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ALACHUA COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY

House Calls



SUMMER 2026

Hospice & Palliative Care for Veterans



With A Special Feature on Dr. Mark Barrow and the History of Gainesville through Post Cards

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Congratulations to Sarah Marsicek, MD, the ACMS 2026 Mahjong Champion!

Sarah won the 1st annual Mahjong game held at the ACMS April Meeting. Thanks to everyone who participated and we look forward to a rematch next year.



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Photo Cover Page: Michael Maloney and Dr. Scott Medley with the "American Flag Blanket" at Haven Hospice.

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CONTRIBUTING AUTHORS



Hailey Reidy

Marketing Specialist, Haven Hospice

Hailey Reidy is a strategic communications professional with more than 10 years of experience helping organizations communicate with impact. Currently Haven Hospice's Marketing Specialist, Hailey supports each department and its team members through internal communication efforts and also furthers Haven's mission through storytelling and campaigns across 18 Florida counties. She is passionate about using communication to honor patients' stories, support families and strengthen the community's trust in hospice care.



Brittany Bruggeman, MD

ACMS President

Dr. Bruggeman is pediatric endocrinologist and physician scientist at the UF. She completed all her studies and post-graduate training at UF. She is a leader in patient advocacy and policy within the American Academy of Pediatrics and American Diabetes Association and is the President of the Alachua County Medical Society. Her current pursuits include the clinical care of diabetes and endocrine patients and research investigating the natural history, pathophysiology, and clinical care of type 1 diabetes.



Jackie Owens

ACMS Executive Vice President

Jackie Owens has served as EVP of the Alachua County Medical Society since 2017. Previously, she served as the President of a landscape architecture firm in Gainesville, Florida and as Adjunct Faculty for the UF College of Design, Construction and Planning. Prior experience includes Credit Manager/Analyst for commercial banks in the Gainesville area. Her Masters Degree in Landscape Architecture is from UF with a Bachelors degree of Business Administration/Finance from the University of North Florida.



Ron Cunningham

FreeGNV

Ron Cunningham found his journalism destiny in a book written in 1936 by Webb Miller - "I Found No Peace" during a summer job at a century-old Inn in Great Barrington, Massachusetts. It was his first time away from home and proved to have had a life-long impact. In 1976 he found a berth at The Gainesville Sun, first as higher education writer and then Tallahassee bureau chief before settling into a 30-year stint as editorial page editor. He never regretted a single mile of his life's newspapering journey. Ron retired from the Gainesville Sun in 2022 and now writes free-lance articles and maintains a blog at FreeGNV (freegnv.com).



Karen Lauuwe, MD

*Director, Palliative Care Program
NF/SG Veterans Health System*

Dr. Lauuwe is a board-certified Emergency physician with a Master's degree in Hospice and Palliative Care from the University of Maryland. She has lived in Gainesville for over 20 years and has worked at several of the local Emergency departments and for Haven Hospice prior to her current position at the VA.



Scott Medley, MD

Retired Family Physician

Dr. Medley received his Medical Degree from the University of Kentucky, then served in the U.S. Army, where he completed his Residency in Family Medicine. He founded Gainesville Family Physicians, enjoying 20 years in Private Practice. He later served as a Hospitalist and Chief Medical Officer at North Florida Regional Medical Center. He is a Past President of the ACMS and of the Florida Academy of Family Physicians. Currently retired and volunteering at Haven Hospice, he has served as Executive Editor of *House Calls* for the past 28 years, for which he has authored over 112 editorials and articles.

Greetings From the President's Desk



By: Brittany S. Bruggeman, MD

At the time of my writing, the lovebugs are finally, slowly, beginning to retreat from Gainesville. I think they arrived in full force to send off the 2026 graduates of the UF College of Medicine - congratulations to all our newly minted physicians. Thirty-two students matched within the UF system for residency, and 35% of the class will be staying in Florida for training. Go Gators!

It's also been an exciting season to be an ACMS member. In January, we held our seventh annual ACMS Poster Symposium, featuring basic science and clinical case report posters spanning more than 25 medical specialties. Congratulations to our medical student and resident winners, and thank you to our sponsors, the US Army, and UF Health, for supporting this event.

