

Veterans Day tribute reminds current generation: 'Heroes are real'

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Special to Treasure Coast Newspapers
USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

Thanks to a collaborative effort between Treasure Coast Hospice and Watercrest Senior Living in St. Lucie West, Veterans Day delivered an afternoon of acknowledgment, respect, honor, and legions of gratitude for veterans residing at the facility and their guests.

Comfortably seated in a social gathering space, attendees listened as Watercrest Executive Director Bobi Kruemberg extended a warm welcome. It was quickly affirmed that this was a day for patriots and a celebration of those that fought for freedoms as the ceremonial sounds of the

bagpipe and the Color Guard of the St. Lucie West Centennial Jr. ROTC marched into the room.

"Today, we recognize that our veterans have given something of themselves to this country. They've given their tears, their comfort, their hearts, their well-being, and some have given their all, laying down their lives to defend the freedoms we today are allowed to hold so dear," said Kruemberg. "Today, we get to remind the current generation that heroes are real."

As they sang along to the songs of their respective branches of service, the veterans reminisced about their days of glory, nights of fear and loneliness, and the circumstances that returned them home.



Dan D. "Gray" Wolf, left, a World War II Army veteran, and Dennis Diamond at a 2019 Veterans Day ceremony at Watercrest Senior Living in St. Lucie West.

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"Many of you returned home to a thankless welcome," said Kruemberg. "There were no parades; there were no flowers - shame on us. Today we give you that honor that was due to you then and is due to you today and every day."

"It is an honor to collaborate with our community partners to recognize veterans in our community," said Jackie Kendrick, CEO, Treasure Coast Hospice. "Treasure Coast Hospice's We Honor Veterans program helps ensure that our nation's veterans receive the dignity, care and compassion they deserve."

Volunteers from Treasure Coast Hospice, in a show of reverence, presented each veteran with a pin designed to pay tribute to their contributions and sacrifices made during military service. The Treasure Coast Hospice volunteers fastened the token to each veteran's collar, shook their hand, and presented a certificate recognizing their honorable service and bravery.

Before enjoying cake and refreshments, the veterans received a standing salute, a round of applause, and many heartfelt expressions of, "Thank you for your service!"

#TCBings: Social media campaign