



Hospice Memorial Service Program - Spring 2026

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Hospice and Palliative Care Director

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Rev. Maureen E. Steer,
Holistic Disciplines Manager

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Rev. Maureen E. Steer,
Holistic Disciplines Manager



Lisa Nichols

Welcome

Hello, my name is Lisa Nichols, I am the Hospice and Palliative Care Director here at Cornerstone VNA. I would like to welcome you to our Spring Memorial Butterfly Service.

Each butterfly represents transformation, renewal, and gentle beauty. Butterflies remind us that even after seasons of darkness and stillness, life changes form – and in that change, there is grace.

On behalf of the entire Cornerstone VNA hospice team, we thank you for allowing us to walk alongside you through one of life's most tender moments. It has been our privilege to share in your loved one's journey and to support you during a time of profound love and loss.

Today, we pause to honor those precious lives – to speak their names in our hearts, to remember their stories, and to find comfort in this shared space of reflection, remembrance, and hope.

Marcia Flinkstrom, Hospice Social Worker

For Grief

When you lose someone you love,
Your life becomes strange,
The ground beneath you gets fragile,
Your thoughts make your eyes unsure;
And some dead echo drags your voice down
Where words have no confidence.

Your heart has grown heavy with loss;
And though this loss has wounded others too,
No one knows what has been taken from you
When the silence of absence deepens.

Flickers of guilt kindle regret
For all that was left unsaid or undone.

There are days when you wake up happy;
Again inside the fullness of life,
Until the moment breaks
And you are thrown back
Onto the black tide of loss.

Days when you have your heart back,
You are able to function well
Until in the middle of work or encounter,
Suddenly with no warning,
You are ambushed by grief.

It becomes hard to trust yourself.
All you can depend on now is that
Sorrow will remain faithful to itself.
More than you, it knows its way
And will find the right time
To pull and pull the rope of grief
Until that coiled hill of tears
Has reduced to its last drop.

Gradually, you will learn acquaintance
With the invisible form of your departed;
And, when the work of grief is done,
The wound of loss will heal
And you will have learned
To wean your eyes
From that gap in the air
And be able to enter the hearth
In your soul where your loved one
Has awaited your return
All the time.

- John O'Donoghue (from *To Bless the Space Between Us: A Book of Blessings*)



Catherine "Katie" LeBlanc

Litany of My Journey

I beg assistance, God of my journey.
To accept that all of life is only on loan to me.
To believe beyond this moment.
To accept your courage when mine might fail.
To hold all of life in open hands.
To treasure all as gifts and blessings.
To look at the painful part of my life and to grow through it.
To allow love to embrace me on days that might feel empty and lonely.
To receive the truth of your presence.

- Joyce Rupp

David LeClair, Hospice Volunteer

Honoring Our Veterans

Before we go to Maureen for a moment of quiet reflection, I wanted to take a moment to honor our veterans. My name is David LeClaire. I'm a Navy veteran and Hospice Volunteer at Cornerstone VNA. In this role, I have the privilege of sitting with those who served, sharing stories, listening, and honoring the lives they lived both in and out of uniform.

For many of you, your loved one was a veteran and that service was a part of who they were. As you remember them today, I hope you will always carry with you a sense of pride in what they gave to this country. I am grateful for the time I was able to share with them and for the honor of being a part of their journey.



Maureen Steer

Quiet Reflection

I'd like to invite you into a time of quiet reflection. My name is Maureen Steer; I'm the Holistic Disciplines Manager. Thank you for letting us journey with you and your family in this difficult time.

I'd like to just invite you to put everything down and just sit with your emotions. Allow whatever needs to come up to come up uninterrupted and just let yourself be in this moment. Reflect on your loved one. Memories, laughter, tears – anything that comes up. Just allow it to come to the surface in this time of quiet reflection.

[Quiet Reflection Time]

Lauren Kay, Hospice Chaplain

Ain't No Grave

There ain't no grave
Can hold my body down
There ain't no grave
Can hold my body down

[Verse]

When I hear that trumpet sound
I'm gonna rise right out of the ground
Ain't no grave
Can hold my body down

[Verse]

Well, look way down the river
And what do you think I see
I see a band of angels
And they're coming after me

[Chorus]

Ain't no grave
Can hold my body down
There ain't no grave
Can hold my body down

[Verse]

Well, look down yonder, Gabriel
Put your feet on the land and sea
But Gabriel, don't you blow your trumpet
Until you hear from me

[Chorus]

There ain't no grave
Can hold my body down
Ain't no grave
Can hold my body down

[Verse]

Well meet me, Jesus, meet me
Meet me in the middle of the air
And if these wings don't fail me,
I will meet you anywhere

[Chorus]

Ain't no grave
Can hold my body down
There ain't no grave
Can hold my body down

- Claude Ely, performed in the style of Johnny Cash

Leah Mullen, Hospice Social Worker

A Letter from Heaven

Please do not be unhappy
Just because I'm out of sight,
Remember I am with you
Every morning, noon, and night

That day I had to leave you,
When my life on earth was through,
God picked me up and hugged me
And He said "I welcome you."

God gave me a list of things
That He wished for me to do,
And foremost on the list,
Was to watch and care for you.

And when you lie in bed at night,
The day's chores put to flight,
God and I are closest to you ...
In the middle of the night.

There are many rocky roads ahead of you
And many hills to climb;
But together we can do it
By taking one day at a time.

It was always my philosophy
And I'd like it for you too;
That as you give unto the world,
The world will give unto you.

So, if you meet somebody
Who is sad and feeling low;
Just lend a hand to pick him up,
As on your way you go.

When you're walking down the street
And you've got me on your mind;
I'm walking in your footsteps
Only half a step behind.

- Anonymous

Melissa Emery, Hospice RN

I Am Always With You

When I am gone, release me, let me go.
I have so many things to see and do,
You mustn't tie yourself to me with too many tears,
But be thankful we had so many good years.
I gave you my love, and you can only guess
How much you've given me in happiness.
I thank you for the love that you have shown,
but now it is time I travelled on alone.
So grieve for me a while, if grieve you must
Then let your grief be comforted by trust
that it is only for a while that we must part,

So treasure the memories within your heart.
I won't be far away for life goes on.
And if you need me, call and I will come.
Though you can't see or touch me, I will be near
And if you listen with your heart, you'll hear
All my love around you soft and clear
And then, when you come this way along,
I'll greet you with a smile and a "Welcome Home".

- Anonymous

Maureen Steer

Closing Remarks

I'd like to leave you with an Irish blessing as we end our service together.

Maureen Steer

Benediction

May the road rise to meet you.
May the wind always be at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face.
May the rain fall softly on your fields.
And until we meet again, may you be well.