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EPOCH Hospice Care joins MA Hospice-Veteran Partnership

HARWICH, Mass.—EPOCH Hospice Care joined the Massachusetts Hospice-Veteran Partnership, a coalition of VA facilities, community hospice programs and other community organizations working together to ensure that excellent care at the end of life is available for U.S. veterans and their families. The Hospice-Veteran Partnership is a national program of the Department of Veterans Affairs Hospice and Palliative Care Initiative. EPOCH's involvement in the partnership is now spearheaded by Ernest L. Vermont, Chaplain for EPOCH Hospice Care's Harwich and Brewster locations.

"We really want to connect with the veteran community in ways we haven't done before," Vermont said. "Veterans, whether they know it or not, form a separate community just by affiliation and out of a mutual understanding and respect for each other on a very personal level.

"Some veterans have complex needs, especially combat soldiers and prisoners of war who have faced the grim realities of death in a very dramatic way. We are trying to tailor hospice to a whole community of individuals who may need the care but are unable to receive it," Vermont added.

Chaplain Vermont serves as a spiritual guide for individuals who are in the end stages of life and receiving assistance through EPOCH Hospice Care. Additionally, Chaplain Vermont brings an understanding of veterans, having served as an Army chaplain for 24 years. With his background in the military, Chaplain Vermont is able to connect on a personal level with many of the veterans who receive hospice care in EPOCH's locations on the Cape and in the greater Boston area. Through this initiative with the partnership, EPOCH Hospice Care will also be able to reach out to other veterans about hospice care and other end-of-life options.

Prior to entering active duty in 1987, Chaplain Vermont was a pastor for more than 13 years in congregations in Alaska, Nevada, New York and New Jersey. Selected by the Army to receive specialized training to become a hospital chaplain, he completed the one-year Clinical Pastoral Education Resident Course at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, the clinical center of American military medicine. Chaplain Vermont is also the Pastor of the Union Congregational Church in Taunton.



H O S P I C E C A R E

For more information about EPOCH Hospice Care, please call 508-432-0748.

About EPOCH Senior Living (www.epochsl.com)

Based in Waltham, Mass., EPOCH Senior Living is a regional provider of senior living and health care options. EPOCH offers independent and assisted living, skilled nursing, rehabilitation services, memory care, hospice and home care. EPOCH Senior Living is committed to providing a comprehensive continuum of services for seniors living in Rhode Island and Massachusetts. These housing options and services enable seniors to enjoy a comfortable and dignified lifestyle in gracious surroundings complemented by quality health care services supporting each individual's needs.

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