



# Veterans State Conference

Oblate School of Theology – Whitley Events Center

**September 17–18, 2026**

San Antonio, Texas

## Hosts:



South Central Texas  
Hospice Veteran Partnership



**TEXAS ~ NEW MEXICO**  
HOSPICE & PALLIATIVE CARE ORGANIZATION

## Day 1 — Thursday, September 17, 2026

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### 8:15 a.m. | Breakfast Tacos & Coffee

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#### 8:45 a.m. Welcome & Housekeeping

Brandie Baker, CAE, CEO, TNMHPO

#### 8:55 a.m. Program Introduction

Rev. Edward A. Tello, Veteran Engagement Liaison, TNMHPO

#### 9:15 a.m. Veteran Ceremony

Lee Inabinet / Victor Salazar

Presentation of Colors: Color Guard

National Anthem: Shelly Lares

Pledge of Allegiance: Shelly Lares

Honor Veterans: Challenge Coins: Lee Inabinet / Victor Salazar

POW/MIA Table: TAPS: Lee Inabinet / Victor Salazar

#### 9:35 a.m. Community Partner

Mia Lares, Account Executive, Harmony Hospice Care

#### 9:55 a.m. Supporting Veterans

Rev. Edward A. Tello, Veteran Engagement Liaison, TNMHPO

### 10:45 a.m. | Break

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#### 11:00 a.m. Five Needs for Veterans

Mike MacKrell, Director of Support Services — Hope Hospice

### 11:50 a.m. | Lunch Break

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#### 12:40 p.m. Project Mend

Mike Darilek, Veteran Liaison, Project Mend

#### 1:00 p.m. Dementia Care for Veterans

Hollie Lowe, Director of Education and Family Support, James L. West Center for Dementia Care

### 1:45 p.m. | Break

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#### 2:00 p.m. SPARC

Dr. Bianca Cerqueira, PhD, Technical Fellow for Biomedical Research

**2:50 p.m. Suicide Prevention**

Dr. Kristen Rumley, U.S. Dept. Veteran Affairs, Comm. Engagement & Partnership Coor.

**3:40 p.m. From Recruitment to Retention: Creating Exceptional Hospice Volunteer Programs**

Natalie Eckberg, VP, Philanthropy & Community Engagement, Hospice El Paso

**4:45 p.m. Closing Remarks**

Donna Oviedo, Vitas Hospice | Lee Inabinet, Visiting Angels | Letty Inabinet, Visiting Angels

## Thank You to the Sponsors:



## Day 2 — Friday, September 18, 2026

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**8:15 a.m. | Breakfast Snacks & Coffee**

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**9:00 a.m. Welcome**

Brandie Baker, CAE, CEO, TNMHPO

**9:15 a.m. Final Salute**

Charles Ross, Owner, Salute 65

**9:45 a.m. Veteran Benefits**

Marsha Covington, Bexar County Benefits Manager

**10:30 a.m. AI Tech for Seniors**

Emily Flores, South Region, AACOG

**11:20 a.m. Final Announcements**

Brandie Baker, CAE, CEO, TNMHPO