We also launched the second year of our ACMS Mentorship Program at the meeting, pairing local physicians with medical students for a year-long mentorship experience. If you didn't sign up to be a mentor this year, please join us next year- the students benefit tremendously from the wisdom and perspective of practicing physicians and mentors describe the experience as deeply rewarding.

In April we hosted the first of what I suspect will become annual ACMS Mahjong tournaments. Congratulations to Sarah Marsicek, our reigning champion. I proudly claimed the consolation prize for worst score. Following the tournament, Dr. Ryan Roach delivered an

outstanding CME presentation on advances in sports medicine, including the care of elite athletes in our community.

On the legislative front, in March we welcomed FMA CEO Chris Clark and Director of Legislative Operations Brittany Jackson for an update on the 2026 legislative session. Many scope-of-practice expansion bills were defeated thanks to the tireless efforts of the FMA. Additionally, legislation that would have created a philosophical vaccine exemption for school attendance failed during both the regular and special sessions. Last September, ACMS publicly reaffirmed the importance of school vaccine requirements in protecting the health of our kids and our community.

The annual FMA meeting will take place at the end of July, where physicians representing the ACMS will participate in the House of Delegates and help shape policies guiding the FMA's advocacy on behalf of Florida physicians. If you are not joining us this year, I encourage you to consider serving as a delegate in the future - policy is shaped by the people who show up.

Thank you to everyone who has participated in ACMS activities this year. It is a privilege to be part of such a collaborative and dedicated physician community. As always, please reach out with ideas or suggestions for how ACMS can continue supporting you and the patients we serve.

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Haven Volunteer Instructor Celebrates 100 Volunteer Orientations



Guest Article by: Hailey Reidy, Haven Hospice



Jackie Owens, EVP



Hailey Reidy, Haven Hospice

In this issue, we are fortunate to have a guest article by Hailey Reidy, with Haven Hospice, featuring Scott Medley, MD, who has been volunteering at Haven for over 11 years now and going strong.

Hailey highlights Dr. Medley's compassionate perspective on navigating life's most difficult chapters, and how his years of firsthand experience contributes to providing support to patients and their families. Thank you, Hailey!

Haven Hospice Volunteer Orientation Instructor, Dr. Scott Medley, recently led his 100th volunteer orientation.

Dr. Medley began volunteering with Haven 11 years ago after a long career in medicine. After retiring from practicing in 2012, he joined the Haven team as a bedside volunteer in 2015 and, after serving patients and families at the bedside for a few years, shifted into a teaching role, using his wealth of knowledge to help prepare volunteers for their experience at Haven.

Prior to retirement, Dr. Medley started the Gainesville Family Medicine program at the University of Florida in 1979; worked in private practice for 20 years;

established Gainesville Family Physicians, which is still open for patients today; practiced for seven years as a hospitalist at Alachua General Hospital; and spent the last five years of his career as the Chief Medical Officer at North Florida Regional Medical Center, which is now HCA North Florida Hospital.

In addition, Dr. Medley is a veteran, having served in the United States Army Medical Corps from 1972 to 1977. He joined upon graduation from the University of Kentucky's medical school and served mostly in major medical centers. He jokes about being called "Major Medical Medley" in the time he served our country.

Having decades of medical experience, Dr. Medley, who is 78 years old, often forms a special bond with the medical students that come to volunteer at Haven. He understands that medical students are often learning to heal patients from ailments. He explains that hospice care isn't about healing the body in a traditional sense, but that Haven does heal hospice patients, just in a different way.

"One of the first things I tell our new volunteers is that their experience at Haven is going to be life-changing. They're going to have wonderful relationships with patients, families and caregivers," said Dr. Medley. "I am also blunt with them: 'These patients are going to die. But it is our job to help give people a good death... the best that we possibly can. We help them enjoy their life until the last minute. That's what we are all about at Haven.



Haven Volunteers Faye Medley and Scott Medley, MD

Continued on Page 5

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We are not curing here, but we are providing comfort and compassion.” He added, “It’s certainly healing, just in another way, for the patients, of course. But also hopefully for their loved ones.”

He explains that he helped make people better for 40 years of medical practice and many of the students, who comprise a large portion of Haven’s volunteer force, may go on to do that. But hospice care is unique and it’s a “pivot” from what the majority of physicians do in their day-to-day careers.

