



PROCLAMATION

National Hospice/Palliative Care Month November 2009



Hospice & Palliative Care: Preserving a legacy...treasuring memories

WHEREAS, hospice and palliative care professionals and volunteers understand that every person they care for is a unique individual with a lifetime of experiences, relationships and gifts to share and by focusing on the individual, not the illness, hospice care honors life's final journey, leaving a legacy of compassion and caring;

WHEREAS, hospice and palliative care provides patients and families the highest quality care during life-limiting illness and at the end of life, through pain management and symptom control, caregiver training and assistance, and emotional and spiritual support, allowing patients to live fully up until the final moments, surrounded and supported by the faces of loved ones, friends, and committed caregivers;

WHEREAS, last year, more than 1.45 million Americans living with life-limiting illness, and their families, received care from the more than 4,850 hospice and palliative care programs in communities throughout the United States;

WHEREAS, professional and compassionate hospice staff—including physicians, nurses, social workers, therapists, counselors, health aides, and clergy—provide comprehensive care focused on the wishes of each individual patient;

WHEREAS, more than 550,000 trained volunteers contribute 25 million hours of service annually;

WHEREAS, providing high-quality hospice and palliative care reaffirms our belief in the essential dignity of every person, regardless of age, health, or social status, and that every stage of human life deserves to be treated with the utmost respect and care;

WHEREAS, hospice and palliative care providers encourage all people to learn more about options of care and to share their wishes with family, loved ones, and their healthcare professionals;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization do hereby proclaim November 2009 as **National Hospice/Palliative Care Month** and encourage all people to increase their understanding and awareness of care at the end of life and to observe this month with appropriate activities and programs.

National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization
Alexandria, VA
November, 2009