Join us at one of five Tree of Life ceremonies and other upcoming events. More information at SamaritanNJ.org.

**Hands-On Care and Attention**

Jeaneen Davis, a Samaritan certified home health aide since 2006, wanted to do something extra to make patients and their families feel welcome at The Samaritan Center at Mount Holy. She started making placemats for the tray table in each patient’s room. Using beautiful stationery in pastel pinks, light purples, whites, and beiges, she painstakingly glued Samaritan ribbon to the edges. Theresa Goldfine, director of inpatient services, and Traci Minard, nurse manager, found examples of Jeaneen’s project. They were moved by her caring attention, and sought a way to sustain her project for all families receiving care at both of our inpatient centers. They reached out to the community relations staff for help.

Christine Corti, communications specialist, worked closely with Jeaneen to design a placemat with the look-and-feel of Jeaneen’s original. She printed placemats and brought them to the hospital. Carl and his family experienced the comfort of Samaritan’s hospice care during his dad’s final illness. His wife, Susan, says, “We’re so grateful that Samaritan was able to help with that.”

Carl’s wife, Susan, says, “It’s a comfort to have someone there to help with the small things.”

**Samaritan Honors Vets**

Samaritan proudly participates in We Honor Veterans – a program of the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization in collaboration with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

We Honor Veterans focuses on:

- Compassionate listening
- Respectful inquiry
- Grateful recognition of veterans

Samaritan is among only 8 hospices in New Jersey which have achieved “highest 4-star” level of services for our veterans.

**Highlights of our hospice services for veterans**

- Admission process that integrates the veteran’s military history into care planning
- Working with the VA, and state and county veteran-service offices to help veterans and their families access available services and benefits
- Coverage of hospice care by VA, Medicare, Medicaid, and most commercial insurers
- Coordination of hospice and palliative care with VA medical centers and Community Based Outpatient Clinics as necessary
- Outreach and education to local VA facilities and area veterans service organizations
- Grateful recognition through cards, certificates, presentations of patriotic blankets, pinning, application to retrieve lost medals, and observance of holidays such as Memorial Day and Veterans Day
- Recruitment and training of vet-to-vet patient volunteers who are empathetic to the special experiences of veterans
- Veteran-centric training for staff

**Questions? Please call Samaritan at (800) 229-8183 and speak with our hospice nurses directly about your loved one’s needs.**

**Safe Haven for Sarge**

Sylvester “Sarge” Lusby had no idea where Vietnam was when he was drafted into the Army in 1965 at the age of 18. Now, it’s a place he can never forget.

But it’s only recently that the 71-year-old veteran has felt comfortable enough to trust others with his story.

**Heat, Rain, and an Unseen Enemy**

Sarge, a machine gunner in the Army’s 4th Infantry Division, 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry, was stationed in the heart of the action.

The dense jungle, constant heat, and torrential rains of this unknown land were unforgiving – as was the unseen enemy hiding in the trees above and tunnels below.

**Earning a Silver Star**

March 22, 1967 began as a routine search-and-destroy mission for Sarge’s company until an enemy ambush inflicted major casualties: twenty-one soldiers were killed, forty-three were wounded, including his platoon leader.

Ignoring sniper, mortar, and small-arms fire around him, Sarge leaped from his secured position and began dragging American wounded and dead to cover. He then took command of his leaderless platoon, and organized its defenses. For his actions that day, he was promoted to sergeant and awarded the Silver Star – the military’s third-highest decoration for gallantry in action.

**Returning Home**

Returning home after a year in combat, life was never the same for Sarge. He never spoke of what he saw, or his heroism. But he wrestles daily – and especially at night – with his memories.

Physically, severe arthritis ravages his body, especially his neck. Congestive heart failure keeps him fatigued and short of breath.

**Comfort, Support, and Dignity**

Sarge says it was a “fluke” that he started receiving care from Samaritan. While hospice care can be a challenge for each day of his survival – and for his Samaritan hospice team who’ve created a long-awaited welcome home from the war.

**Since then, he says Samaritan has “been good for me in so many ways.” He receives visits from nurse Veronica “Ronnie” Montgomery and social worker Susan Cadron. His hospice team addresses Sarge’s physical pain, symptoms, and post-traumatic stress through medications, supplies, and constructive conversation.**

Ronnie and Susan are “my rocks, my right arm,” whispers soft-spoken Sarge. He looks forward to his visits and appreciates the “camaraderie” they’ve developed.

Before Samaritan, he would make a painstaking bus trip and six-block walk to the Philadelphia VA for his care. Not an easy hike for a soldier with arthritis and a failing heart! With hospice care in place, Ronnie and Susan work directly with his VA healthcare provider to coordinate his medical needs.

They’ve also honored Sarge for his service and sacrifice with a special Samaritan recognition pin and a “Samaritan Honors Veterans” blanket made possible through the generosity of community donors.

Ronnie says, “Sarge trusts us now. We’ve created an environment for him to open up, talk about his experiences, and receive the comfort, support, and dignity he deserves at this time in his life. Quality of life is our number one goal.”

Now, more than ever, Sarge is grateful for each day of his survival – and for his Samaritan hospice team who’ve created a long-awaited welcome home from the war.
Help Us Honor Vet Hospice Patients

Please help Samaritan continue a meaningful tradition of providing veterans in our care with a fleece recognition blanket.

Samaritan team members present the blanket (along with a pin and certificate) as a caring way to honor and serve those who have served for us. Patients and their families have been visibly moved by this ritual of gratitude. We ask your help to carry on this beautiful tribute.

A $25 donation provides a blanket for two veterans. Please visit www.samaritannj.org today, click Donate Now, and designate Veterans.

Thank you!

Golf Tournament Benefits Patients

Samaritan’s Annual Golf Tournament, sponsored by The Richardson Family Dealerships, welcomed 180 golfers to raise funds and awareness for Samaritan’s not-for-profit services.

The tournament raised more than $154,000 to help Samaritan provide care for community members dealing with serious illness.

“arere so grateful for the tremendous outpouring of support for this year’s tournament,” said Mary Ann Boccolini, Samaritan President/CEO.

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