

From the President's Desk

BY RONNIE KAYE, CIA NATIONAL PRESIDENT



In my travels these last few months, I have seen the many faces of commitment. In Atlanta, a dedicated group of people showed up for a weeknight meeting, determined to create the team that would push *CIA Atlanta* into formal chapter status.

In Sacramento, people responded to a *Compassion in Action* one-day workshop by rushing to the sign-up table, eager to take an intensive training and begin bedside service.

During my stay in Sacramento, I was privileged to shake the hand of Wayne Loche, the gentleman with the large knapsack and the even larger heart, who walked across America on behalf of *Compassion in Action*.

In Long Beach, California, I looked into the faces of 28 volunteers who had come from cities around the United States to attend our first Administrative Conference, each looking to help *CIA* in their city become strong, solid, and effective. I found them to be capable, enthusiastic, purposeful, focused, and totally awesome.

Most recently, I sat with a new volunteer, whose face glowed with love, while she related one magical story after another about her experiences with dying vets.

Those people who have found their way into the *CIA* organization are united by a great sense of purpose. No matter whether they are doing bedside work, providing administrative support, fund raising, or recruiting people for our trainings, their work counts — it makes a difference. With their commitment, and with yours, we can craft a future filled with hope, love, and peace.

Wishing you every joy during the holiday season and in the coming year. ■



A Message from the Chairman

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I envision a time in the not-too-distant future when *Compassion in Action* and its mission to ensure that no one need die alone is so embedded in the American culture that people can no longer imagine a time when we did not exist.

I would like to think that, as an organization, we can continue to grow, and even to prosper, with nothing more than your best wishes for our success. It will never happen that way. We can continue to grow — and we must continue to grow. And that growth requires financial support. Please keep *Compassion in Action* on your Christmas list. Help us change the world.

I send you my best wishes for a joyous holiday season and a year filled with kindness.

I love you.



Leading palliative care physician Dr. Ira Byock, CIA Chairman Dannion Brinkley and Mrs. Carolene Marks, wife of the late Senator Milton Marks, testifying on October 19, 1999.

Mr. Brinkley *Continued from page 1*

of his survival to western medicine, he attributes the major part of his healing to alternative and complementary therapies. This was his day to be heard.

During the course of his testimony, Dannion was able to introduce *Compassion in Action* to this very prestigious committee and to share with members of Congress the joys and challenges of our work with vets. His testimony is available in full through *Compassion in Action's* website at www.TwilightBrigade.org under Resources/Press Releases. The Government Reform Committee website is www.house.gov/reform.

In our work with the dying, we of *Compassion in Action* expect to make a difference with the dying one-on-one. Dannion's appearance before the Committee represented a quantum leap in the area of problem solving. Our stories were heard, problems were addressed, and *Compassion in Action* was offered as a part of the solution. ■



Dannion during a hearing break with Dr. Judith Salerno, Chief Consultant, Geriatrics and Extended Care Statistic Health Care, Group Veterans Health Administration.