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For Immediate Release

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Veterans Day: Honoring America's Veterans Includes Caring at Life's End

FORT COLLINS –US Military veterans have served our nation with courage and commitment, in peace and in war, to preserve freedom for our countrymen and to advance the universal hope of liberty for all. It surprises many Americans to learn that 25 percent of all deaths in the US are Veterans. That's 1,800 people a day; more than 68,000 Veteran deaths every year. With approximately 38,000 veterans residing in Larimer and Weld Counties (2009) who may experience unique challenges at end of life as a result of their military involvement, Pathways Hospice now offers Larimer and Weld County military veterans a new program focused on providing respectful, compassionate care, recognition of their service and specialized support for their families.

Pathways Hospice clinical professionals meet stringent requirements to provide specialized care for those with a history of military service and possibly physical or psychological trauma. Many veterans are not enrolled in the VA system and may not understand the benefits for which they are eligible; social work professionals increase awareness of the Medicare hospice benefit and the VA-paid hospice care.

Veterans interested in assisting other veterans, through the Veteran-to-Veteran program at Pathways Hospice form a camaraderie that can penetrate their civilian social roles as common life experiences often build trust in each other. Says Bob Baruch, Veteran & Pathways Hospice Volunteer:

“I was in the Navy from ‘68 to ‘72, during the Vietnam Era. It is a terrific honor working with these military guys. It doesn't matter what branch of service they were in or what conflict; WWII, Vietnam, Afghanistan. There is this invisible bond that exists between you and another serviceman that is hard to describe but just feels right. Then to be able to capture their narratives, their stories. These men and women, they are our history. And it is not just a benefit for them; it is also a benefit for me.”

To recognize all active duty and military veterans Pathways Hospice is constructing an on-site Honoring Veterans Garden. **All are welcome to attend the Veterans Day Celebration on Friday, November 11th at Pathways Hospice, 305 Carpenter Road in Fort Collins, incorporating the reflections of local veterans, a tribute to local veterans by a reading of Veteran names, and a First Flag Raising and Wreath Laying Ceremony followed by an appreciation reception.**

Pathways Hospice is a local non-profit providing expert medical and comfort care for individuals navigating the last months of life and support for families, caregivers and those mourning the loss of a loved one. From our beginnings in 1978, when a group of nurses came together in Loveland to voluntarily care for a friend in the final months of her life, we've been assisting Northern Colorado residents regardless of financial or insurance circumstance.

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