



Hospice

and Palliative Care of Greensboro



WE HONOR VETERANS

Iwo Jima Veteran Faces His Toughest Battle as a Caregiver

Marine Veteran, Robert Oscar Ford, survived one of the bloodiest conflicts in Marine Corp history, the Battle of Iwo Jima. Yet his toughest battle began when his beloved wife, Jackie, was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease fourteen years ago. She died last October under the care of Hospice and Palliative Care of Greensboro (HPCG).

"I saw a lot during my time in the service," said Ford. "But nothing prepared me for the journey I would take with my wife. Hospice was the only thing to give me peace of mind."

Ford was only 17 years old when he enlisted. During his time in the service, he witnessed the raising of the U.S. flag atop Mount Suribachi during the Battle of Iwo Jima. He experienced

fear, uncertainty, loss and physical hardships.

As a Veteran, Ford's experiences and needs are unique. The We Honor Veterans (WHV)

program empowers hospice professionals to listen, acknowledge and comfort patients and family members who have a history of

military service and possibly, physical or psychological trauma.

"Being aware of Mr. Ford's service," said Anne Batten, a social

worker at HPCG and WHV committee member, "enabled our team to recognize how the fears he experienced in WWII could resurface as he cared for Jackie at the end of her life. We hope this sensitivity made his journey a little easier."



Above: The Marine Corps Memorial at the entrance to Arlington Cemetery, depicting the raising of the U.S. flag on Iwo Jima. Photograph is copyright of Brandon Bourdages.

Right: Jackie and Robert Ford



To learn more, visit hospicegso.org/whv

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