



Kenneth Baeth and son, Roger, visit the World War II Memorial in Washington, DC

## Hospice Patient and Veteran Visits World War II Memorial

### Honoring Service is an Important Part of One Man's End-of-Life Experience

On a brisk Monday morning in April, 92-year-old Veteran Kenneth Baeth absorbed the sight of the World War II Memorial on the National Mall in Washington, DC for the first time. From the viewpoint of his wheelchair, Baeth participated in a ceremony honoring his service along with that of dozens of fellow Veterans from his home state of Montana. Each of the Veterans was flown to Washington under "Big Sky Honor Flight" a Montana program that is a member of the Honor Flight Network, a non-profit organization created to honor America's WWII Veterans for all their sacrifices.

The program, with 121 hubs in 41 states, brings World War II Veterans to Washington, DC so that they may see the memorial erected in their honor. Baeth is facing the end of life with the help of his children and Rocky Mountain Hospice. He traveled to Washington with his oldest son, Roger and several volunteers from Rocky Mountain Hospice.

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"It takes a lot of courage to get old," said Roger. His father was nervous about traveling because of his health, Roger said, but he was loving every minute of the experience. Baeth contracted mesothelioma as a result of asbestos exposure while working in a mine as a young man; he is now dying of heart disease. Making the trip required extra physical therapy to increase his stamina and mobility.

At the age of 20, Kenneth Baeth's dream of flying became a reality when he enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps. It was 1942, in the midst of World War II. Standing at 5'2" tall, Kenneth Baeth looked like a perfect candidate to be a nose gunner, a man who crawled inside the nose of a fighter plane to operate a machine gun turret.

"I didn't dream it would be so big," Baeth remarked about the memorial. "The U.S. can pull itself together to do anything," he said. During the ceremony, Baeth met another nose gunner who fought in the Pacific during the war. The two exchanged phone numbers and planned to talk and exchange stories upon returning to Montana.

The National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization works with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to meet the unique needs of Veterans like Baeth with terminal illness. The *We Honor Veterans* program, developed in collaboration with the VA, provides local hospices with resources to broaden education and understanding of how best to honor our Veterans and respect their wishes and concerns at the end of life. Funds raised by the National Hospice Foundation support the *We Honor Veterans* program.

To learn more about *We Honor Veterans*, visit: [www.wehonorveterans.org](http://www.wehonorveterans.org).

To learn more about the Honor Flight Network, visit: [www.honorflight.org](http://www.honorflight.org).

To make a donation, visit [www.nationalhospicefoundation.org/veterans](http://www.nationalhospicefoundation.org/veterans)



Employees of The Elizabeth Hospice join in on the NHF Gala Celebration

## National Hospice Foundation 9th Annual Gala Honored Pediatric Palliative Care and Hospice Patients and Caregivers

### Outstanding Efforts in Supporting Hospice Recognized During Celebration

On Friday, April 26th, NHF held its 9th Annual Gala as part of the NHPCO's 28th Management and Leadership Conference at the Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center at National Harbor, MD.

"Our celebration was held in tribute to the youngest and bravest of those we care for in hospice: our pediatric patients. Hospice professionals recognize that caring for pediatric patients and their family members requires a unique approach and set of skills. NHPCO works to raise awareness and provide educational resources to those providing that care. We're thankful to those who joined in our celebration in support of that work," said J. Donald Schumacher, president and CEO of NHPCO.

Local ABC News Anchor, Greta Kreuz served as Mistress of Ceremonies for the event attended by over 500 guests. Three awards were presented to individuals who have contributed to hospice in significant and unique ways.

**Stuart Lazarus** received the *Philanthropic Inspiration Award* for his commitment to raising funds for hospice. In 2002, Lazarus combined his love of running with his passion for hospice to create a successful fundraising program, Run to Remember ([www.runtoremember.org](http://www.runtoremember.org)). This program gives runners and walkers an opportunity to celebrate and honor the memory of their loved ones and raises funds for hospice on a local, national, and international level.

**Ellen Goodman** was granted the *Morfofen Art of Caring Award*. The Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist received the award for The Conversation Project ([theconversationproject.org](http://theconversationproject.org)), an effort to engage the public in conversations about the end of life by sharing stories about "good deaths" and "bad deaths" and offering tools to make these conversations easier.

**Torrey DeVitto**, an actress and active hospice volunteer, was given the *Buchwald Spirit Award for Public Awareness*. As NHPCO's very first Hospice Ambassador, DeVitto frequently finds opportunities through interviews, social media, and appearances to bring more attention to hospice care and bring awareness to a

"Our celebration was held in tribute to the youngest and bravest of those we care for in hospice"



Kelli Singleton, Tracey Truscott, Cindy Scott, Jennifer Hudes, Laura Avanesyan and Monica Lewis McCommas of Silverado Hospice.

younger age group. She created the theme for the 2012 National Hospice and Palliative Care Month, "Comfort. Love. Respect."

