

Veterans Day 2026 Special Edition

Veterans Day 2026

This is a special Veterans Day edition of Gilchrist's We Honor Veterans newsletter.

The observance of Veterans Day on November 11 not only preserves the historical significance of the date but helps focus attention on the important purpose of Veterans Day: A celebration to honor America's veterans for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good.

This past Veterans Day, Gilchrist staff, military veteran volunteers, ROTC cadets, Young Marines, Howard County Police Color Guard, Calvert Hall Alumni Veterans, as well as active-duty military personnel and Gilchrist's wonderful music therapists celebrated several hundred veterans in 21 senior living communities. These Veterans Day ceremonies included the Pledge of Allegiance, singing of the National Anthem and God Bless America, Veterans Day readings, recognition and pinning of veterans, military and patriotic music, and a formal salute presented by the uniformed personnel.

Here are photos from some of the Veterans Day events conducted by Gilchrist staff and volunteers.



Gilchrist team with Brightview Rolling Hills residents (L-R in center) Walter Grant, Navy Veteran; Susan Bennett, wife of Dale Bennett who served in the Army, Navy, and Marine Corps; and Geneva Bower (seated), Air Force Veteran



Gilchrist team at Lorien Bel Air



JROTC student from Bowie High School pinning resident at Tribute at Melford



Gilchrist volunteer pinning spouse of a veteran at Lorien Bel Air



Gilchrist team at Sunrise of Pikesville



Gilchrist team at Brighton Gardens of Columbia



Gilchrist team at Brightview White Marsh



Gilchrist team at Oak Crest Senior Living



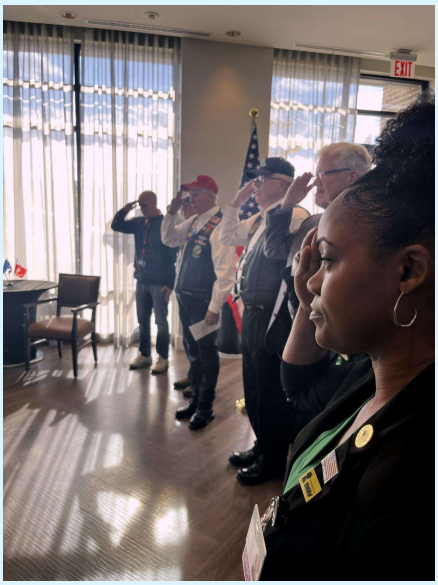
Gilchrist team at North Oaks Senior Living



Gilchrist volunteer pins a resident at Springwell Senior Living



Member of the Loyola/Towson ROTC Greyhound Battalion pins a resident at Springwell Senior Living



Gilchrist team at Tribute for Melford



Air Force veteran being pinned at Brightview Rolling Hills



Gilchrist team at Harmony at Enterprise with Bowie State ROTC



Gilchrist team with Army veteran Larry Motter and his wife Bonnie at Maryland Masonic Homes



Gilchrist Team at Lorien Harmony Hall



The Howard County Police Honor Guard participating in the Veterans Day event at Lorien Harmony Hall.



Gilchrist volunteer Virgil Wright and Young Marines at the Veterans Day event at Brightview Annapolis



Ruth Bloch with Brigadier General Ed Nolley, USA (Ret.) (left) and Colonel Bill Pulket, USA (Ret.) at the Veterans Day event at Symphony Manor

On November 11th, Gilchrist veteran volunteers and staff conducted a Veterans Day event at Symphony Manor. At the conclusion of the event, one of the residents asked if she could speak to everyone. Ruth Bloch is a Holocaust Survivor, shared some of her story, and then thanked the Gilchrist team.

Ruth Bloch was born Ruth Kohn on May 24, 1937 in Glina, Yugoslavia. She lived with her two brothers and parents who owned a small department store until the outbreak of World War II. Ruth's grandfather and brothers were sent to Jasenovac, a concentration camp in Yugoslavia. In the early 1940s, Ruth and her family were jailed by Nazi sympathizers. She lost 33 members of her family during this time. Ruth and her immediate family were rescued by her Christian uncle, Zvonko Novakovic. He was able to steal a S.S. uniform and forge release papers. The family hid in Split, Croatia until they were placed on a fishing boat that went from Adriatic to Lastovo, then to Bari. From there, they took a ship to Taranto, Italy where Ruth and her family finally reached freedom.

