A retired employee of Abbott Corp. and longtime Ashland resident, Robert L. Beverly's final act of generosity was a large estate gift of more than $150,000 benefitting Hospice of North Central Ohio (HNCO).

Beverly was a U.S. veteran, accomplished woodworker and amateur radio enthusiast. He passed on May 29, 2017.

"Robert's spirit of generosity was remarkable and we are extremely grateful that he included us in his will," said Bill Kahl, executive director at HNCO.

"This gift will have an immediate and long-term impact on our organization" said Ralph Tomassi, HNCO chief development officer.

Funds will be directed in support of ongoing operation and also used to create a new memorial endowment fund in Beverly's name at the Ashland County Community Foundation. Available income from the endowment fund will support HNCO's mission in perpetuity while honoring the memory of Robert Beverly.

"While the endowment is established by HNCO, it will be managed and stewarded through the capable team at the Foundation," added Kahl.

Headquartered at 1050 Dauch Drive in Ashland, the non-profit Hospice of North Central Ohio continues to serve 200 patients daily in Ashland, Crawford, Huron, Knox, Morrow, and Richland counties with palliative and hospice services. Additionally, free continuous bereavement services are provided for hundreds of families of hospice patients and to anyone in the community experiencing grief. Call 800-952-2207 for more information. HNCO is a partner agency of United Way of Ashland County.