All of Haven’s volunteers—medical students or otherwise—undergo a thorough orientation similar to the staff orientation, overseen by volunteer coordinators. Haven’s volunteer force includes people who choose to contribute in many capacities, including, but not limited to, veteran, music, administrative, resale, pet, bedside and many other volunteer roles.

“Volunteers are extremely important to Haven Hospice. They are the heart and soul of the operation. I am so very proud of each of them and proud of the quality of volunteers we have,” said Dr. Medley, who has now trained 1,097 students in 100 orientations (and counting) over the last decade. “I’ve really enjoyed training volunteers at Haven and hope I’ve impacted a lot of lives.”

Haven Volunteer Coordinator Michael Maloney emphasizes Dr. Medley’s impact on volunteers and on Haven as an organization: “Thousands of souls have been touched by Dr. Medley’s mentorship. He is a genuine treasure and Haven is fortunate to have him. He is vital in introducing our new volunteers to their roles at Haven and inspiring them as they join our team. We are blessed to have him.”

Dr. Medley received his 10-year volunteer pin last year and plans to keep educating incoming Haven Hospice volunteers on the ins-and-outs of volunteering in hospice and palliative care settings.

Dr. Medley’s wife Faye has also contributed to healthcare, the community, and Haven, having worked as a nurse for many years, in addition to teaching nursing at the University of Florida for 25 years and volunteering to serve Haven patients in their homes. He shared that the Haven experience was moving and valuable for her as well. Dr. and Mrs. Medley recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

Haven extends a huge “thank you” to Dr. Medley for his dedication to the Haven Hospice mission and congratulations on reaching a teaching milestone of 100 volunteer orientations!



Scott Medley, MD with his 100th Orientation Class.

Serving Those Who Served: Palliative and Hospice Care for Veterans



By: Karen Lauuwe, MD, Director, Palliative Care Program,
NF/SG Veterans Health System

Palliative Care

Palliative care is specialized medical care for people living with a serious illness no matter what the life expectancy. The focus is to provide relief of symptoms related to the diagnosis. Palliative care can start when diagnosed and can continue for the duration of the illness. Patients are allowed to continue curative treatment options while on palliative care.

At the North Florida/South Georgia (NF/SG) Veterans Health System, we provide palliative services to our inpatient veterans as well as outpatient services via phone or video call. We work closely with our inpatient admission teams to provide symptom management while hospitalized with the goal of transitioning to the home setting. Our outpatient palliative team provides new or continued palliative care services for veterans in the home and as well as medication recommendations for symptom management to the veterans' primary outpatient treatment team. Our goal is to improve quality of life while controlling symptoms from the illness and during treatments with a curative intent. We also have a palliative pharmacist, chaplains, a bereavement coordinator and a psychologist available to our veterans.

Hospice

Hospice care is based on the belief that everyone has the right to die symptom-free and with dignity. Hospice focuses on providing whole person care that includes physical, emotional

and spiritual needs to provide symptom relief at end of life. Hospice services can be provided for any patient whose life expectancy is 6 months or less and is provided most often in the home but also may be provided in any long-term care facility.

At the VA, our veterans receive an "extra benefit" while on hospice. This benefit is called concurrent hospice care. The VA has made this program available since 2009 where the VA allows veterans with incurable conditions to receive disease-directed therapy such as immunotherapy, chemotherapy, radiation, IV medications and dialysis while providing hospice services at the same time. The therapies are considered palliative, not curative and are to manage symptoms for the comfort of the veteran.

If, and when needed, we can assist with placement at an inpatient hospice unit to provide symptom management not relieved with the patient's home medication regimen. This occurs through our community hospice providers in the North Florida/South Georgia catchment area and at the Lake City VA hospice unit called Serenity Place.

Our team works closely with all the local community hospices, including Haven Hospice, to give our veterans a choice of outpatient hospice and palliative care that fits their needs.

Please feel free to contact our Palliative Team at 352-548-3128 for further information.

VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

His 'Magnificent Obsession' with Miniature Works of GNV Art



By: Ron Cunningham, FreeGNV

I wrote this piece for publication in The Sun. Dr. Barrow is a GNV treasure.

