

# PRESS CLIPPING REPORT

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## UNITED HOSPICE OF ROCKLAND (UHR) HOSTED VETERANS RECOGNITION BREAKFAST

As part of a series of events marking National Hos-



pice Month, United Hospice of Rockland (UHR) honored 140 local veterans for their bravery, service and sacrifice by hosting a complimentary Veterans Recognition Breakfast at the Comfort Inn & Suites in Nanuet on Wednesday, November 5, 2008. This is the fourth year UHR has held a veterans recognition breakfast.

This year, the emphasis was on sharing how military service had affected the rest of each veteran's life.

As hospice staff members and volunteers introduced themselves individually to the veterans and personally acknowledged their bravery, sacrifice, and experiences, the veterans shared their stories.

Father Jerry Depozi, an associate pastor at St. Anthony's Church in Nanuet and former chaplain at West Point, gave the invocation. Reverend Warren Brandt, from the Garnerville Methodist Church, who is chaplain for the Korean War Veterans,

gave the Closing Prayer. Speakers included Rockland County Executive C. Scott Vanderhoef who thanked the veterans for their service, Director of the Rockland County Veterans Agency Jerry Donnellan who spoke about the various programs

available to veterans including the new medal that was cast by the County of Rockland for veterans who are serving in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, General Robert Witzinger who spoke about "An Enduring Connection" and what it means to the many veterans who stay connected with veterans activities, and Martin Adler who spoke about "Reflecting Upon How Our Service Shaped Our Lives" explaining how the discipline and ideals of the military become part of the fabric of a veteran's life and how these skills are used forever. UHR Executive Director Amy Stern, UHR Assistant Director Bonnie Walsh, R.N., CHPN, and UHR Community Liaison Mimi Hoffman also made remarks.

Vietnam veteran Jerry Donnellan of the Rockland County Veterans Administration distributed bumper stickers for [www.rockvets.org](http://www.rockvets.org) as well as posters showing the new medals so that veterans who qualify may each receive one. Information about the Return the Favor (Find & Assist Vets of Rockland) program was also provided. Available services include:

- Alcoholism/Chemical Dependence Assistance
- Cemetery &

### Burial Benefits

- Disability Compensation
- Discharge Upgrading
- Education Benefits
- Employment Referrals
- Insurance Assistance
- Medical Access
- Pension Benefits
- Records Access
- Rockland VA Clinic
- Tax Exemptions
- VA Hospitals
- VA Mortgages
- "RETURN THE FAVOR" Discount Program



• Veterans Organizations

• Vocational Rehabilitation

UHR staff members, who were seated at each table with the veterans, conducted a pinning ceremony for the veterans at the table. Thank you pins from UHR were especially made for veterans and when the veteran was pinned by the staff member, they were thanked for their years of service.

In a statement, UHR Executive Director Amy Stern said, "We felt a need to express our appreciation to those who have served our country. We at UHR believe that honoring our nation's veterans must include supporting them throughout their lives and especially so at the end of their lives. Many veterans are not aware that we offer assistance with end of life issues and that their insurance pays for hospice services."

Miriam Hoffman, UHR Community Liaison, said, "Hospices all over the country have had the privilege of working with veterans at the end of their lives and in the process, have learned from them how their service to our country has shaped their lives. In other words, 'everyone has a story.' At UHR we feel that we are in a unique position to express our heartfelt appreciation for their bravery and sacrifice and to assist

them in coming to terms with their extraordinary life experiences. These veterans who attended were most appreciative of being recognized and seemed genuinely touched by our attention to them.

The Veterans Administration has developed a collaboration with hospices around the country to ensure that veterans have access and coverage for hospice services. For more information about local veterans' benefits, contact Jerry Donnellan, Director, Veterans Service Agency, 20 Squadron Blvd., Suite 480, New City, New York 10956, Telephone (845) 638-5244 <http://www.co.rockland.ny.us/vets/Documents/Vets/ListOfServices.pdf> <<http://www.co.rockland.ny.us/vets/Documents/ListOfServices.pdf>>

United Hospice of Rockland (UHR) serves as a resource for palliative care, bereavement support, and information about end of life issues. Founded in 1988, United Hospice of Rockland is accredited by the Joint Commission on

Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations and meets the Standards for Charity. Accredited by the Better Business Bureau, Inc. UHR's mission is to provide compassionate care to individuals with advanced illnesses to live in comfort, with dignity, and surrounded by those they love. UHR provides care, comfort and improved quality of life to individuals and their families and offers compassionate support to members of the community who have experienced the loss of a loved one. For more information, call 845-634-4974, write to United Hospice of Rockland, 11 Salsman Lane, New City, NY 10956,

[www.rocklandhospice.org](http://www.rocklandhospice.org) or fax to 845-634-7540.

Photos courtesy UHR Assistant Development Director Lisa Denburg.

1) Jerry Donnellan of Director of Rockland County's Veterans Administration, receives his pin from UHR Community Outreach Coordinator Mimi Hoffman. 2) Vietnam Award Recipient of Nanuet plays the bagpipes while Rockland County Director of Fire and Emergency Services Gordon Wiese sits slightly behind him. 3) Veteran of two wars and a former Navy nurse Carol Gradstein of Nanuet



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