



VERMONT VETERANS' HOME

VOLUME 12, ISSUE 34

JANUARY 2019

# The BUZZ WORD



Funny how Christmas brings out the Kid in Me...



VERMONT VETERANS' HOME

*Fulfilling the Promise*

**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:*

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802-447-6523**



<http://vvh.vermont.gov>

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*From the Administrator... Melissa Jackson*



*Happy New Year!!!*

*I hope each of you had a wonderful holiday season and were able to enjoy time with friends and family. The holidays were very busy at the Home. We had several successful events, many visitors, and many donations of gifts to the Home. I want to thank everyone who took time, throughout the year, to visit, provided a donation, or sent cards to our Veterans and Members. Your generosity helps us improve the lives of our residents.*

*Mark your calendars for 2019: Donation Weekend will be December 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. Wreaths Across America will be December 15<sup>th</sup> at noon.*

*As we look to 2019, we are planning some major facility improvement projects that include paving the driveway and updating the safety and security of the facility. Additional projects to improve the use of our facility grounds are also under discussion.*

*I look forward to seeing you on February 9<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm for our first Family Council Meeting of 2019. Family Council provides the facility the opportunity to give you updates on facility operations, changes in regulatory requirements and facility projects. This meeting allows the family to ask questions and discuss issues and concerns that impact all of our Veterans and Members. This is not a meeting to discuss individual care concerns; care plan meetings are held for this reason.*

*Wishing you a joyous 2019*

*Melissa*

*Melissa A. Jackson, BSW, LNHA  
Chief Executive Officer  
Vermont Veterans' Home  
[www.Vvh.vermont.gov](http://www.Vvh.vermont.gov)*



**Cookie Decorating**



**Sharing is Caring**



**The Masterpiece**





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

VFW Auxiliary - Bennington  
Am. Legion Fair Haven Post 49  
B.P.O.E. 567 - Bennington  
Living Sober  
Am. Legion Fair Haven Post 49 Aux. Unit  
VFW Post 1332 - Bennington  
Emblem Club Members of VT State  
Donald Keelan  
Janet Nido  
Antoinette Bourdon & John Scutt  
Hope Leonard  
Barb Canale & Butch Schmidt  
Fran Endres and Friends  
Jen Per & Andrew Shaw-DAR  
American Legion Auxiliary Unit 35  
Fair Haven Welcome Center c/o Carol Ross  
The Pharmacy, Inc.  
Cynthia Quackenbush  
American Legion Auxiliary Post 50 Castleton  
Mike Pronto-USS Bennington PACT  
Brattleboro Chapter DAR  
Leslie "Red" Cole  
Carol Bobowiec  
Karen Flanagan  
SV Womens' Christian Temperance Union  
Chicks with Sticks  
D. Hawkins  
Phyllis & Rhonda Roberts  
Anna Mattison and Liz Luce  
Federated Church of Arlington  
Blue Spruce Grange #574  
William Thompson  
Rise VT/SVMC  
Pownal American Legion Auxiliary-Unit 90  
DAV Auxiliary, Bennington Chapter #4  
DAV District #4  
American Leg. Auxiliary Unit 35 Cambridge  
Sons of the American Legion—Arlington  
American Legion Riders Post 39 Poultney  
American legion Riders Post 1 St. Albans  
VWF, Elks, Moose and American Legions of  
Springfield, Ludlow and Chester

**In Memory of James Durler**

John & Christine Wiley  
Mary Osielski  
Harrisburg Hunting Club

**In Memory of Richard Coffinger**

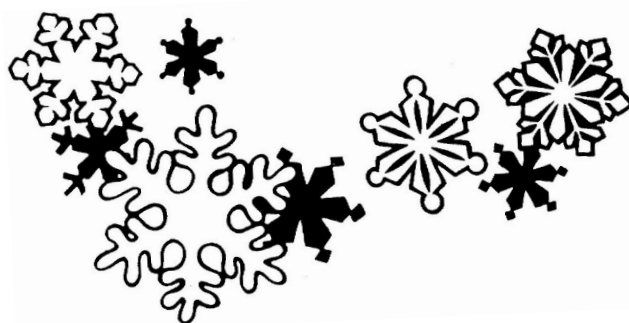
Norma Jean Belden

**In Memory of Guy Dominique**

Theresa Dansin  
Richard & Maureen Dominique  
Raymond Dominique  
Ernest Dominique

**In Memory of Col. Raymond Murray**

Island Bound Aircraft Sales





## 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

To be added to our lists please contact:

The Buzz Word  
Vermont Veterans' Home  
325 North Street  
Bennington, VT 05201  
Anne Baruzzi  
(802) 447-6510  
Email: [anne.baruzzi@vermont.gov](mailto:anne.baruzzi@vermont.gov)

## VVH WISH LIST

Winter Hats - Mittens  
Pinball Machine/Game  
Air Hockey Table/Game  
Neck Pillows      Body Pillows  
I-Pods & I-Tune Cards   or   CD Players  
Newspaper Subscriptions  
Costume Jewelry   or   Stamps  
(New) Men's Belts and Suspenders  
Earphones for TV and Music  
Outdoor Benches

We are looking for people with music talent and or special talents of any kind who would like to give time to our veteran's and members on our special care unit. Please contact Michele Burgess at [michele.burgess@vermont.gov](mailto:michele.burgess@vermont.gov) or call 802-447-6520 .

