



**CLAUDE SCHMID**  
FOUNDER, VETERAN'S LAST PATROL



Volunteers and staff organize recognition ceremonies for Veterans in hospice, presenting them with certificates, flags, and personal tokens of appreciation.

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**VETERAN'S LAST PATROL: BRINGING COMPANIONSHIP TO VETERANS IN HOSPICE**

For many Veterans, the final chapter of life can be a quiet one—but Veteran's Last Patrol is working to make sure it's never a lonely one. **Veteran's Last Patrol is a national nonprofit organization uniquely focused on an often-overlooked part of Veteran care: hospice support.** Through a dedicated network of volunteers, the organization works to ensure that Veterans in end-of-life care are not forgotten, providing friendship, honors, and support during their final weeks and days.



*Veteran's Last Patrol provides companionship, dignity, and honors.*

Founded by retired military officer Claude Schmid, the group was established on the critical belief that no Veteran should die alone. **"Veterans understand the concept of patrolling—air, land, and sea. When you go into end-of-life care, it's your Last Patrol. All patrols are best done as a team,"** Schmid explained.

**More than 600 active volunteers nationwide—who form the heart of the organization—regularly visit Veterans in both home hospice and long-term care facilities across the country.** While simply being present is powerful, the support offered often goes beyond conversation. Volunteers may help coordinate recognition ceremonies, deliver donated items like care packages or holiday cards, provide emotional support to family members, or even work with hospice staff to better address the Veteran's personal interests and history. These acts of service, though small in scale, carry deep meaning for Veterans and their loved ones.

In addition to weekly volunteer visits, Veteran's Last Patrol leads several national initiatives aimed at honoring Veterans and increasing awareness of end-of-life needs:

- **Honor Ceremonies:** Volunteers and staff organize individual recognition ceremonies for Veterans in hospice, presenting them with certificates, flags, and personal tokens of appreciation. These heartfelt events often include family members and facility staff, creating a moment of dignity and gratitude. [Learn more](#)
- **Annual Honor Ride (September 20, 2025):** This event invites motorcycle and car groups across the country to visit senior care facilities and honor Veteran residents. In 2024, nine states participated, with riders bringing visible support and appreciation directly to Veteran patients. [Join the ride](#)
- **Operation Holiday Salute (Year-Round):** Each year, individuals and organizations nationwide contribute to this card-writing campaign, which delivered over 12,000 holiday card packets to Veterans in hospice care last year. The effort provides comfort during the holidays and reminds Veterans that they are remembered and appreciated. [Write a card](#)

Veteran's Last Patrol continues to expand its reach through partnerships with hospice providers and community groups across the U.S. **Approximately 100,000 Veterans enter hospice care each year**—a number that underscores the importance of this work.

Organizations and individuals looking to support the Veteran community in a practical and meaningful way can find volunteer, donation, and sponsorship opportunities through Veteran's Last Patrol.

**To learn more or get involved, visit [veteranlastpatrol.org](http://veteranlastpatrol.org).**

