael holds three Master's degrees in Social Work, Theology and Healthcare Management and was educated at The Hartford Graduate Center, University of San Diego and University of Connecticut.

AMERICAN HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION
honors **Richard J. Davidson**

Richard J. Davidson, American Hospital Association president from 1991 to 2007, championed embedding palliative and end-of-life care in hospitals and health care systems and was the force behind creating the Circle of Life Award: Honoring Innovation in Palliative and End-of-Life Care.

With the support of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and other health care provider and professional organizations throughout the years, including the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization and the National Hospice Foundation, the Circle of Life Award was first awarded in 2000. Since that time, awards and Citations of Honor have recognized innovative hospices, hospitals, health care systems, long-term care organizations, and other organizations that have expanded the depth and breadth of palliative and end-of-life care.

Dick's prescient and unwavering support moved the field forward to help patients and families at the end of life and as they confront life-limiting conditions. Today and tomorrow, hospitals and health care systems are creating palliative care services and in partnership with hospices, community organizations, and physicians moving these important patient and family services throughout the care continuum. Today and tomorrow, in more communities, hospitals and health care systems know palliative care as an essential part of caring for a community. His impact grows...

SIMIONE HEALTHCARE CONSULTANTS *honors* **Robert J. Simione**

A celebrated hospice expert for more than four decades, Robert J. Simione was inspired by the mission early in his career. Bob's financial audit and volunteer service at Connecticut Hospice was instrumental in developing finance and reimbursement standards for the Medicare Hospice Benefit.

Bob's subsequent efforts with the federal government included collaboration and service on national task forces to develop the hospice cost report in the 1980s and reimbursement reform in the 1990s. He has delivered hundreds of presentations and published work to support hospice viability. Bob's most gratifying work has been his direct support to several hundred organizations in strategic planning, startup, finance, cost reporting and reimbursement, clinical staffing models, and developing inpatient facilities.

"I grew personally and professionally with the hospice movement. To see these wonderfully dedicated and compassionate organizations thrive has been most fulfilling." His passion for hospice deepened with his professional endeavors and personal experience. "Hospice care is a real gem in the human experience. Hospice has come of age as the need for quality care accelerates and the requirements become more complex. Hospice is a calling that commands our greatest respect and admiration, as well as our continued support."

HOPE HEALTHCARE

honors **Samira K. Beckwith**

As a graduate student with Hodgkin's disease, Samira K. Beckwith struggled through many hours in the hospital. During her treatment, she found conventional medicine inadequate for pain control — and especially lacking in empathy. This realization guided her into a career focused on helping others by providing compassionate, holistic care for serious illness.

In 1991, Hope was caring for just a few hospice patients a day; under Samira's leadership, the organization now serves over 3,000 people with a continuum of compassionate, comforting services. In addition to exceptional end-of-life care, Hope provides warm meals, gentle massage therapy, thoughtful counseling, holistic palliative care, and dozens of supportive programs to help the most vulnerable members of our community.

Samira's mission expands beyond southwest Florida, frequently participating in national health forums, and providing expert testimony before the US House Judiciary Committee. She was appointed to state policy councils by two different Florida governors and served on the Board of the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization, focusing on public policy, education and diversity.

Samira's passion for improving health care has improved the lives of thousands of people. Through her kindness and thoughtful leadership, individuals, families and loved ones will continue to find peace, dignity and comfort when it's needed most.

HOSPICE SERVICES AND PALLIATIVE CARE OF NORTHWEST KANSAS, INC.

honors **Sandy Kuhlman**

Sandy Kuhlman has been providing hospice services to the residents of Northwest Kansas since 1982. As current Executive Director of Hospice Services of Northwest Kansas, Inc. and Palliative Care of Northwest Kansas LLC she leads an organization that provides comprehensive and innovative end-of-life care services to sixteen frontier and rural counties.

Sandy has been the voice and advocate for rural hospice and palliative care at the state, regional and national level for many years. She currently serves on the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization Board of Directors and chairs the organization's Rural Task Force. Sandy also serves as Board Chair on the Kansas Hospice and Palliative Care Organization.

Sandy has been a leader in collaborations and partnerships with other hospices, area hospitals, nursing facilities, clinics, and universities to extend, promote and sustain exceptional care and services. Sandy has worked tirelessly to develop deep and strong ties with her state and national lawmakers and is often called upon to provide education and advocacy.

Sandy's compassion, vision, creativity and dedication are truly the hallmarks of innovation.