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

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



*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

### NEW: Veteran's Mobility Trail

Monetary donations toward  
a paved walkway around  
the perimeter of the VVH

PLEASE NOTE:

**\*\* We will NOT be accepting  
books, magazines, VCR tapes or  
clothing at this time. THANK YOU  
to all who have donated to our  
Veterans at VVH.**

Robert Colby, Department of Vermont VFW State Commander, gives Melissa a check as other members and guest participate in the presentation. To Mr. Colby's left is Benita Before, Vermont VFW Auxiliary President



American Legion Auxiliary Unit #49 brought 40 Christmas stockings to share with VVH residents. Pictured with the Auxiliary are Melissa, Al and Veterans Twig & Bunk (both from Fair Haven) and Roy.



Al Becker, Bennington USS PACT, brought gifts of clothing for our Veterans.



Tom McLean and Carl Goings presented a check on behalf of the VFW, Moose, Elks and American Legions of Springfield, Chester and Ludlow. Pictured with Tom & Carl are (l-r) Michele Burgess, Activities, Melissa Jackson, Al Faxon & Steve McClafferty, Finance.



David Hendee, Senior Vice Commander of the Sons of the American Legion presents a donation to Melissa during Wreaths Across America

## Donations





BENNINGTON — Four hundred people took part in Wreaths Across America Day event at the Vermont Veterans' Home on Saturday, placing wreaths at the 489 veterans' graves in the home's cemetery. The event was part of a national observance, coordinated with wreath-laying ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery, as well as at 1,400 other locations in all 50 U.S. states, at sea, and abroad.

The purpose of the day "is not to "decorate graves," said Col. Al Faxon, chief operating officer and deputy administrator of the Vermont Veterans' Home, "but to commemorate their sacrifice and dedication to these United States and to the cause of freedom." As part of Wreaths Across America's mission to "remember, honor and teach," at each grave, a participant placed a wreath, called out the veteran's name, took a step back, and saluted.

Faxon said that the wreaths were purchased with funds raised by Amy Maroney, whose father served in the 173rd Airborne in Vietnam. Maroney had attended Wreaths Across America at the Veterans' Home in 2016, and had been struck by the fact that there were only 130 wreaths available. This was her second year leading up fund-raising efforts for the event.

Faxon said that the home has been participating in Wreaths Across America for at least seven years, but that attendance did not pick up until he put out a public call through letters to the editor. "Boy, did they respond," he said. "It gives you chills to see Vermonters come out here for this." Bennington Banner







### *From Deputy Administrator—Colonel Al Faxon*

Winter is here... this morning when I started my truck it was mighty cold and snow on the ground. When you venture outside, **remember to keep warm and maintain your body heat... Wear the proper clothing** even if you are getting in a vehicle... they do break down!

Several of our Veterans here at VVH are fellow cold weather warriors... and we all know those that fought in the Korean War know well the effects of extremely cold weather on both people and equipment in combat; as do many of our WW II European Theater Warriors.



Norway,  
above the  
Arctic Circle

Our equipment has improved drastically the last twenty or so years. The invention of Gore-Tex was probably the single most important

development to improve cold weather sustainability and comfort. Being waterproof as compared to the wool and cotton I began my Marine Corps career with has totally enhanced comfort and survivability in extreme conditions. Improvements with the layering system of clothing and boots are almost as impressive.

Please remember to dress for the weather when you go out!  
(Let's count the number of days Niles wears shorts this winter!)

S/F

AF



Battle of Chosin Reservoir, Korea



American Legion Riders  
Post #39 Poultney

Melissa Jackson, CEO, & Col. Al Faxon, COO, accept donations from the American Legion Riders who brought gifts & spent time with our Veterans and Members.