Images frozen in time

An iron horse moving down the middle of Main Street past rows of real horse drawn carriages.

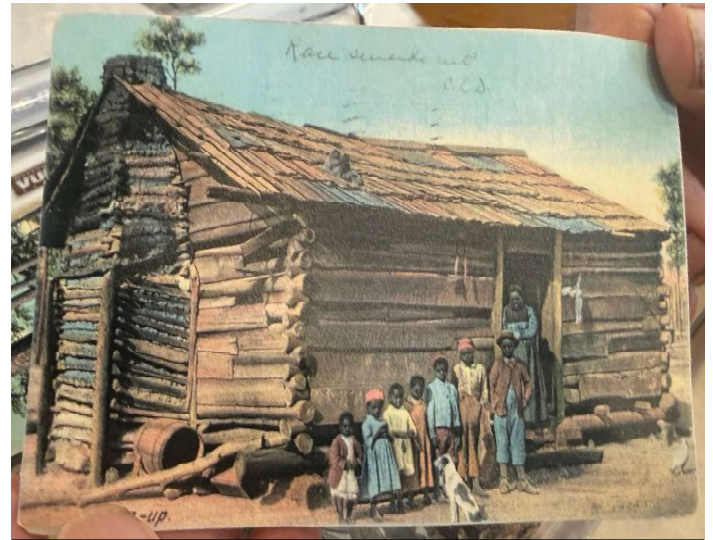
Three women in stylish bonnets enjoying a sunny boating trip on Melrose Bay.

Seven Black children, lined up by order of height, in front of a ramshackle log cabin.

That last image fascinates Mark Barrow.

He points out that the mortality rate for Black children in Florida during the early years of the 20th century was about 40 percent.

A physician by training and historian by inclination, Barrow recalls visiting a Clewiston cemetery, where he



"Seven-up": The best of the penny postcards were printed in Germany for its superior color reproduction

saw gravestones for six black children.

"It just tears me up. Every single one of them died within two years. But these children all survived" he said, turning back to the colorized photo titled "Seven-up."

The photo collection that Barrow pours over, and adds to just about every Wednesday afternoon in a back room of the Matheson Museum's archives building, are not found in yellowed, dusty history books.

Rather they are just a few of the more than 4,000 postcards Barrow has been diligently searching out and acquiring for more than half a century. Most of the postcards in his collection depict scenes from the past taken in Gainesville and surrounding towns, although he also searches for other Florida cards.

"I believe I now have about 98 percent of all the postcards ever shot in Alachua County," he said.



Dr. Mark Barrow, 90, has been collecting historic postcards of GNV and surrounding towns for more than half a century



And there is a reason this 90-year-old Gainesville cardiologist and Matheson Museum founder calls these postcards “miniature works of art.”

Many of these images were shot in the first decades of the 20th century by men hauling bulky, tripod supported box cameras. They spread throughout Florida – throughout America really – capturing images – first on glass plates and, as the technology improved, on large negatives.

They captured images of laborers toiling away in Sea Island cotton fields, on turpentine plantations and in citrus groves. Of floating vegetation islands on Orange Lake, cattle grazing on La Chua Ranch and phosphate mining in Gainesville.

“The cards show buildings, people, street scenes and churches,” he said. “Original downtown businesses before automobiles with horses and wagons on the streets. They show what life was like back then.”

And some of the most striking are in colors that, amazingly, have held their vitality over the decades.

The “Seven-up” postcard was printed in Frankfurt, Germany, and distributed by a company in Portland, Maine.

And yet, for all the labor involved – and never mind that some were shipped halfway around the world and back – these frozen-in-time images originally sold for just one penny each.

These days it is not unusual for Barrow to pay \$30 or more on his eBay hunts for newly discovered postcards.

Barrow’s passion for early postcards began in the early 1970s when he was still establishing his medical practice.

“Some guy came through town and he had collected 2,000 postcards,” he recalled. “I bought the whole lot of them. That’s what started my interest.”

Over the years he would visit antique shops, used bookstores and the like. “Then I started advertising in postcard journals, going to postcard shows and, eventually, eBay. I was very aggressive.”

In 2009 Barrow published a coffee-table book titled “A Penny For Your Thoughts: An Album Of Historic Postcards of Alachua County” In it he traces the history of penny postcards, which first made their debut during the Columbian Exposition of 1898, in Chicago.

