

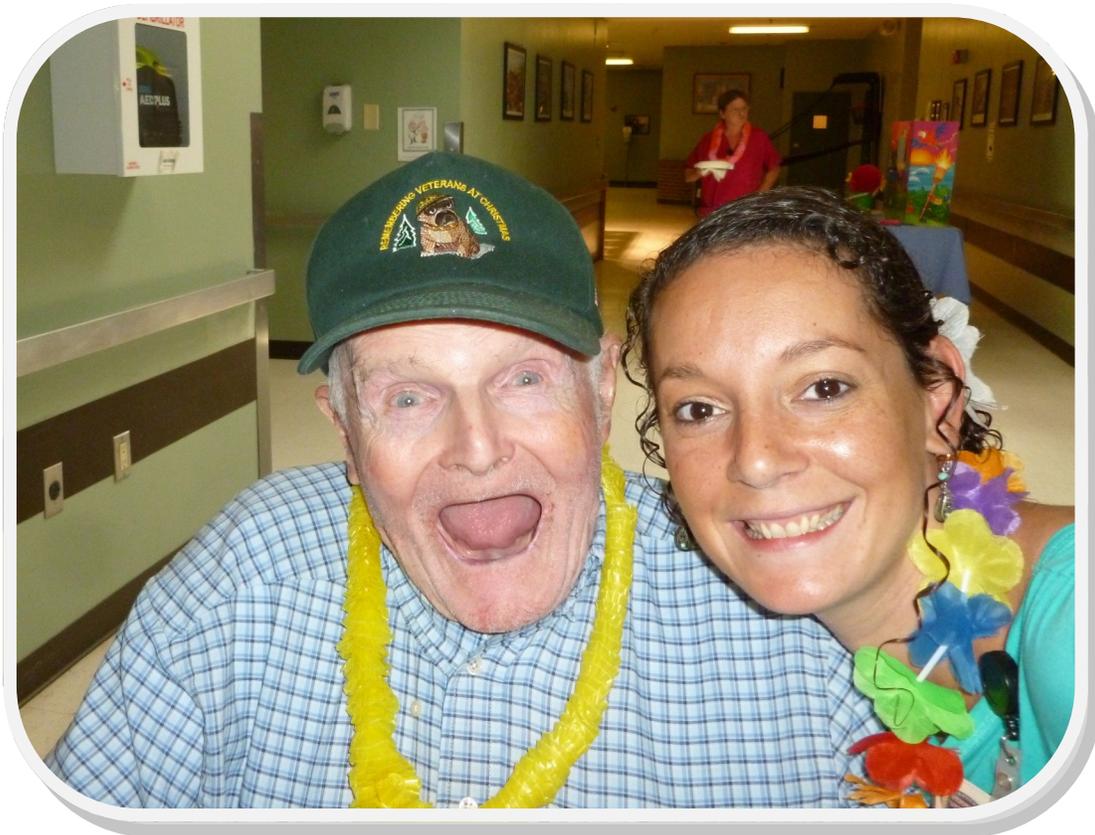


VERMONT VETERANS' HOME

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 9

SEPTEMBER 2016

# The BUZZ WORD



## THE BUZZ WORD

Three ways for you to receive the Vermont Veterans' Home monthly newsletter:

- ◆ Vermont Veterans' Home website:  
[www.vvh.vermont.gov](http://www.vvh.vermont.gov)  
Click on About Our Home  
Click on Newsletters
- ◆ Email
- ◆ Mailing List

Please contact:

The Buzz Word Editor  
Vermont Veterans' Home  
325 North Street  
Bennington, VT 05201

(802) 447-6510

Email: [Barbara.Fitzgerald@vermont.gov](mailto:Barbara.Fitzgerald@vermont.gov)

*Honoring  
Those Who Have  
Served*

## DONATION INFORMATION

Your donations are gratefully accepted. Please make check out to Vermont Veterans' Home:

**Vermont Veterans' Home  
Business Office  
325 North Street  
Bennington, VT 05201**

Please indicate to which fund(s) you are donating:

### Members Assistance:

Directly to Veterans/Members  
Furniture  
Haircuts  
Clothing  
Other personal needs

### Namaste Program Fund:

Oils for relaxation  
Supplies  
Equipment

### Unrestricted Fund:

Facility equipment  
Large purchase

### Activities Fund:

Entertainment

### Music & Memory Fund:

iPods  
Headphones  
iTunes cards

**\*\* We will not be accepting books or magazines at this time. THANK YOU to all who have donated to our Veterans at VVH.**



## **QAPI CORNER**

By: Karen Divis, Quality Assurance Nurse



### **WHY IS QUALITY ASSURANCE SO IMPORTANT ?**

**To improve the quality of care and lives of our veterans/members**

**Identify areas for improvement**

**Involves all staff, departments, families and veterans/members**

**Monitor the effectiveness of the interventions**

## Chaplain's Corner...



Howdy Folks,

Do you read the Bible? In this chaotic world where there no longer seem to be absolutes, no right or wrong, the Bible is an unwavering compass always pointing to True North. And it is that truth that guides and directs our ways. Psalm 119 tells us that the Bible lights the path for our feet.

