



Saluting Veterans in Home Care and Hospice



See featured story on hospice patient Wilbur Cooper, the oldest survivor of the Battle of the Bulge in Western New York.



November is National
Home Care Month!





Saluting Veterans in Home Care and Hospice

For Veterans Day, the Home Care Association of New York State (HCA) joins its home care, hospice and managed long term care provider members throughout New York State in recognizing exceptional individuals who have made the ultimate sacrifice through military service.

Our observance of veterans also coincides with National Home Care and Hospice Month in November.

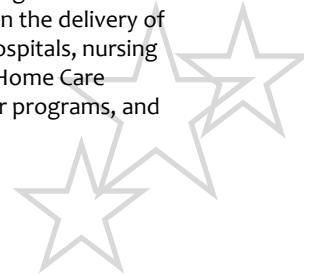
HCA honors the wishes of patients, including our nation's veterans, to live independently, with dignity, and with the medical, social or assistive services to help them fulfill those wishes in the community setting.

If you are a veteran – or if your veteran constituents need care – HCA is proud to be a resource for services at (518) 426-8764.

About HCA

HCA is a statewide health organization comprised of nearly 400 member providers and organizations delivering home and community-based care to several hundred thousand New Yorkers annually. HCA works to support providers in the delivery of high quality, cost-effective home and community-based care for the state's citizens. HCA providers include hospitals, nursing homes, free-standing agencies and health systems which operate Certified Home Health Agencies, Licensed Home Care Services Agencies, Managed Long Term Care Plans, Hospices, Long Term Home Health Care Programs, waiver programs, and an array of allied, supportive services entities.

To learn more about HCA, visit www.hcanys.org.



UR Medicine Home Care and Hospice Celebrate Western NY's Oldest Survivor of the Battle of the Bulge

In November 2018, the Rochester community gathered to celebrate the service of UR Medicine hospice patient Wilbur Cooper, the oldest surviving Battle of the Bulge veteran in Western New York, at age 100.

Approximately 75,000 American military members were either killed or injured in the Battle of the Bulge, which lasted from December 1944 to January 1945.

"Veterans Day means quite a lot because everybody here might not be here were it not for Veterans Day," Mr. Cooper said at the November 8 celebration. "I'm thankful for that, thankful for friends I made when I was there. I was one of the lucky ones, I came home."



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VNS of Ithaca and Tompkins County Honors Richard Rossi, Vietnam Veteran and POW

Richard A. Rossi has been under nursing care with Visiting Nurse Service of Ithaca and Tompkins County for more than three-and-a-half years. Mr. Rossi has always been a fighter! His pregnant mother hid in a barrel on a ship from Italy bound for the U.S. Mr. Rossi was born offshore, two miles from the U.S., and holds dual citizenship from both countries.

In 1957, at the age of 21, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy; two years later, he joined the Army where he was deployed to Vietnam, captured and detained as a POW for 18 months. His wife and family were told that he was deceased; but, ever the fighter, he survived.

Today, Mr. Rossi enjoys walking in the park, meditating and saying his prayers. Despite his health condition, he is thankful every day. He lives in a senior living center and has the help of a family caregiver as well as a nurse.

Navy Veteran and Home Care Nurse Carline Francois, RN MPH Talks Service

Carline Francois, RN, MPH explains how her time in the Navy taught her many skills that, combined with a sense of duty, led her to nursing and work at Brooklyn-based Americare's home health agency.

"I joined the U.S. Navy in 1990 and was stationed in Norfolk, Virginia where I spent seven years learning different trades. After leaving the Navy, I worked as a computer analyst. I loved and enjoyed working as a computer analyst; but I felt empty; I felt I was missing something. I discussed this feeling with my parents and took their advice and made my decision to enroll in nursing school."

"I'm presently employed at Americare, Inc. where I am given the opportunity to continue to grow every day, gaining new knowledge, experiencing nursing from many different areas. I'm given the opportunity to teach people from all walks of life to become Certified Home Health Aides and I also teach orientation and in-services classes to Home Health Aides. I am also given the opportunity go out into the community to conduct assessments for patients requiring home care services."



Yorktown Heights WWII Vet, Home Care Patient, Awarded Senate Proclamation

In November 2018, as part of National Home Care Month, Yorktown Heights resident and home care patient Alexander Nardone, 95, was presented with a Proclamation from state Sen. Terrence Murphy's office to honor his service as a World War II veteran. Mr. Nardone receives home care from Visiting Nurse Services in Westchester, which worked with Senator Murphy's office to present the proclamation.

The Proclamation cited Mr. Nardone's exemplary service as a member of the Air Force serving in the China, India and Burma theater, where he parachuted into hostile territory. Mr. Nardone had received a Certificate of Appreciation from President Harry S. Truman for "the essential contribution he made during stress of combat."

A long-time Yorktown Heights resident, Mr. Nardone was a civil servant for the post office and a self-employed owner of a manufacturing business. He is a member of the Yorktown American Legion Post.



HOME CARE: What it Is, Why it Matters



Home care includes a range of medical, social, assistive and other services provided in an individual's home when a person needs follow-up care after a hospital visit or requires long term care.

These comprehensive services are provided by nurses, therapists, home health aides and other direct-care staff under the direction of a physician's order. The focus of these patient-centered services includes prevention, recuperation, and/or an alternative to higher-cost institutional care that would otherwise be provided in a hospital or nursing facility. Generally, home care services are appropriate whenever a person prefers to stay at home but needs ongoing care.

Patients receiving home care include: newborns and mothers eligible for maternal infant care services; young children and adults in need of at-home therapy or advanced technology-based care and support; elderly patients who benefit from the services of a skilled nurse to help treat chronic medical conditions; patients receiving wound care following surgery; or individuals with disabilities who may require assistive services to meet activities of daily living, such as feeding, bathing, and other forms of self-care.

On the human level, home care allows patients to live independently, providing vital support for families while improving an individual's quality of life. Indeed, results from a recent AARP study of adults ages 45 and older "suggest that wanting to remain in one's home and one's community as one ages continues to be paramount."

On the health outcomes level, home care helps patients better manage a chronic health condition (i.e. congestive heart failure, diabetes, HIV/AIDS) at home, and recuperate after surgery. It allows elderly patients and patients with cognitive impairment to remain safely in their homes, as is their wish.

On the health systems level, home care means better care management. It prevents needless and costly initial and repeated hospitalizations and/or premature nursing-home admission. A 2009 study by Avalere found that early intervention post-acute home care services for patients with diabetes, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, or coronary heart failure saved \$1.71 billion for Medicare and would have saved \$1.77 billion more with wider use.

Home care agencies today use leading-edge disease-management tools, like home telehealth technology, that further enhance monitoring of patients while saving health care dollars. Home telehealth allows for video monitoring of patients and/or remote transmission of vital signs to a home care agency's central offices where the information is reviewed by nursing staff as a supplement to home health visits.

Nationally, approximately 12 million individuals receive home care services. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the number of Americans age 65 and older is expected to double by 2050 – a sign that the demand for home care is on the rise as more and more Americans seek to age in place.

New York State data finds that there are approximately 175,000 Medicare home health patients and nearly 190,000 patients receiving in-home services through New York's Medicaid program, for a total of about 365,000 patients served.



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