“By 1908 more than 600 million postcards had been handled by the U.S. Post Office, and collecting postcards had become an American addiction,” he wrote. “No town wanted to be left out and deprive its citizens and visitors of the opportunity to mail visual evidence of its best advantages and finest views to those far away.”

Perhaps rarest of all in his collection is a postcard purporting to depict Florida’s oldest Methodist church.

It was located in Newnansville, original seat of Alachua County. A town that no longer exists.

What remains of Newnansville today is that vanished church’s cemetery.

His collection includes a colorful UF campus plan published in 1906, as well as postcards depicting virtually all of UF’s original red brick Southern Gothic buildings.

There is a 1907 card of Archer residents in their Sunday best lined up in front of C.D. Wood’s General

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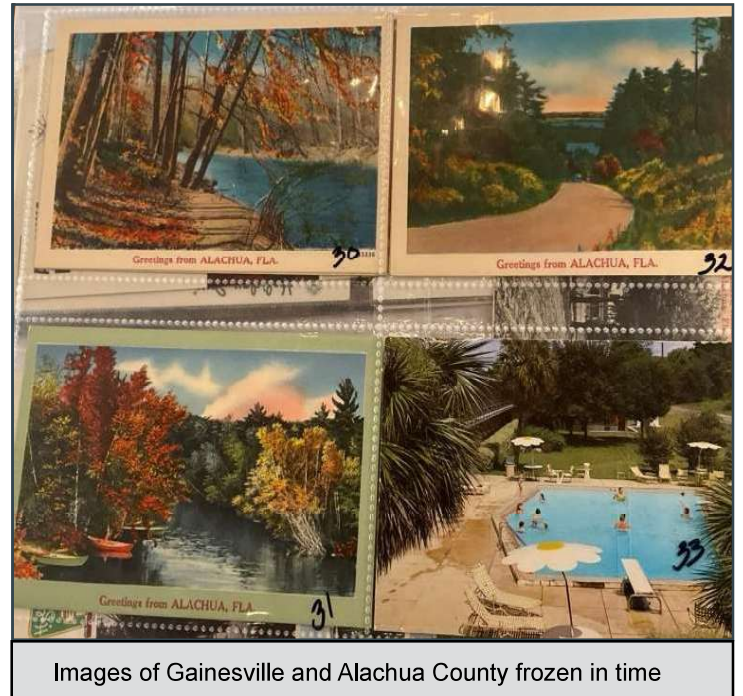
Merchandise store. There are cards showing a fish camp on Cross Creek, a train station in Hawthorne, and fishermen on the Santa Fe River circa 1910.

Barrow is especially pleased when he can find postcards of local buildings that no longer exist. The Tabernacle of Florida building, for instance, occupied the space where the church-turned Melting Pot restaurant-turned Matheson archives building now sits. The turquoise colored tabernacle was home to an annual winter bible conference and hosted frequent Chautauqua events.

"The City bought it in 1926 and was going to turn it into a convention center, it could seat 2,000 people," he said. "But then they gave it to the American Legion and it later burned down. It was the first building in that location."

Barrow's post card collection is available for viewing at the Matheson. They now fill 13 albums. And when he finds duplicates of cards already in his collection, they are sold in the Matheson's store.

"He's 90-years-old and still keeping his hand in," said Matheson director Salvatore Cumella. "Just about every week he shows up to work on his collection. People don't think about postcards as a form of historical record, but his collection is a great



Images of Gainesville and Alachua County frozen in time

research tool. It's phenomenal really."

Barrow calls his collection "my magnificent obsession. I'll continue working on it until I can't anymore."

Because many of the recovered postcards contain fading personal greetings to friends and family members, the information to be gleaned on the flip side can be as enlightening as what's on the front.

Consider the postcard of the locomotive on Main Street. It was mailed in January, 1908 to Tammie Lee Wylie, in Bridgewater, Mass. by a woman who was apparently visiting Gainesville to wrap up family affairs.

"Dear Grandma: I am over here today seeing about the taxes and trying to get things straight about the house and lot. Hope you are well and having a good time. Regards to all."

Signed June Lee.

