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PRESS RELEASE

Franklin Visiting Nurse Association & Hospice celebrates National Hospice and Palliative Care Month by Raising Awareness of the Benefits of Hospice and Palliative Care

Franklin –Hospice is not a place but is high-quality care that enables patients and families to focus on living as fully as possible despite a life-limiting illness. It can be in a person’s home or that of a loved one, even in a long term care facility, wherever you call home. Palliative care brings this holistic model of care to people earlier in the course of a serious illness, while they may still be seeking curative treatment and continues on throughout Hospice. November is National Hospice and Palliative Care Month and hospice and palliative care programs across the country are reaching out to help people understand all that hospice and palliative care offer.

In recent months, a number of notable Americans have died. They include Senator John McCain, the queen of soul Aretha Franklin, and former first lady Barbara Bush. In many media reports, they were described as having “given up” on curative care late in their lives. Ms. Franklin opted for hospice care; Mrs. Bush received what was described as “comfort care.”

“It is essential that people understand that hospice and palliative care is not giving up, it is not the abandonment of care, it is not reserved for the imminently dying,” said Edo Banach, president and CEO of the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization. “Hospice is a successful model of person-centered care that brings hope, dignity and compassion when they are most needed. This is one reason that the national My Hospice Campaign was launched this year.

Every year, nearly 1.5 million people with Medicare receive care from hospices in this country, reports NHPKO. Others receive it through private insurance benefits. Hospice and palliative care programs provide pain management, symptom control, psychosocial support, and spiritual care to patients and their family caregivers when a cure is not possible. This support can be critical in allowing people to stay in their homes at the end of their life.

Michael Morin, whose wife was on Hospice with Franklin VNA & Hospice, writes in a recent letter, “A thousand thank yous and that doesn’t suffice to express the gratitude that I feel. I thank you all for the wonderful, compassionate and professional treatment and comfort that you provided to my wife and I.”

Throughout the month of November, Franklin VNA & Hospice will be joining organizations across the nation hosting activities that will help the community understand how important hospice and palliative care can be. Elaine Cartier, Hospice Director at the Franklin VNA & Hospice says, “So many people are afraid of the word Hospice. They think it means laying down and giving up. What we want people to understand is that Hospice is care centered on the needs of the person and their loved ones. It is about living your best life when matters the most.”

More information about hospice, palliative care, and advance care planning is available from Franklin VNA & Hospice or from NHPKO’s CaringInfo.org.

Franklin VNA & Hospice is an independent, non-profit organization established in 1945 to serve the Home Health care needs of the community. They provide home care, Hospice, clinic and community education services to Andover, Belmont, Boscawen, Canterbury, Franklin, Hill, Northfield, Sanbornton, Salisbury, Tilton, Webster and surrounding towns, as requested. For more information on services, donations, sponsoring a Memorial Brick or partnering with them for a stronger level of support for the Teuscher- Wilson Hospice Garden, call Franklin VNA & Hospice at (603)934-3454 or visit www.FranklinVNA.org.