Nearly \$100,000 was raised during the event, including over \$29,000 from a live auction. These funds will be used to support all of NHPCO's work in pediatric hospice care.

NHF would like to thank its Gala Sponsors:

**Ruby Sponsors:**

- Suncoast Solutions
- Suncoast Hospice

**Tanzanite Sponsors:**

- Gentiva Hospice

**Amethyst Sponsors:**

- Samira K. Beckwith and Hope HealthCare Services
- Center for Hospice Care
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- Gilchrist Hospice Care
- Glatfelter Healthcare Practice
- VITAS Innovative Hospice Care

**Next year's gala will be held on Friday, March 28, 2014 also at the Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center in conjunction with NHPCO's 29th Management and Leadership Conference.**

## Lighthouse of Hope Fund Provides Meaningful and Memorable Experiences for Adult Hospice Patients

NHF has launched the Lighthouse of Hope Fund, a new program that will help local hospice programs create meaningful and memorable experiences at the end of life for adult patients and their family members.

By choosing to participate in the Fund, which includes an annual \$500 registration fee, hospice programs will be able to request up to \$1,500 in total on behalf of their patients by the end of the year. These funds might be used toward any number of life experiences for their patients such as flying loved ones in to visit, special events such as trips or celebrations, or any opportunity to spend quality time with family and friends.



"We know many of the ways hospice improves quality of life for patients and family caregivers through skilled interdisciplinary care. Our new Lighthouse of Hope program will allow hospices to add another dimension to the services they provide to those under their care," said John Mastrojohn, NHF executive director.

Seed funding for the Fund came from the assets of the Lighthouse Foundation, which were generously designated to NHF in mid-2012 when the parent hospice of the Lighthouse Foundation was purchased. The Fund will be sustained through annual fees of participating hospices, generous contributions of individuals, corporations, and foundations.

To learn more about the Lighthouse of Hope Fund, or to make a donation, visit: [www.nationalhospicefoundation/lighthouseofhopefund](http://www.nationalhospicefoundation/lighthouseofhopefund).

## Foundation Board Chair, Samira Beckwith Elected Vice-Chair of National Coalition of Cancer Survivorship



Samira Beckwith, Foundation Board Chair

Samira Beckwith, Foundation Board Chair and president and CEO of Hope HealthCare Services, has been elected vice chair of the board of directors for the National Coalition of Cancer Survivorship, which advocates for quality cancer care for all people touched by cancer and provides tools that empower people to advocate for themselves.

Beckwith has twice survived cancer; she was diagnosed with Hodgkin's lymphoma at age 24 and later, breast cancer. Her experiences helped shaped Beckwith's career mission to ensure access to quality, compassionate health care services for all.

NHF congratulates Samira on her new role, and is grateful for her continued dedication and service to hospice.

# NHPCO Begins Collaborative Efforts with the Funeral Industry

## Work Begins with a Joint Effort with National Funeral Directors Association

The end of life is a difficult time for the family members and loved ones helping the patient through the last phase of life. In the midst of their grief, arrangements must be made to honor the person who has died, including funeral details. Because of the shared experience in working with families through this process, NHPCO has begun efforts to bring hospice professionals and the funeral service industry together to work and learn from one another. The first such collaboration is with the National Funeral Directors Association (NFDA).

Hospice professionals are skilled in providing pain management and addressing the psychological, social and spiritual needs of not only the patient, but their loved ones as well. That care continues into the bereavement process. Memorial services and funerals are often an important part of that process, and funeral directors play a critical role in ensuring that those services reflect the life that is being honored and are meaningful to family members and loved ones.

Often, hospice workers develop close bonds with the families they care for and are relied upon for guidance and advice following the death of their loved one. Funeral directors are trained and experienced in the many options available to families and are there to work with families to help them commemorate the life of their loved one in a meaningful way. By working together, hospices and funeral homes can share their expertise and assist families through this emotional process.

"There are many examples of hospices working closely with funeral homes in their area to ease the difficulty of planning for the emotional time that follows the death of a loved one. By collaborating on an association level, such as with NFDA, we can help to spread those relationships," said J. Donald Schumacher, president and CEO of NHPCO.

"Each of our professions brings a unique perspective to serving the dying, those who have died, and the bereaved. We look forward to developing materials and tools with NHPCO to share our experiences and expertise. The families we care for will benefit by two organizations focused on end-of-life care working hand-in-hand to ease the transition," said Robert "Bob" T. Rosson, CFSP, CPC, NFDA president.

