

## Honoring our vets with quality care

It's never too late to say 'thank you' to our nation's Veterans: even at the end of life

Americans across the country celebrate Veterans Day on November 11th, a special day to salute the men and women who have bravely served our country in the military.

These fellow Americans have made profound sacrifices in defense of freedom and they deserve our heartfelt thanks and appreciation. Honoring our nation's Veterans includes supporting them throughout their entire lives, especially at the end.

As our nation marks Veterans Day, Hospice Services, Inc. wants to share its commitment to increase Veterans' access to compassionate, high quality hospice and palliative care for those who are facing serious and life-limiting illness. As part of this commitment, Hospice Services, Inc. is a part of an innovative program, We Honor Veterans, developed by the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization in collaboration with the Department of Veterans Affairs. Through We Honor Veterans, we are ensuring that our organization is equipped to address the unique needs of our nation's Veterans.

It surprises many Americans to learn that every day, 1,800 Veterans die. That's more than 680,000 Veterans every year – or 25 percent of all the people who die in this country annually. A generation of World War II and Korean War Veterans are facing end-of-life care decisions now, and they are quickly being followed by younger Vietnam War Veterans, many of whom are confronting serious illnesses at an even earlier age.

The liberty that we, as US citizens, enjoy comes at a price paid by these valiant men and women. Let each of us make sure we do our part to recognize and support them throughout their lives.

If you know a Veteran who is in need of the special care hospice and palliative care brings to people facing serious and life-limiting illness, please reach out and help them learn more about the services that hospice and palliative care can provide. To learn more about the ways we support our nation's heroes, contact Hospice Services, Inc. by phone, mail or e-mail.

Hospice Services, Inc.



## No guarantee for top rate health care

To say there has been a lot of talk about medical issues lately, would be a gross understatement. There is no doubt the rollout of Obamacare has been rocky. It serves to remind us that our medical system, and our government, needs rehabilitating.

In 2000, the World Health Organization ranked France first in the world for quality health care, the U.S., 37th. The National Academy of Sciences reported in early 2013, the United States continues to fall further behind other high income countries. Part of the problem, as noted by the Academy, is the United States' \$2.6 trillion dollar healthcare system. They attributed this, in part, to the large number of uninsured individuals, restricted access to doctors and fragmented care.

Our healthcare costs have risen tenfold since 1980. The United States spends more per person on medical

### Phase II Mary Kay Woodyard



care than any other country. The study highlighted the expenditure disparity among states. Higher costs do not necessarily mean quality care. In fact, some of the healthiest states, for instance Wisconsin, actually spend less on health care than their counterparts.

Partial responsibility for our bloated health care budget lays right at the feet of drug companies. Rules regarding advertising were weakened in 1997 and have changed how we look at our medicines and our relationship with our medical personnel. Supposedly drug companies only need to come up with a drug "as good as" or slightly altered from the existing ones to offer

it as a new drug. Drug companies spend \$19 in advertising for every \$1 spent on research. Drugs and ailments, previously unknown to the public, now air nightly on television and sweep the pages of our favorite magazines. If we weren't sick before the dinner hour, we will be after.

Don't get me wrong, I am grateful for our medicines, doctors and healthcare system, but it appears extra money, improved drugs and highly trained specialists don't necessarily guarantee us of top rate care. Part of the responsibility rests with the consumer, you and me. The Internet and medical advertising gives us a false sense of our own ability to diagnose and treat. It reminds me of the woman who, after reading about new diseases, continually believed she was on her deathbed. She decided no more television or magazines, preferring instead to be happy, healthy and ignorant. mkwoodyard@ruraltel.net



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## Why can't they just make things that last

Dave is not only our Pastor: he is a family member. He's a really good sport, helping wherever and whenever he can.

Early on, after an infamous incident, the hubby lamented, "I think I broke Dave!" Later when it appeared perhaps Dave was prone to injury the brothers-in-law decided entry into the family ought to require a physical.

Because of the abuse he suffers I try to be extra nice.

He called one lovely fall morning and asked if I would replace the zipper in his camo jacket; an almost new coat with plastic zipper. ARRGGHHHHHHH

Oh, Dave! I explained the hubby has two jackets (red and gray) with the same problem. I even purchased new zippers (three years ago).

The hubby might find it a betrayal if I mended for other men before him. The only possible solution: I fix Dave's coat in exchange for couples' counseling.

Dave apparently did not want to delve into my psyche. He decided to throw the jacket away.

I relented, "Bring the coat out and I'll look at it!"

I was making monster bibs for Morris when Dave called, so the sewing room was ready.

I put the bibs away. I found the hubby's coats in the mud room. This is

### This Too Shall Pass Nancy Hagman



how much I hate mending---the jackets in question were clean and the old zippers were already ripped out.

I looked for zippers. I found one nice blue zipper that I had reclaimed from another jacket. It took a while to find the new ones. They were both tan. I recall it was very difficult to find metal separating zippers, let alone in the length I needed, thus the tan. Tan would be fine with the camo however.

I decided to put the blue one in the gray jacket. I was a little short, oh well! I had cut that one out of an old jacket and as I ripped it loose I realized this was the second time it had been recycled. Note to jacket manufacturers: please use metal zippers; they last forever!

I sewed that one in before Dave arrived. Maybe he stopped for coffee but what was so hard about that? Why do I procrastinate? I guess I'll never know since free counseling has been denied! I promised myself I would do the

hubby's coats first. I opened the package containing a tan zipper. I laid it on the front of the red coat. It was too long! I checked the gray jacket. It would fit that one perfectly!

I am not about to rip the short blue zipper out of the gray jacket to put it in the red one! Dave was gone so I felt comfortable cursing; which I did!

I decided to go ahead with Dave's coat. I ripped the broken zipper out. I unzipped the new tan zipper.

\*#%^!!!!!! It was not a separating zipper. Nor was the one still in the package.

I put the coats away. I made monster bibs. They are every bit as cute as my grandson!

As I sewed I thought of the Hubby and Dave.

The hubby and I went shopping recently. He found a cheap hooded sweat-shirt: just the type he likes to wear. "Look at this," says he. "It has a plastic zipper but it is warm and cheap!"

I agreed; it was cheap!

He bought it anyway! (Maybe he really needed it because all the ones he had needed new zippers and his wife is so unreliable about mending but still----)

Dave is wise; he knows when to counsel and when to just let it be!

Next time he will undoubtedly throw his coat away!

## THE NORTON TELEGRAM

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