Please visit FreeGNV.com for Ron's complete article and images and the Matheson Museum to see Dr. Barrow's original post card collection.



The old Tabernacle of Florida building on University Avenue burned down, eventually to be replaced by a church turned Melting Pot restaurant turned Matheson archives building.

HAPPENING

ACMS

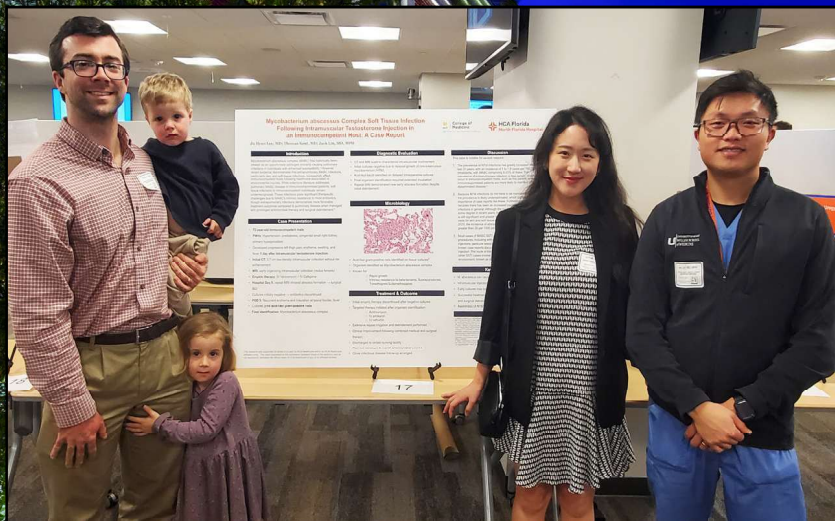
ACMS 2026 Poster Symposium
UF Professional Park
January 22, 2026



L to R: First Place: Jasmine Primus; Second Place: Aseed Mestarihi, MD; Third Place: Melanie Rodriguez; Fourth Place: Hunter Hutchinson, MD; Fifth Place: Jacob Ricci with ACMS President Brittany Bruggeman, MD. Congratulations!



A Special Thanks to the US Army for sponsoring our event!



L to R: Presenters Thomas Kent, MD (and children); Ju Hyun Lee, MD; and Jack Lin, MD.



L to R: Presenter Qusai Alqudah, MD and Ahmad Assad, MD.



The ACMS 2026 Poster Symposium participants. Thanks to all our Sponsors, Judges and Participants!

ACMS 2026 May Meeting & Mahjong Challenge
 UF Professional Park , January 22, 2026

ENIN



A Special Thanks to our speaker, Ryan Roach, MD, for his excellent presentation on Sports Medicine Update: Injections to Advanced Arthroscopic Techniques.



Brandon Lucke-Wold, MD and Steven Reid, MD.



Thanks to UF Health for Sponsoring our Event. L to R: Brittany Bruggeman, MD, ACMS President; Jose Gilbert, RRT; Sarah Marsicek, MD - the ACMS 2026 Mahjong Champion; Erika Griffith, MBA; Aaron Helse; and Tammy Lindsey, RN.



Jackie Owens, ACMS EVP; and Blanca Millsaps, ACMS Client Relations Manager.



Pryanka Vyas, MD



Sponsor Florida's Choice Realty with Lisa Roberts, Kimberley Brown, Candi Mann, Lacey Richeson. Thank you for sponsoring our event!



L to R: Jodie Goodman, Kyle Johnstone, and Amanda Roudels with Haven Hospice. Thank you for Sponsoring our event!



Norman Levy, MD and Roslyn Levy.



Noelle Lucke-Wold and Brittany Bruggeman, MD, ACMS President.