The Bible has been given to us so that we may know its author and grow to love and fear Him. We must communicate if we want to get to know someone. It's imperative that we talk with them and listen to them. The way we can hear what God has to say is to read His message..... The Bible. The Apostle Paul tells us the Bible is God - breathed, meaning that the very breath of God is permeated into Scripture. But how can we know these words are really His? Can we trust them?.

Jesus himself believed in the Bible and referred to it often. No, He did not quote the New Testament, remember it had not been written yet. He believed and quoted the Old Testament. So if Jesus trusted it, who are we to even think about questioning it! It is important to remember that there are scads and scads of evidence that support the accuracy of the Bible.

Our bodies would cry out if we only fed them once a day. How can we do any less for our souls? The world demands our attention, but if we intentionally set aside time to regularly feed our soul by reading God's word, we will learn God's will and grow.

The best time for me to read the Bible is in the morning while enjoying a cup of coffee, and a donut !!!!!!! Some folks like to read just before bed time. The important thing is to be sure you comprehend what you have read. Often there are cob webs or things on my mind that will not let me concentrate, so I read it again and again until the Word is all that sticks. And above all don't forget to praise God for His presence and blessings.

Say a prayer for our troops.

God Bless -

Chaplain Ken Coonradt



## USS Bennington P.A.C.T Picnic and Donations





VERMONT VETERANS' HOME

*Fulfilling the Promise*

**325 North Street  
Bennington, VT 05201**

**The Vermont Veterans' Home was established in Bennington in 1884. It is governed by a Board of Trustees appointed by the Governor. The VVH offers a complete range of specialized care services for its residents. VVH goals focus on insuring the dignity, independence, and the highest possible care and quality of life for each resident.**

**VVH is licensed to meet all levels of care for its residents and the VVH's departments and staff work together to provide those levels of care.**

*For any Further Questions Please Contact:*

**Mary Ryan, Executive Assistant  
mary.ryan@vermont.gov  
802-447-6523**



<http://vvh.vermont.gov>

## Administration and Department Directors

Melissa Jackson, CEO/Administrator  
447-6533  
melissa.jackson@vermont.gov

Col. Al Faxon, COO/Deputy Administrator  
447-6544  
allan.faxon@vermont.gov

Steven McClafferty, Business Manager  
447-2732  
Steven.mcclafferty@vermont.gov

Cindy Rankin, Food Service Director  
447-2815  
cindy.rankin@vermont.gov

Michele Burgess, Activities Director  
447-6520  
michele.burgess@vermont.gov

Christina Cosgrove, Social Services Director  
447-2792  
christina.cosgrove@vermont.gov

Jon Endres, Environmental Services Director  
447-6528  
jon.endres@vermont.gov

Patti Parker, Housekeeping and Laundry Supervisor  
447-2731  
patricia.parker@vermont.gov

Jen Morrison, Program Manager of Rehab  
447-6548

Karen Divis, Quality Assurance Nurse  
447-2888  
karen.divis@vermont.gov

Mary Hamilton, MDS  
379-5279  
mary.hamilton@vermont.gov

Gary Yelle, Admissions Coordinator and  
Marketing Director  
447-6539  
gary.yelle@vermont.gov

*From the Administrator...*  
*Melissa Jackson*

The unofficial end of the summer has arrived. The Vermont Veterans' Home is anxiously awaiting the return of our local high school and college students. We are also looking forward to the upcoming graduation of our LNA class. There are currently 6 individuals training with Patricia Babcock to become LNAs at VVH, they are all making great progress and enjoy being a part of the VVH family.

Speaking of the VVH family, we strive very hard to be more like a home than a healthcare institution. We are very fortunate to have family members that not only advocate for their loved one but for the other Veterans and Members who reside at the facility. This has led to a recent increase in the need to discuss privacy and confidentiality, not just with the staff but visitors and family members as well.