Ruth spent most of her childhood in Milano, Italy. On October 11, 1949, she arrived, by ship, in New York. Ruth's parents changed her name to Ruth Colton to protect her from any more anti-Semitism. Ruth had to quickly learn English once she was placed into an English-speaking school. Ruth met her husband, Gilbert Bloch, and moved to Baltimore. There, they opened a sign shop and had two daughters. Ruth has become very involved in many Holocaust survivor social clubs and joined a Holocaust survivor committee.

When asked about the Veterans Day event, Ruth said "As a Holocaust Survivor, I just wanted to thank the Gilchrist team for this Veterans Day event, and the US military for helping members of my family survive. It is so important that we never forget."



Gilchrist Team at Brightview Perry Hall with (seated L-R) Shirley Maas, pinned in memory of her husband Army veteran Duke Maas, and career Army veteran Domenico Colella



Brigadier General Ed Nolley, USA (Ret.) (left) and Colonel Bill Pulket, USA (Ret.) at the Veterans Day event at Keswick with members of the Morgan State University/Coppin State University ARMY ROTC



Gilchrist team at Pickersgill Retirement Community



Gilchrist team at Charter Towson



Gilchrist volunteer saluting a fellow Marine and Vietnam veteran



The Gilchrist team at Charlestown with (L-R) Barbara (husband served in the Army), Carla (seated) served in the Marine Corps, Bob (standing 3rd from right) served in the Air Force, and Rich (standing far right) who served in the Marine Corps

Hospice of Washington County 2026 Veterans Breakfast

On Saturday, November 14, 2026, Hospice of Washington County—with generous sponsorship from the Michael G. Callas Charitable Trust—hosted its annual Veterans Breakfast to recognize the service and sacrifice of the local military community. Gathering at 9:00 AM at Morris Frock American Legion Post #42 in Hagerstown, registered veterans and their guests enjoyed a complimentary morning of warm fellowship, gratitude, and community connection. In addition to celebrating those who served, the event shined a spotlight on Hospice of Washington County's Vet-to-Vet volunteer program, inviting local veterans to continue serving by offering companionship and support to fellow veterans in hospice care.



The Hospice of Washington County team at their annual breakfast for veterans



Wilbur J. “Jack” Myers, a 102-year-old Hagerstown resident, is recognized during the breakfast for veterans. Jack served as an antitank gunner in the U.S. Army’s 692nd Tank Destroyer Battalion during World War II, earning a Bronze Star for his service



Gilchrist Veteran Volunteer Paul Sullivan provided information on the Gilchrist Honoring our Veterans program at the Harford County Veteran Resource Fair

Active-duty service members, veterans, and military families attended the Harford County Veteran Resource Fair on Saturday, November 14 at the Bel Air Armory. This free community event brings together local organizations and representatives to provide direct assistance with VA and state benefits, healthcare resources, and local business discounts. In addition to one-on-one support, attendees enjoyed a complimentary catered lunch, giveaways, and kid-friendly activities throughout the morning.

Please Share

If you enjoyed reading this edition, please forward a copy to other veterans that you know so that they can also enjoy the newsletter. If you are reading a shared copy and would like to receive your own copy of future editions, please send an email with your request to Veterans@gilchristcares.org

Looking For a Few Good Volunteers

Would you like to be a Gilchrist volunteer? We are always looking for volunteers – especially those who have military experience. Our military veteran volunteers are involved in Salute to Service Tributes for veterans under hospice care, visiting public schools to talk about military service, meeting with veterans to talk about their military service, supporting our annual Welcome Home event for Vietnam Veterans, and many other activities.

If you would like to learn how to become a volunteer, contact Gilchrist at Veterans@gilchristcares.org

Gilchrist Cares

You may know Gilchrist best for the care we provide people near the end of life. But we offer so much more than hospice. Today's Gilchrist extends services to individuals with serious illness who need our care and support well in advance of hospice care. We also provide counseling and support before and after the loss of a loved one. Please visit the Gilchrist website to learn more.

Gilchrist providing care at every stage of serious illness (gilchristcares.org)

We Want Your Input

If you have suggestions for content you would like to see in future issues of the Gilchrist Honoring Our Veterans Newsletter, please contact us at Veterans@gilchristcares.org

gilchrist

HONORING OUR VETERANS

gilchristcares.org • 888.823.8880

Gilchrist | 11311 McCormick Rd. Suite 350 | Hunt Valley, MD 21031 US

Unsubscribe | Update Profile | Constant Contact Data Notice

Constant Contact

Try email marketing for free today!