In Memoriam



Willa H. Drummond, MD, MS - (1944 - 2026)

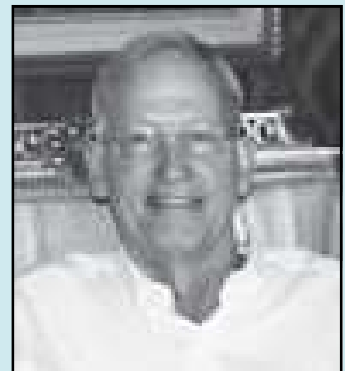
Willa H. Drummond, MD, MS came to Gainesville for a job interview in 1978. She immediately fell in love with the trees and open spaces. So, she passed up a position at Harvard University and joined the UF Department of Pediatrics. Dr. Drummond devoted herself to studying the disease Primary Pulmonary Hypertension of the Newborn. Her seminal (she would argue "ovarian" was a more appropriate term) research led to the treatment and cure of this once lethal disease. Frustrated with the slow pace of the development of electronic medical records, in 1999, she attained a Master's of Science in Medical Informatics; she needed a better understanding of computers to influence the emerging field. She retired from the University of Florida in 2011 as an internationally acclaimed Professor of Pediatrics and Neonatology with an honorary appointment at the College of Veterinary Medicine.



On May 2, 2026 Willa crossed the Rainbow Bridge with an unruly Honor Guard made up of her 8 Siamese cats. She is survived by dozens of UF NICU graduates, and the trees and wildlife of the Serenola Forest.

Gordon C. Finlayson, M.D. - (1943-2025)

Dr. Gordon Finlayson passed away in Memphis, Tennessee on November 2025, at the age of 82. He graduated from Emory University and from the University of Florida College of Medicine, followed by an Internal Medicine Residency and Fellowship in Nephrology at the University of Florida. He served at UF as an Assistant Professor before establishing his Private Practice in Nephrology. He practiced medicine for over 50 years, including at Nephrology Associates of North Central Florida with offices in Gainesville and in several surrounding communities. His wife, Barbara, died in 2006. He is survived by his two daughters, Rebecca and Heather, and by several grandchildren.



THE HAVEN HOSPICE VETERANS' RECOGNITION PROGRAM

By: Scott Medley, MD



World War II ended in 1945. Let's do some simple math – (just the way I like it.) If one of our heroic soldiers was 20 years old, (as many of them were) when the war ended, he or she was born in 1925, which means they would be 101-years-old today. It's no wonder then, that nationally about 30 of our treasured World War II veterans are dying every day – and no wonder that so many of them finish their last few days in a Hospice setting. Certainly the same is true for Haven Hospice, which serves 18 counties in North Central Florida. Unfortunately, we are also rapidly losing veterans from the wars in Korea and Vietnam.

Haven Hospice in Gainesville has a long tradition of honoring our dying Veterans with a Veteran's Recognition Ceremony.

In fact, at the base of the American flagpole outside the Gainesville ET York Care Center (ETYCC) stands a concrete boulder with the inscription pictured below.



Memorial placard to commemorate the sacrifices of our veterans at Gainesville ET York Care Center.

As an 11-year Volunteer at HAVEN HOSPICE, and as a proud military veteran myself (Major, U.S. ARMY MEDICAL CORPS 1972-77), I have had the honor of participating in several of these moving recognition ceremonies. I hesitate to cite an overused cliché, but these ceremonies have been "TAKEN TO THE NEXT LEVEL" with the arrival of Michael Maloney at HAVEN last year. I challenge anyone to attend one of these poignant ceremonies without coming close to shedding a tear. The dying Veteran's family most often is moved to weep during the proceedings. I also have the pleasure of working with Michael in our Volunteer Orientation classes.

Michael was recently recognized nationally in the "VETS AFFINITY GROUP NEWSLETTER" from BRIGHT SPRINGS Health Services, the national corporate parent company of HAVEN HOSPICE. The article states:

"This month, we proudly recognize Michael Maloney, Haven Hospice Volunteer Coordinator and U.S. Army veteran in Gainesville, FL. Michael is dedicated to honoring veterans and their surviving family members with beautiful, respectful, and meaningful ceremonies. Here we celebrate two of the many extraordinary acts of compassion and dedication Michael has demonstrated since joining the company in 2025."

"Recently, Michael honored a veteran patient in a truly meaningful way. After taking time to learn about the patient's military service, he thoughtfully researched and found images of military ships that were of significance to the patient, representing moments and milestones from his time in uniform. He carefully printed and framed the photos and presented them to the veteran and his brother during a special recognition ceremony. This heartfelt gesture not only allowed the patient to reflect on his military service, but it also honored his legacy in a way that aligns with our organization's commitment to

treat every patient with respect and gratitude."

