

## **NATIONAL HOSPICE AND PALLIATIVE CARE MONTH NOVEMBER, 2017**

- WHEREAS,** 2017 marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of St. Christopher’s Hospice in London, widely recognized as the first modern day hospice organization, and the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Medicare hospice benefit in the United States; and
- WHEREAS,** the hospice and palliative care offer those they serve the highest quality care delivered by an interdisciplinary team of skilled professionals and trained volunteers that includes physicians, nurses, social workers, therapists, counselors, health aides, spiritual care providers and more; and
- WHEREAS,** the hospice and palliative care philosophy places the needs of the individual at the center of care allowing patients and family caregivers to focus on quality of life, surrounded and supported by family and loved ones, despite serious and life-limiting illness; and
- WHEREAS,** every year more than 1.5 million Americans living with life-limiting illness, and their families, received care from the nation’s hospice programs in communities through the United States, yet more than 40% of Medicare beneficiaries received care for 14 days or less, considered too short a time to fully benefit from the range of services that hospice offers; and
- WHEREAS,** each year, hospice saves Medicare more than \$2 BILLION by providing solutions for physicians, care to patients and comfort to families anywhere, at any time and a growing body of peer-reviewed research indicates that timely access to hospice and palliative care can decrease hospitalizations and Emergency Room visits and increase quality of life for patients and family caregivers; and
- WHEREAS,** hospice and palliative care organizations are advocates and educators about advance care planning that help individuals make decisions about the healthcare they would want to receive should they have a serious or life-limiting illness or if they were unable to speak for themselves;

**NOW, THEREFORE,** I, James S. Mayberry, Mayor of the City of Crossville, Tennessee, do hereby designate and proclaim November 2017 as **NATIONAL HOSPICE AND PALLIATIVE CARE MONTH** in Crossville, Tennessee and encourage citizens to increase their understanding and awareness of care at the end of life and to observe this month with appropriate activities and programs.