

## **Let's Honor Our Vets!**

**Sumter County Cornerstone Hospice and Palliative Care, Inc. is a nonprofit, community-based organization established in 1984. It provides comfort and care at the end of life by meeting the physical, social, emotional, and spiritual needs for patients and their caregivers.**

**In 2010, Cornerstone introduced SALUTES! a program designed to honor and say thank you to veteran patients. It requires a veteran-to-veteran salute and Pinning Ceremony for hospice veteran patients. During the ceremony, a volunteer veteran will do a reading that thanks the veteran for his/her service. Then the volunteer veteran presents a special pin and Certificate of Appreciation to the veteran patient; however, here are two types of heroes in military families: those that serve and those that stay behind keeping the family together. Therefore, during the ceremony, Cornerstone SALUTES! the family as well. The spouse is presented with a handmade 36" quilt made from red, white, and blue material. In addition, the spouse and children receive an American Flag pin.**

**Retired Army Colonel Paul Farineau, a Villages resident and nurse, was one of the first to offer his help. Over the last nine years, he has saluted and pinned over 300 hospice veteran patients! It is estimated that three to four blankets are needed each month to sustain the program. Therefore, at this time, only World War II and veterans with 20 years or more service receive this recognition. Colonel Farineau is reaching out to various knitting, quilting, and sewing clubs to meet the demands for this service. Cornerstone Hospice provides the 12" center square fabric medallion, which is a copy of the pin that is presented to the veterans, and the quilter designs the rest of the 36" square quilt.**

**Bradenton Quilting Chapter is partnering with Cornerstone Hospice to make these special quilts for our veterans who have sacrificed so much for us. Imagine if each member of our group made one SALUTES! quilt over the next eight months! Colonel Farineau will have met his monthly quota and more. We could help the SALUTES! program expand to include other veteran groups such as those who fought in Korea and Vietnam. Colonel Farineau has brought an ample supply of center medallions to today's meeting. For the next month, you**

can sign up to receive one. If you are a snowbird, just email me at [misslynnie5@gmail.com](mailto:misslynnie5@gmail.com) and I will gladly mail one to you.

The quilt directions are simple:

- The preferred size of the quilt is 36" by 36".
- The 12" Cornerstone Hospice panel works best as the center square.
- The design surrounding the panel is up to the quilter.
- Select only red, white, and blue fabric.
- Quilt and bind it.
- DO NOT iron directly over the logo.

Beginning in May and throughout the year, we will be making quilts for Cornerstone Hospice. We will begin this charity project at our May 16<sup>th</sup> meeting, Keep in mind that we are going on a Shop Hop the week before. Because there are many shades of red and blue, you might want to bring your center panel along to match up some fabric.

I'm excited about giving back to our veterans via this charity project. To help you get started, I have attached photos of quilts made by other groups for Cornerstone Hospice. One attachment features Colonel Farineau who will collect our finished quilts throughout the year. Let's honor our vets! I can't wait to see what each of you creates!

Lynn