



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Quilts of Valor Celebrates Grand Traverse Pavilions Vets**

*Traverse City, MI.* The Traverse City Elks Lodge #323 Veterans Committee representative, Mary Panek, recently contacted Grand Traverse Pavilions Recreational Therapist, Linda Burton, to arrange for a special honor to be bestowed upon the Veteran Residents of the Pavilions.

Cheryl Woodring, Interim Exalted Ruler of the Traverse City Elks Lodge #323 says, “Through a community grant from the Elks National Foundation, we have been able to support a special Quilts of Valor Outreach Program. This is a first of its kind joint event for Traverse City Elks Lodge #323, Quilts of Valor and Grand Traverse Pavilions, to band together in gratitude to continue to honor the service and sacrifice of our beloved wartime veterans.”

The Elks Veterans Committee and members, along with the Grand Traverse Area Veterans Coalition, and Quilts of Valor Foundation, led locally by Jean Perkins, coordinated the effort to recognize a very distinguished group of Grand Traverse Pavilions Residents and Veterans.

The Quilts of Valor Foundation was established with the mission to “cover Service Members and Veterans touched by war with comforting and healing Quilts of Valor.” A Quilt of Valor (QOV) is a quality, handmade quilt that is either machine or hand quilted to strict specifications. The quilter are pre-approved, and each quilt must be a specific size, have a label with required information and must be recorded. The Quilts of Valor

are awarded (not gifted) to Service Members or Veterans who have been touched by war.

At the special presentation held on Wednesday morning, August 10, 2022, held under the tent on the Grand Lawn off Cherry Pavilion guests were welcomed by Grand Traverse Pavilions CEO/Administrator, Rose Coleman. The program specifically honored seventeen veteran Residents residing in the main building of Grand Traverse Pavilions.

The Veterans honored represent the Armed Forces Branches of Army, Air Force, Navy, and Marines, who collectively served in four Wars/Military Conflicts – World War II (1941 – 1945), The Korean War (1950 – 1953), the Vietnam War (1964-1975), and the Iran-Iraq War (1980-1988).

Coleman shared, she is especially pleased to witness the two women, WWII Veterans, Ann Hatfield (Army – 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant; Nurse Corps) and Betty McCullen (Marine - Corporal) be awarded, stating “They represent a truly unique breed of patriot that I am beyond proud to honor today.”

While this event was not open to the public, each Resident was encouraged to invite a guest (family member/friend) to attend the program with them. Several representatives of the Traverse City Elks Club presented and awarded the Quilts of Valor to the Pavilions Veterans.

The Pavilions has a heart-felt tradition of honoring Veterans. In 2018 the Veterans “Wall of Honor” was established with photos of Pavilions Residents who served in the Military. Coleman concluded “Today, we are grateful to the Traverse City Elks Lodge, the Grand Traverse Area Veterans Coalition, and the Quilts of Valor Foundation, for this opportunity to celebrate our elders who risked all to give us, and future generations, the freedoms we enjoy today.”

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### **About Grand Traverse Pavilions**

Grand Traverse Pavilions is the region’s first and only public nonprofit Continuum of Care. Initiated by Grand Traverse County Department of Health and Human Services in response to the Social Welfare Act 280 of 1939 to care for the states most vulnerable citizens. The Pavilions maintains facilities to provide services for more than 300 on-site resident and 100 daily program participants. Grand Traverse Pavilions is a community of caring for the region’s aging adults, with Independent, Assisted Living, Long-term Care, Rehabilitation and Wellness Center programs for the entire community. Grand Traverse Pavilions has received Nursing Care Center accreditation by the Joint Commission along with Post-Acute Care and Memory Care certifications. A recipient of the Governor’s Quality Care Award, The Pavilions is owned by Grand Traverse County and governed by the Grand Traverse County Department of Health and Human Services Board. Learn more about Grand Traverse Pavilions by visiting [www.gtpavilions.org](http://www.gtpavilions.org).