As a reminder, VVH staff cannot share medical information regarding any other Veteran or Member other than your loved one with you. Staff will politely remind you of this if you ask for information they cannot share. Please understand they are not being rude or difficult, they are following State and Federal Laws. Also we ask that no one other than VVH staff come behind any of the nurses' stations, again this is to protect Veteran and Member confidentiality.

Social Media is now impacting the regulations VVH must follow regarding Veteran and Member confidentiality. Please do not take and/or post pictures of anyone other than your loved one on social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc). Several of our Veterans and Members do not want their pictures posted inside or outside of the facility. Posting of pictures on social media or individuals other than your loved one can leave the facility open to regulatory sanctions. As I told the staff, we don't make the rules but we must follow them. I appreciate your understanding in the matter and will happily answering any questions or address any concerns.

I often provide a reminder on safe speed when driving on VVH property. I now want to let you know that additional speed bumps have been installed to provide additional reminders. In addition to our Veterans and Members, be on the look-out for the local high school students who travel through and use our property.

Take care,

Melissa A. Jackson, BSW, LNHA  
CEO



*Hope Fellowship Donation*



*Darlene sings to the Vets*



# Donations

On behalf of the Veterans/Members, we sincerely thank the following for their generous donations.

Charles and Ellen Magnant  
 Phil Young  
 Carolmae Wintermute  
 David Denatale  
 Marilyn French  
 Dean Dixon  
 Phyllis and Rhonda Roberts  
 Susan Bromirski  
 Bonnie Callanan  
 Fred Beauchamp  
 Michael Ponto  
 Joseph and Karen Pires  
 Millersville Manor VFW INC  
 USI Alliance  
 BPOE 567  
 American Legion Post 29 Auxiliary Unit  
 American Legion Barre Post #10 American Legion  
 Riders

American Legion Post #7 DBA American Legion Riders  
 VFW Bennington County Post 1332  
  
**In Memory of John H. Rhodes**  
 Annette Letourneau Devenger and Wendell Devenger  
 Patricia Kennedy  
 Fred and Sally Thomas  
 Kevin and Carol Lavalley  
  
**In Memory of Robert Husband**  
 Beverly Blake  
 Patrick Tansey  
  
**In Memory of Bruce Pratico**  
 James and Mary Moriarty  
  
**In Memory of Alan Gibney**  
 Edward and Janet Pillard

Board of Trustee President, Col. Joe Krawczyk and CEO, Melissa Jackson honor employees for their years of service.



Barbara Reilly, 39 years



Mary Longtin, 25 years



Joanne Burke, 23 years



Jackie Sullivan, 24 years



Chris Cross, 28 years



Jennie LaBrake, 25 years



Patricia Crossman, 5 years



Esther McGarvin, 5 years



*From Deputy Administrator...  
Colonel Al Faxon*



Vermont Veterans' Home family and team, it sure has been a busy summer!.....Picnics, car shows, public concerts, motorcycle club visits, Military Service Birthdays, Pow Wow, and more....Awesome! Almost all of the events listed above are supported in some form or fashion by our tremendous community. They do this for us because of you, the special people that live and work here.....hopefully you feel good about that.

I was able to attend the National Association of State Veterans' Homes Summer Convention in Salt Lake City, Utah. It was a valuable opportunity to associate with those from other State Veterans' Homes; a time to learn and share our experiences, challenges, and solutions. I was extremely honored to share with the group that we just completed a Deficiency Free CMS inspection/survey. The congratulation goes to our tremendous staff members that live and work our Mission Statement and Core Values every day.

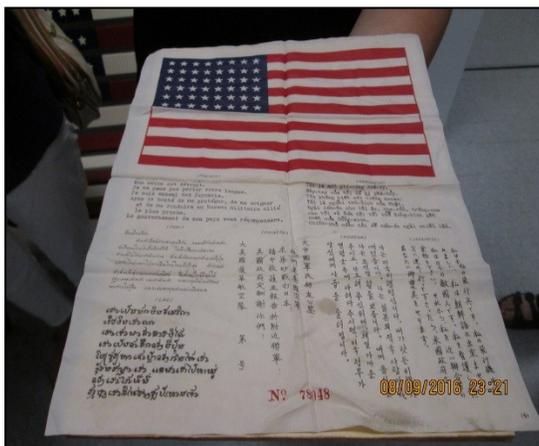
The Vermont Veterans' Home looks remarkable this time of year, with its extensive property, deer park, War Memorial, trout pond, athletic fields, etc... It is truly the Gem of Bennington as Col. Joe Krawczyk, President of the Board of Trustees, has stated on many occasions.

