

heart to heart

THE NEWSLETTER OF TANNER HOSPICE CARE

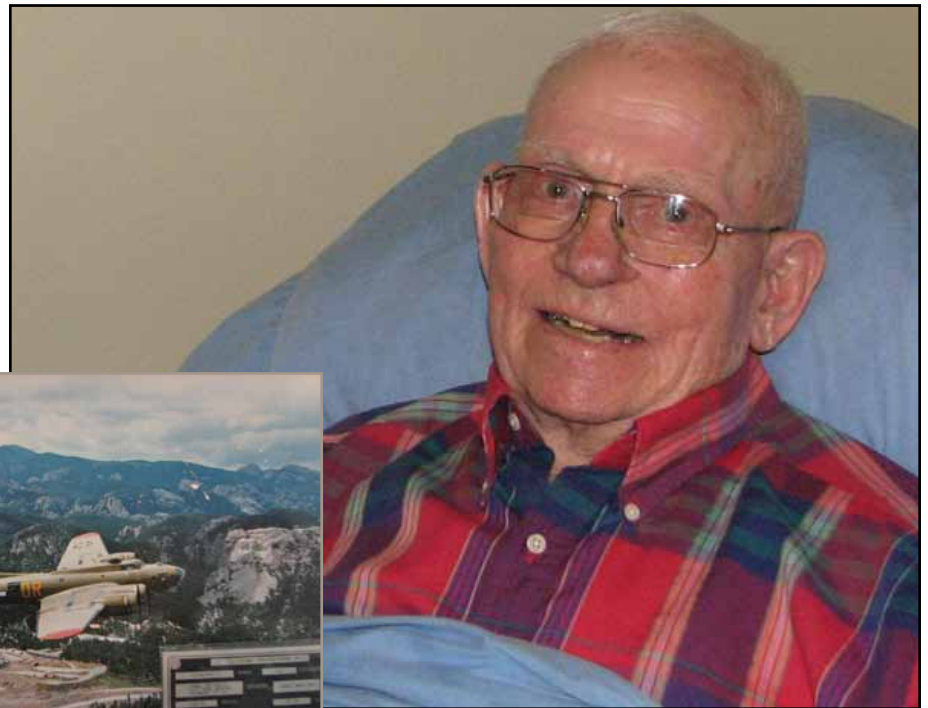
HELPING AND HONORING VETERANS IN WEST GEORGIA

World War II veteran Calvin Reinertson knows airplanes. As a technical sergeant and upper gunner for the B-24, he spent most of his time with them while stationed in England, Africa and Italy from 1941 to 1945. He served in the United States Army Air Force even before the U.S. Air Force began its existence in 1947.

Despite his loyalty to the B-24, he likes to keep a photo of a B-17 G nearby.

"I liked the B-17. I flew in the B-17 before they had turrets, back in 1941, when they just had guns stuck out of the windows," he said. "The first ones were just smooth, slick, pretty airplanes. I think it was the prettiest one of them all."

Reinertson is one of more than 50,000 veterans who reside in the region served by Tanner Health System, and part of the more than 18,000 veterans who are 65 or older. These service men and women inspired Tanner Hospice Care to take part in an innovative program called **We Honor Veterans**.



Developed by the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization in collaboration with the Department of Veterans Affairs, **We Honor Veterans** helps address the needs of aging veterans. The program teaches respectful inquiry, compassionate listening and grateful acknowledgement to comfort patients with a history of military service and possibly physical or psychological trauma.

Continued on page 2

SAVE THE DATE

For more information, please call Tanner Hospice Care at 770.214.2355. Hospice volunteer meetings are for current volunteers only.

"Get Healthy West Georgia" with Gina Brandenburg

11:30 a.m.
Tanner Medical Center/Carrollton Classroom 1
Wednesday, July. 18

Hospice Volunteer Meeting — Program TBD

11:30 a.m.
Tanner Medical Center/Carrollton Classroom 1
Wednesday, Aug, 15

Hospice Volunteer Meeting — Program TBD

11:30 a.m.
Tanner Medical Center/Carrollton Classroom 2
Wednesday, Sept. 19

Hospice Volunteer Meeting

Wednesday, Jan.18
11:30 a.m.
Tanner Medical Center/Carrollton Classroom 1
Wednesday, Oct. 17

Continued from front page

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Director of In-home Services

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Social Worker

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Administrative Assistant

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Volunteer Coordinator

Neda McDonald, M.Ed
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Physical trauma is not something that Reinertson had to face following the war, and when asked about his life, he recounted the many reasons he considers himself a fortunate man.

“I have had a very interesting life. I really have,” he said. “I have gotten to see more than most people, I have had experiences very few people have had and I came through with very little damage. I am grateful for all of that.”

He eagerly described being raised in Montana by loving parents: “I had a marvelous mother.” He spent his life with his beloved wife, Betty, with whom he raised two wonderful children, Calvin and Maryann (“she’s a dandy!”).