Michael also helped honor a 102-year-old patient, Laura Finck, with a veteran recognition ceremony to thank her for her service in the United States Navy during World War II, which was attended by eight of Ms. Finck's loving and grateful family members.

Upon joining Haven, Michael was asked about his connection to hospice care in which he shared: "My connection to hospice care is rooted in both my professional background (in behavioral health) and my personal values. I spent many years working in trauma, addiction, recovery, and veteran services, where I witnessed how deeply people benefited from compassionate, person-centered care, especially during life's most vulnerable moments. Hospice care represents that same spirit of dignity, respect and human connection that guided my work all along. Haven's mission to support patients and families with empathy and grace immediately resonated with me."

"We thank Michael for his service to our country and his continued support of our mission of helping people live their best life."

Sgt. 1st class Michael Maloney is a 12-year combat Veteran who served in the 3rd Infantry Division in The Persian Gulf, Iraq and Kuwait. With his impressive background and training: BSW – Bachelor of Social Work; CAC – Certified Addiction Counselor; and CBSS – Certified Behavioral Science Specialist; he and his



Michael Maloney and Dr. Scott Medley in a Haven Hospice patient room holding the large "American Flag Blanket" which is presented to every Veteran at Haven Hospice at their "Final Veterans Recognition Ceremony."

team of psychiatrists, psychologists, and social workers provided mental health services to countless soldiers in a combat setting. Says Michael, "There were no mental health services for soldiers during the Viet Nam War – and we paid dearly for that with the large number of cases of severe Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and many other psychologic illnesses during and after that War. We feel that we now have made a powerful positive impact with our recently improved mental health services".

Michael has conducted an amazing 180 Veteran's Recognition Ceremonies since October 2025. These ceremonies take place at the Haven E.T. York Care Center (ETYCC), in patients' homes and in facilities like nursing homes. He travels, often on weekends, all over Alachua and Bradford counties to conduct these services.

Some parts of the ceremonies are carefully and brilliantly individualized and some parts are very consistent, where the dying Veteran is presented with certificates, pins, and an American Flag Blanket (see photo).

Another consistent feature with which Sgt. Maloney closes the ceremonies is "THE FINAL SALUTE DRILL." The attendees "Come to Attention" as Sgt. Maloney salutes and calls out to the dying Veteran "PRESENT ARMS" AND "ORDER ARMS".

Sometimes one cannot tell at what cognitive level the dying Veteran is aware of the proceedings. But at one of these moving ceremonies which I attended, the seemingly sleeping Veteran yelled out at the end of the DRILL – "AT EASE!!!"

---providing some much needed levity to his large loving family and to us.

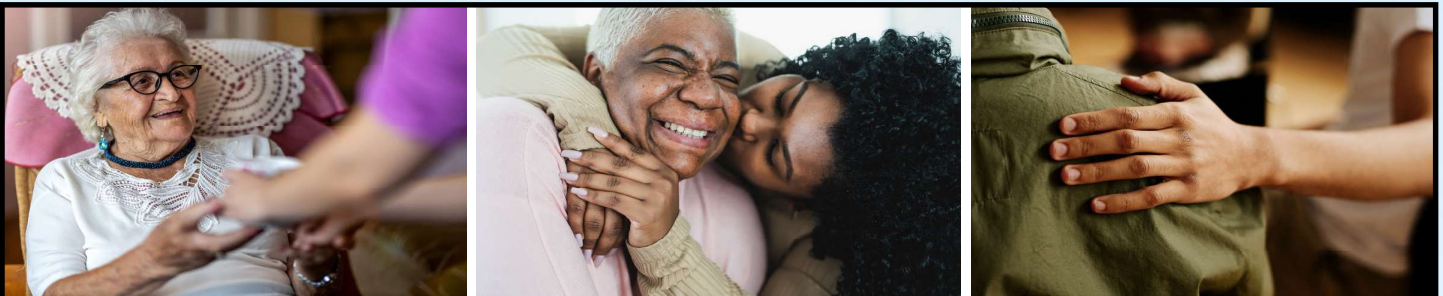
If I was a dying Veteran (which I guess I shall be someday), or the family of a dying Veteran, I cannot imagine a better place to spend my last days and hours than with HAVEN HOSPICE. AT EASE!!!

Alachua County Medical Society

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