

## We Honor Veterans Newsletter



### January 2024 Special Edition

#### Gilchrist Fast-Track Volunteer Training for Veterans

Gilchrist maintains a large team of volunteers that help in numerous ways. Most of the volunteers work directly with those under the care of Gilchrist, while others assist with administrative duties, help at special events or lead grief-support groups. Additionally, some volunteers may assist by making follow-up phone calls to the bereaved or provide grief companionship. All volunteers receive specialized training. However, a volunteer may also choose to receive more concentrated training in one or more additional areas.

Each year Gilchrist military veteran volunteers conduct several hundred **Salute to Service Tributes (SST)**. Veteran volunteers visit seriously ill or dying veterans and their families in their homes or in healthcare facilities to pay them tribute for their service. The tributes are meaningful and heartfelt ceremonies that include patriotic music and their military branch song, a certificate of appreciation, a We Honor Veterans pin from the Veterans Administration, a thank-you card from a student and a handmade patriotic blanket. We also honor the family members by giving them a special pin with the words, "Proud family member of a veteran." The ceremony culminates with a formal salute.

Here is feedback from family members of veterans we have honored with a Salute to Service Tribute:

- *"Thank you for honoring the service and memory of my father."*  
-Veteran's Son
- *"Thank you for such a heartwarming event!"*  
-Veteran's Daughter
- *"Thank you so much for honoring Jerry with this amazing tribute. I will cherish this memory."*  
-Veteran's Wife
- *"Since my father passed away in April, he has been on my mind quite a bit and I want to thank you again for what you did for him when he was still able to understand, recognize and actually participate in that tribute."*  
-Veteran's Son

**We Need Veterans to Honor Veterans!**

Our tributes for veterans under hospice care are planned and conducted by veteran volunteers. We are looking for veterans as well as active-duty military to assist with these tributes. While we may conduct several tributes each week (and on some weekends), volunteers can join a team as often as their schedule permits.

I am sure veterans will remember the camaraderie they felt when serving. You can experience that same type of camaraderie by joining our tribute teams to honor veterans at the end of life.

In order to increase the number of veteran volunteers, Gilchrist has developed a fast-track training program for military veterans who wish to be part of SST teams. This fast-track training is a modified version of the more comprehensive training required of general volunteers. This fast-track training includes the following four easy steps:

1. **Contact Jane O'Hara**, Gilchrist Volunteer Recruitment Coordinator at 443-849-8376 or by email at: [johara@gilchristcares.org](mailto:johara@gilchristcares.org)
2. **Complete a background check**, supply two references, and meet with Jane O'Hara either by phone, in her office or by Zoom.
3. **Review four brief documents** outlining the purpose of the We Honor Veterans program in general and the Salute to Service Tribute specifically.
4. **Meet with Jane O'Hara** by Zoom to complete the onboarding process.

We need your help. Please reach out to Jane and tell her you want to be involved in the Gilchrist Salute to Service Tributes.

Rick Sullivan  
Gilchrist Volunteer  
Marine Corps/Vietnam Veteran



Gilchrist Wants You!



Salute to Service Tribute for Marine Henry Smith

**gilchrist**

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