NFDA is the world's leading and largest funeral service association, serving 18,500 individual members who represent nearly 10,000 funeral homes in the United States and 43 countries around the world. NFDA offers funeral professionals comprehensive educational resources, tools to manage successful businesses, guidance to become pillars in their communities and the expertise to foster future generations of funeral professionals. NFDA is headquartered in Brookfield, Wis., and has an office in Washington, D.C. For more information, visit [www.nfda.org](http://www.nfda.org).

By sharing educational materials and resources, hospice and funeral service professionals will learn more about the areas of expertise each bring to the table. Future plans for collaboration include presenting educational tools at the professional conferences of each organization, and eventually developing information directed toward consumers.



# Run to Remember: A Look at Two Special Kentucky Bourbon Chase Runners



## One Man Runs in Honor of His Brother Who Sought to Turn Personal Adversity into Positive Change for Others

Sourav Guha will join the Run to Remember family this fall as he and 11 of his friends take on the Bourbon Chase. The race is a 200-mile overnight relay along the Kentucky Bourbon Trail. The group will be running in honor of Guha's brother, Arijit, who died of metastatic colon cancer earlier this year: [www.active.com/donate/runtoremember2013/souravguha](http://www.active.com/donate/runtoremember2013/souravguha).

Arijit was diagnosed with Stage IV cancer in 2011, shortly after his 30th birthday, while a graduate student at Arizona State University. After less than a year of treatment, he reached the lifetime coverage cap on his student health policy. Always a resourceful activist and relentless advocate on behalf of himself and others, Arijit created a website ([poopstrong.org](http://poopstrong.org)) to raise awareness of his situation and funds for his treatment.

Facing medical bankruptcy, but keenly aware that his situation was not dissimilar from that of many others, Arijit also took to social networks to demand better coverage and received international press coverage of his successful campaign. As a result, the insurance company agreed to extend their coverage of his medical bills.

Arijit and his wife, Heather, were able to donate the more than \$130,000 they had raised to a variety of cancer-related charities assisting those in financial need. Grateful for opportunity to help others, Arijit always emphasized that his personal victory should only be considered the beginning of a much broader movement. He was proud that the attention he received as an individual was part of a much larger national conversation about inequities in healthcare access in American society.

Toward the end of 2012, with his tumors having further metastasized, Arijit made the difficult decision to end treatment. At the beginning of this year, he began receiving palliative home care from Hospice of the Valley in Phoenix. He passed away peacefully, with his wife and his hospice nurse by his side, in March. Arijit faced life and death with passion and a sense of humor and perspective.

"Wherever he went," says Sourav, "fun and friends were sure to surround him, so the Bourbon Chase seems a fitting way to remember and honor Arijit. He encountered every situation in life with positivity and gratitude, and I would like for all of us who loved and admired him to try to do the same. We are so grateful for the care and respect that he and we received from Hospice of the Valley, and in particular from his nurse, Cheryl Amburgey, and social worker, Ray Unks."

## Team "Don't Pull a Hammy" Pulls Out All the Stops for Creative Fundraising

Christina Breeding will also be participating in the Bourbon Chase in October as team captain for Drayer Physical Therapy Institute. Team "Don't Pull a Hammy" will be raising funds for NHF and Hospice of the Bluegrass, which cared for both of Christina's grandfathers at the end of their lives.

"I want others to experience the same comforting care and have the opportunity to be at home with the people they love the most in those final moments. Running this race in memory [of my grandparents] is one way I can do that," said Christina.

The 12-person team has come up with an impressive array of creative fund-raising ideas.

Breeding and her colleagues will be participating in a weekend festival held by one of their physical therapy clinics. They plan to raise funds at the festival through a silent auction, offering pay-per-minute massages and selling tickets to employees for a chance to throw a pie in the face of their managers. Additional fund-raising efforts of the team include:

- Selling chocolates for a local chocolate factory in Lexington, KY
- Working at a portable stand at local minor league baseball games
- Hosting bake sales
- Holding a charity Hip Hop Hustle aerobics class
- Organizing a Cornhole Tournament

With all of these creative efforts, there is no doubt team "Don't Pull a Hammy" will reach their goal of raising \$6,000 for NHF and Hospice of the Bluegrass. Their donation page is [www.active.com/donate/runtoremember2013/teamdrayer](http://www.active.com/donate/runtoremember2013/teamdrayer).

NHF wishes Sourav, Christina, their teams and all Run to Remember participants the best of luck in their race and fundraising goals! You too can run any race at any pace to raise funds for hospice. Visit [www.nationalhospicefoundation.com/runtoremember.org](http://www.nationalhospicefoundation.com/runtoremember.org) to learn more about NHF's signature fundraising and race training program.

Christina Breeding with Lexington Legends mascot





## National Hospice Foundation

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