

# Hospice of Frederick County Honors Vietnam Veterans

Vietnam veterans comprise one third of the approximately 20 million living veterans. They are also becoming hospice patients at an increasing rate. William "Bill" Zentz, of Thurmont, is one of those veterans.

After graduating from the University of Maryland, College Park, Bill enlisted in the army and trained as a field artillery and intelligence specialist. His job was to work up the data to shoot the guns of the 1/39th Artillery Unit. In 1970 he was sent to Phu Bai, just outside of Danang, and then to Firebase Nancy, a hilltop several miles outside of Quang Tri City and about 30 miles south of the DMZ. On April 13, 1970, his unit was overrun by North Vietnamese sappers, and throughout that night, everyone fought back with their rifles, regardless of their military training.

After returning home, Bill completed his master's degree from Frostburg State University, and he also graduated from the Stonier Graduate School of Banking at Rutgers University. He spent 35 years in Thurmont working for the Thurmont Bank, as well as Nations Bank, Sovereign Bank and Bank of America. Bill currently lives in Thurmont with his wife of 44 years, Candy.

After 47 years and with the help of social media, Bill recently reconnected with some of the soldiers he served with, including his closest friend in Vietnam. Bill recently met with Keith Midberry, Hospice of Frederick County's veteran liaison, who recognized and thanked Bill for his Vietnam service and presented him with the Vietnam War Veteran pin and Presidential Proclamation. In addition, Bill is the first recipient of the "Proud Veteran" pin designed by Hospice of Frederick County's veteran liaison and supported by the Kahlert Foundation.

Hospice of Frederick County recently became the second hospice in Maryland, and one of only 12 in the nation, to become a partner in the Vietnam War 50th Commemorative Partner Program established by the Department of Defense. Additional information regarding this program may be obtained at [www.vietnamwar50th.com](http://www.vietnamwar50th.com) or by contacting Hospice of Frederick County's Veteran Liaison Keith Midberry at [kmidberry@fmh.org](mailto:kmidberry@fmh.org).



*Veteran Liason Keith Midberry (right) presents Mr. Zentz (left) with a Vietnam certificate.*



*After 47 years, Vietnam comrades reunite.*