Thus, I would like to acknowledge all of you who maintain the grounds of our wonderful home in the manner you do. Anyone who visits our property for the first time is awed by the landscaping and beauty of the surroundings. To our Environmental Department, you do an amazing job maintaining the property and keeping the grounds trimmed and spruced up, and I recognize this effort is never ending.

Therefore.....for all of us living, working, or visiting the Vermont Veterans' Home.....I thank you!

Semper Fi"  
AF

*Pacific Blood Chit Donation*



Becky Evans presented Col. Joe Krawczyk, President of Board of Trustees, Melissa Jackson, CEO, Dr. Jacqueline Kelly, Board of Trustees Member, Mike Klopchin, Board of Trustees Member and Col. Al Faxon, COO with the Pacific Blood Chit. The Chit was issued by the United States military in China during World War II. The chits, requested help for a stranded airman and promised a reward for those who came to his aid. The amount awarded ranged from \$50 to \$250 and numbered in the tens of thousands.



# HAWAIIAN DAY



F.Y.I.

## Mark Your Calendars

### Grandparent's Day Fishing Derby

Sunday, September 11, 2016 at 10:00 AM

Location: Charron's Pond

### Air Force Birthday Celebration

Friday, September 16, 2016 at 2:00 PM

Location: Patriot Hall

### Looking Ahead:

### Navy Birthday Celebration

Thursday, October 13, 2016 at 2:00 PM

### Elk's Dinner

Sunday, November 6, 2016 at 12:00 PM

## Easy Peanut Butter Pie

8 oz. cream cheese, softened

1/2 cup sugar

1/4 cup peanut butter

2 cups Cool Whip

1 graham cracker crust

Beat first 3 ingredients together till smooth. Fold in Cool Whip. Pour into crust. Chill 4 hours.

Optional: Top with whatever toppings you would like.



## Just For Laughs.....

### Never Lose A Tank

When I lost my rifle, the Army charged me \$85. That's why in the Navy, the captain goes down with the ship.

### The Pitter-Patter of Little Feet

We've begun to long for the pitter-patter of little feet, so we bought a dog. It's cheaper, and you get more feet.

--Rita Rudner



# Vets Run

100% Proceeds  
Benefit the Residents of



Vermont  
Veterans' Home

- Benefit Ride to Honor Those Who Served -

**Saturday, October 1, 2016**

**Bennington Chamber of Commerce Lot**

Registration from 9:30am to 10:30am • Run Leaves at 10:30am

**\$20 per Bike • \$5 per Extra Rider**

For more information, visit: [www.BIMCVT.org](http://www.BIMCVT.org)



## Travels With Steve

Dear All,

“If you’re fond of sand dunes and salty air/Quaint little villages here and there/You’re sure to fall in love with Old Cape Cod”

I can still hear Patti Page signing that song as we played the 78 on our hi-fi prior to going on vacation and returning from Cape Cod. Most importantly, I can still picture my mother and father dancing to that song (amongst the polkas) as they move through the kitchen, dining room and living room of the house.

Recently, I had the opportunity to spend a few days on the Cape at a friend’s beach house. It is a four bedroom house with two decks and wide views of the ocean. They don’t go to it much but have given us a key in case we want to get away from Vermont anytime. They don’t rent this house out. As you walk into the house there is a set of stairs going to the upstairs two bedrooms and deck, but on the first floor it is wide open kitchen, living room and dining room with the walkout deck and then steps to the beach. (I can imagine my parents – Millie and Jack – dancing very easily in that room and onto the deck). Just down the road is a great restaurant called the Ocean House and around the corner from there is the ice cream stand called Sundae School. I am going to believe that many of you have experienced vacations with your families during the day. Mine was back in the 1960’s, specifically 1963 to 1969. The Cape always has fond memories for me. We went to West Dennis Beach where we spent the day away from our rented cottage. The sand dunes have taken over where mom would rest under the umbrella for the morning with a book. After lunch she would make a small trip to get her legs, arms and face wet for about 15 minutes and then return to sit under the umbrella. She would tan phenomenally! It does help to have Greek ancestry in our family. The swing set is still there along with the store to buy food. I have other friends who have two houses – one is a half block from the beach and the other is about 7 blocks away. I don’t have a key yet, but we are invited anytime to go down.

Here are a few pictures of the house we stayed at. I cannot wait to return off season because it is really nice and there is not a lot of traffic.



As always, God Bless each of you and God Bless America.

Steve



# 11th Annual Rock Rattle and Drum POW WOW