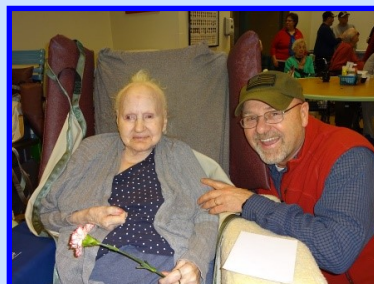


American Legion Riders  
Post #1 St. Albans



# VFW Christmas Party

Music by the  
Harmonic  
Duo





## *Chaplain's Corner*

### *Howdy Folks!*



We are almost through the Advent season, the first season of the Christian year. The four Sundays before Christmas are designated as Sundays of Advent. This is a period of expectant preparation for the coming of Christ. Then the Christian season starts on Christmas Day and goes until January 6, the Epiphany of the Lord. During these 12 days, the Church rejoices in the incarnation of the Word of God in Jesus Christ. Epiphany also commemorates the coming of the wise men to worship the infant Jesus.

This is a good time to reflect and determine if we have made room in our hearts for the Savior who was born to bring new light into the world. It is no use saying that we are born 2000 years too late to give room to Christ. Nor will those who live at the end of the world have been born too late. Christ is always with us, always asking for room in our hearts.

But now it is with the voice of those around us that He speaks; with the eyes of the store clerks, factory workers, and children that He gazes; with the hands of the office workers, slum dwellers and suburban housewives that He gives. It is with the feet of soldiers and tramps that He walks and with the heart of anyone in need, or needs it, is giving it to Christ.

We can do now what those who knew Him in the days of His flesh did. The Shepherds did not adore and then go away to leave Mary and her Child in the stable but somehow found them room, even though what they had to offer might have been primitive.

In Christ's human life, there always a few who made up for the neglect of the crowd. The Shepherds did it; their hurrying to the manger atoned for the people who would flee from Christ. The Wise Men did it; their journey across the world made up for those who refused to stir one's hands breadth from the routine of their lives to go to Christ.

We, you and I can do it, too exactly as they did. We are not born too late. We do it by seeing Christ and serving Christ in friends and strangers, in everyone with whom we come in contact.

Remember to pray for our troops and for those who served and their families.

I hope you all had a Merry Merry Christmas and all the best for 2019.

Chaplain Ken

## Decorating the Home for the Holidays



Activities assistants Michelle, Sebastian and Kelly (with Ray's help) decorate two of the many trees in the Home. VVH Maintenance Department add the lights.



## TWIG REMEMBERS... Willy Rondeau

Willy was pretty much a loner. He sat in a corner by himself and was a man of few words. One day, one of the four at my table was at a morning appointment and Willy stopped by and announced: "You're not going to believe this, but I love to talk." He started telling us these great stories.

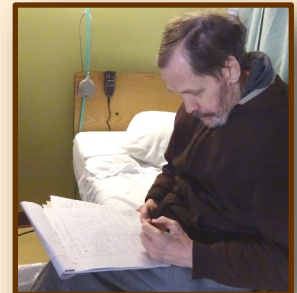
He started with his beautiful wife who won a singing contest to Nashville. There was one seat left, cost \$2,000 – now this was in the early 1950's – Willy paid cash and went. "I wasn't about to let my beauty of a wife with that golden voice be down there with those cowboys."

He kept right on with tales about fishing with an old boy who took a liking to him. The limit for fish (over-abundance) was 17 per day-trout. He went on and on as we sat and listened, mouths agast.

From that day on, back in his corner and never said much other than a short hello.

God Bless you, Willy, and thanks for those very special tales.

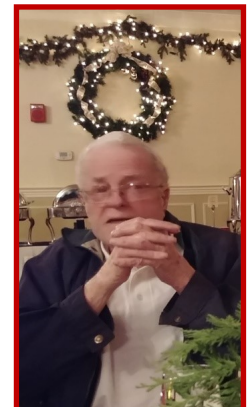
You get what I mean... "Twig Remembers"

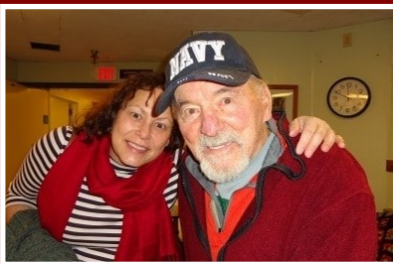
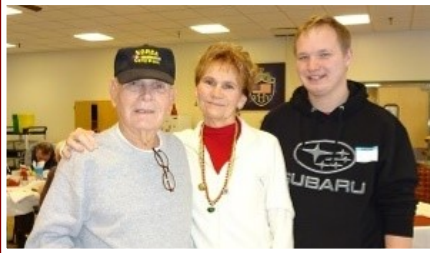


Robert "Twig" Canfield

### Christmas Dinner

The Bennington Lions Club hosted Veterans and Members to an evening of caroling, a delicious turkey dinner and a visit from Santa who presented each guest with a gift. The event was held at the Bennington Country Club.





