

## Hospice & Home Care of Alexander County: Honoring Our Veterans Includes Caring for Them at the End of Life

More than 1,800 veterans die every day in this country – that’s about 54,000 people a month, reports the National Hospice & Palliative Care Organization. Dying veterans represent a quarter of all deaths in the U.S. These veterans are our family members, neighbors, friends, and co-workers, yet many Americans aren’t aware of the services these loved ones have given to the nation.

November 11 is Veterans Day, a time to pay tribute to the brave men and women who have served our country. The active duty of our military personnel across the globe has brought increasing awareness of the price these men and women often pay. This national awareness should include care and support to help dying veterans live as fully as possible during their final days, long after their military service may have ended. “Hospice & Home Care of Alexander County, Inc. would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude for those who have served our country...and our commitment to provide quality end of life care and services to the veterans of Alexander County, NC,” says Tonya Roland, Executive Director.

The veteran population of Alexander County, NC is approximately 3,300. Veterans Services of Alexander County provides quality assistance to our veterans, their widows, orphans or survivors in obtaining and preserving existing benefits from the US Department of Veterans Affairs. “Our office is open to all veterans in this county,” says Barbara Poole, Veterans Service Officer. “We work individually with veterans and their families, based on their specific needs. They have sacrificed so much for us...we try to do everything we can to ensure they receive all the benefits and services available to them. We are very confident in recommending Hospice & Home Care of Alexander County, Inc. to veterans facing the physical, emotional and spiritual discomforts that each person and their family face as the end of life nears.”

Hospice & Home Care of Alexander County, Inc. had the privilege to serve Vietnam Veteran Phillip Wray and his family in early 2008. “Phillip looked forward to their visits,” says Mable Wray. “We really loved each member of the hospice team, and Phillip especially enjoyed talking with Heather (Elliott) and Tonya (Roland). I am very pleased with the care Hospice of Alexander County provided my husband prior to his death on May 8, 2008. And they have been a great source of help and support to me during and since that time.”

The hospice care that Phillip Wray received was covered by the basic Veterans Affairs (VA) benefits package. Hospice care is also covered by the Medicare Hospice Benefit, Medicaid Hospice Benefit, and most private insurers. These benefits cover virtually all aspects of hospice care with little out-of-pocket expense to the patient or family. As a



*Veteran Phillip Wray*



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result, the financial burdens often associated with caring for a terminally-ill patient are lifted. However, hospice cares for all in need, regardless of ability to pay.

Serving residents of Alexander and surrounding counties in North Carolina since 1985, Hospice & Home Care of Alexander County, Inc. specializes in easing the physical, emotional and spiritual discomforts that each patient and their family face as the end of life nears. Hospice & Home Care of Alexander County, Inc. is committed to helping both patients and their families live life to its fullest with optimal comfort and support. For more information about hospice, transitions care, and advance care planning in Alexander County, contact us at 828.632.5026 or visit [www.hospiceandhomecarealexander.org](http://www.hospiceandhomecarealexander.org).