When asked about friendships formed during his service, Reinertson only said, “You build in this resistance to forming tight fellowships because when you lose one, it’s hard. So you kind of avoid the real close ones. But they formed anyway.”

No matter how much time has passed, veterans carry the experiences of their military service with them. Many veterans feel a deep sense of pride about their service, but some are reluctant to

discuss their experiences with others as they face these memories later in life. This can be challenging for families who want to offer their support.

“By recognizing the needs of the nation’s veterans, Tanner Hospice Care is able to provide veterans and their families the type of care and support services they need,” said Debbie Brock, director of Tanner Home Health and Tanner Hospice Care.

In instances in which there are specific needs related to a veteran’s military service, combat experience or other traumatic events, Tanner Hospice Care staff and volunteers will find the best tools to help support veterans.

“Our veterans have shown great courage in service to our country,” said Brock. “We have embraced our mission to serve America’s veterans. It’s our way of saying thank you for the sacrifices they have made in serving us.”

“We didn’t look at it as courage,” said Reinertson. “We all had jobs to do and we all tried to do them to the best of our ability.”



The Carrollton High School Health Care Science Students of America (HOSA) held a talent show on Feb. 2 to raise funds for Tanner Hospice Care patients.

HOSPICE

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In Memoriam

Belinda McEachern, RN, who passed away suddenly in February, will be missed by her patients, friends and colleagues at Tanner Hospice Care. We are grateful that Belinda found her life's calling as a nurse for Tanner Hospice Care. Her unlimited capacity to nurture was a source of comfort and strength to her patients and their families.

From the Heart

"Thank you for the loving, caring, professional care given to my husband and family. Rhonda, Belinda, Martha, Dan and Kevin, Tommy and Neda were all wonderful. Thanks!"

"Hospice did a wonderful job. They came in on short notice and took care of everything. This is a wonderful program."

"...we were very pleased with your service. Everyone was so very kind. Our nurse was Stacy...she was truly a Godsend. Thank you so very much."

"You all are great. I could not have done this task alone."

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In honor of:

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 Mr. and Mrs. Tommy E. Thomas

Mrs. Debbie Brock

Mr. and Mrs. Tommy E. Thomas

Hospice Care Volunteers Honored During National Healthcare Volunteer Week

Forty-five Tanner Hospice Care volunteers were honored during National Healthcare Volunteer Week, April 15-21, for their gifts of time, compassion and support.

"The gifts you give are simply irreplaceable," said Mandy Jackson, volunteer coordinator for Tanner Hospice Care. "You give your time, your hearts and your labor to help so many lives."

Jackson reported that in the last year, the 45 volunteers provided 1,675.8 hours of service, helping Tanner Hospice Care patients and their families with visits, bereavement support and transportation assistance to doctor's appointments. Volunteers also provided administrative support to the Tanner Hospice Care office.

Several volunteers were recognized for their service, including Nancy Barnes as Volunteer of the Year/Office, for the most hours volunteered at the Tanner Hospice Care office; and Myra McElhannon for Volunteer of the Year/Patient Care, for volunteering the most hours in patients' homes.

Parris McCoy was recognized with the Rising Star Award, Diane Rowe received the Everyday Hero Award and Bill Johnston was awarded the Hands-on Award. Jackson presented Linda Hutchens with the Sunshine Award for her "positive attitude that always brightens up the room."

Though the service is not currently seeking office or student assistance at this time, Tanner Hospice Care is seeking volunteers to assist with patient care. A volunteer training



program will take place next month. Volunteers must be at least 18 years of age and be willing and physically able to visit with patients and families in their homes. Those interested should contact Mandy Jackson at 770.214.2355 to complete an application.

Tanner Hospice Care provides care and support services to both the patient and their family members, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

For more information about Tanner Hospice Care support services, please call our 24-hour help line at 770.214.2355.

GE Handymen Volunteers Build Ramp



Tanner Hospice Care thanks the "GE Handymen Volunteers" for the wheelchair ramp they recently built at a Tanner Hospice Care patient's home. Thank you for your dedication!

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TANNER HOSPICE CARE



The Need Continues

The staff and volunteers at Tanner Hospice Care are always there for patients and their families when the need is the greatest. The last newsletter reported that Tanner Hospice Care now needs the support of the community. The financial assistance of the community and gifts from compassionate donors are a critical component of the continued success of this program. Special thanks to all those who heard the call for help and responded. However, the need continues.

Tanner Hospice Care is the region's only community-based, nonprofit hospice care provider, serving the emotional and spiritual needs of patients in addition to their physical needs. Tanner Hospice Care believes that the quality of life is as important as the length of life, and that patients should have the option of being at home, alert and free of pain, among the people and things they love.

Tanner Hospice Care has never billed a patient for service, relying on private insurance, Medicare and donations to continue providing care. No patient has ever been turned down based on their inability to pay. Thank you for being here in a time of need.

Contributions for Tanner Hospice Care may be mailed to P.O. Box 1136, Carrollton, GA 30112, or call 770.214.2355.