A Time  
for  
Family  
and  
Friends



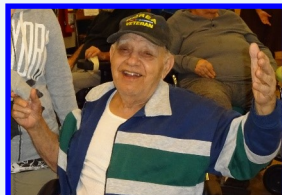


## Gifts of Music



Fred Lantz

## One Man Band



Singing  
with  
Sheila



**A GENTLE REMINDER:** Due to federal regulations, our employees are prohibited from accepting individual gifts and know that they must graciously decline any. Food or other items that can be shared by a neighborhood/department are fine. We do thank you for your consideration.

## Gifts of Clothing—Labeling is Essential

To Our VVH Family,

Many of our Veterans and Members will be receiving gifts of clothing during the holiday season. It is extremely important that these items be given to the nurses to be properly labeled with the individual's name.



Many times clothing has gone to Housekeeping without proper identification and cannot be returned to the owner. This may cause some heartache for some of residents and our Laundry staff does an amazing job tracking down the owners but not all searches are successful.

We ask that you please have these items (clothing, socks, hats, blankets, under garments) labeled to enable our staff to return items to our Veterans and Members. Your cooperation in this matter is gratefully appreciated by us all.

Thank you from the Housekeeping and Laundry Staff





# Christmas Tree Lighting

By Ed Damon, Bennington Banner

A tradition returned on Wednesday night as scores of people turned out for the community tree lighting at the Vermont Veterans' Home.

"Bennington's Home for the Holidays Celebration" was held on the front yard of the Veterans' Home. A musical performance and a visit from Santa Claus marked the annual Christmas tree lighting on the front yard of the Home.

"This is our way to say thank you to Bennington County and people of Bennington," CEO Melissa Jackson said. "It's people like you who make life of veterans that much more special." Jackson also asked attendees to keep those in military service, who won't be home this holiday, in their thoughts.

It was a joint event by the Veterans' Home and the Bennington Area Chamber of Commerce. Colonel Al Faxon, COO for the Home, and Matt Harrington, chamber executive director, also made remarks.

After the ceremony, attendees were invited to walk along a lit path through the home's Deer Park and to an open house at the chamber's building.

The Mount Anthony Union High School choir, led by Choral Director Lynn Sweet, performed a selection of Christmas songs.

Chaplain Ken Coonradt led the tree blessing.

"We ask you to send Your blessing upon this tree which we have decorated in honor your Son's birth. Let it help us to celebrate this holy season as living branches of him, and bear the fruit of good works for your glory, this day and every day, both now and forever."

Efficiency Vermont sponsored the LED colored lights strung around the tree.



**Bells are ringing, children singing, All is merry and bright, Cause Santa Claus comes tonight**



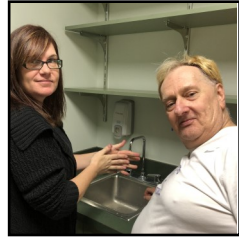
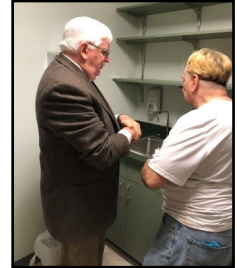
**Robyn & Jeff serving up the hot chocolate and cookies on a cold winter's night**

## From your Infection Control Team at VVH:

### Hand Washing Inspection

The Germ Team had another successful hand washing inspection on December 11th. We are in the flu season and need to remind all that it is extremely important to wash your hands correctly.

An impressive 27 attended and what awesome results we had!! Those that attended were scored from 1-10 by members of the Germ Team and out of 27, 18 received 10 for a score!! (10 is the highest score!)



**The Germ Team  
will be watching  
you!**

Thank you, Germ Team Members, who participated in this event:  
Dick Vachon, for going around the facility and recruiting for us.

Willy Rimany, Audrey Jones, Barb Vince and Steve Noel helped at the hand washing station table.  
I could not have done it without all of you!

Patricia Babcock R.N. I.P.

## Show your Support at the VVH Apparel Store!

<b>T-Shirts-\$15</b>	<b>Sweatshirts-\$25</b>
<b>Zip Hoodie-\$35</b>	<b>Sweatpants-\$20</b>
<b>Baseball Cap-\$20</b>	<b>Winter Hat-\$12</b>
<b>Scarf-\$12</b>	<b>Polo Shirts-\$25</b>
<b>Ornaments- \$8</b>	<b>VVH Pens-\$3</b>
<b>Small Totes- \$15</b>	<b>Large Totes-\$20</b>
<b>Wind Breakers:</b>	<b>Unlined-\$23-\$27</b>
	<b>Lined—\$27-\$31</b>



Bonnie, Polly and Lori want to thank you for entrusting your loved one to their care and they wish you a very healthy and happy New Year.