



VERMONT VETERANS' HOME

VOLUME 13, ISSUE 5

MAY 2019

The BUZZ WORD



SERVICE



VALOR



SACRIFICE



The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration Flag

FULFILLING THE PROMISE

www.vvh.vermont.gov



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.

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<http://vvh.vermont.gov>

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From the Administrator... Melissa Jackson



We all know that we observe Memorial Day in May but did you know that May also has other military observances? May is the month of the Military Caregiver. Per the Elizabeth Dole Foundation, 5.5 million individuals are caring for our current military members and Veterans. This caregiver role is often unpaid help done by family and friends. The Hidden Heroes Campaign from the Dole Foundation strives to provide those caregivers with the information and resources needed to help them take care of themselves as well as their wounded or ill military member. More information on the Hidden Heroes Campaign can be found at www.hiddenheroes.org

The month of May is also National Military Appreciation Month (NMAM). NMAM encourages all U.S. citizens to observe the month as a symbol of unity by honoring current and former members of the U.S. Armed Services including those who died in the pursuit of freedom.

Silver Star Banner Day is May 1st. This day recognizes those who have been awarded the Silver Star Medal, which is the third-highest military decoration for valor in combat. VE Day is May 8th which honors and remembers our victory in Europe and the end of WWII.

Friday, May 10th is Military Spouses Appreciation Day; this is usually celebrated the Friday before Mother's Day. This day honors military spouses and the vital role military families play in keeping the Armed Forces strong.

The final military observance in May is Armed Forces Day celebrated the third Saturday in May, this year May 18th. This day honors everyone serving in the U.S. Military. The day is meant to remind citizens to come together and thank our military members for their patriotic service to our country.

Please take some time this month to thank our current and former members of the military for their service. Take some time on Memorial Day to remember all the brave men and women who served our country and those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom.

Melissa

*Melissa A. Jackson, BSW, LNHA
Chief Executive Officer
www.Vvh.vermont.gov*



Employees were honored at the Board of Trustees Meeting in April.

**Left: Jennie LaBrake - 28 years,
Nursing**

**Right: Jackie Sullivan -27 years,
Activities**

**CONGRATULATIONS AND
THANK YOU!**



Chaplain's Corner

"Lest we forget..."

Dear VVH Friends,

John 15:13 declares: "*Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.*" On our annual celebration of Memorial Day, we are reminded of that supreme sacrifice that others have given on behalf of their fellow citizens. Countless numbers, unknown and often unnamed, have made that sacrifice. The Nation is forever in their debt. The history of this very important date on our Nation's calendar dates back to the close of the American Civil War. It seems that on April 25, 1866 some ladies of the city of Columbus, Mississippi began the practice of laying flowers on the graves of both the Union and Confederate dead in the city's Friendship Cemetery. Thus, it is here that the claim is laid for this observance to be the first "Decoration Day," as Memorial Day was once called. It was here as well, that the wounds and divisions of that conflict began to heal. What a powerful testimony to the spirit of forgiveness and reconciliation these women gave to the nation. They reached beyond their own loss and pain to honor those once seen as the foe. It was Lincoln who once said: "*Do I not destroy my enemies when I make them my friends?*"

Memorial Day is a day of looking back in thanks and looking forward in anticipation. What better way to observe that sacrifice, than to commit ourselves to lives of forgiveness and reconciliation. Again, as Lincoln once wrote: "*The mystic chords of memory, stretching from every battlefield and patriot grave to every living heart and hearthstone all over this broad land, will yet swell the chorus of the Union, when again touched, as surely they will be, by the better angels of our nature.*"

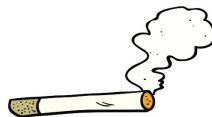
Grace & Peace,

Chaplain Richard



SMOKING POLICY

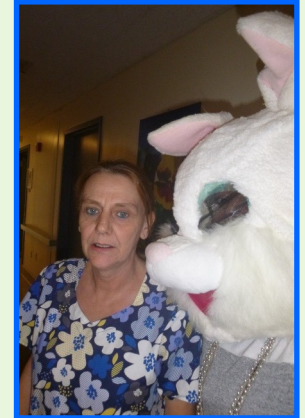
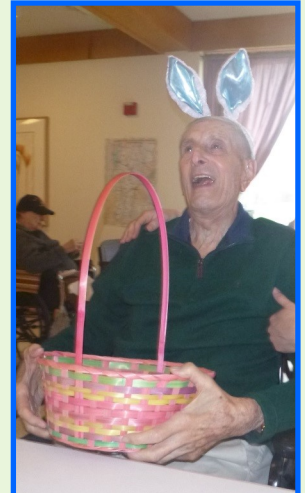
Per State and Federal Regulations, all Veterans and Members who smoke at VVH must have a smoking assessment completed. At no time may VVH nursing home residents keep a lighter, matches, etc. in their rooms.



These **must** be kept with their nurse. Cigarettes may be left with the Veteran or Member as outlined in their smoking assessment. Please check with your loved one's nurse prior to leaving any cigarettes in their rooms.



Easter Bunny, Michelle Hunt, has goodies for our Veterans and Members.



A Gift
from the
NorShaft
Lions Club



FLAG RAISING—NEVER FORGET



On Saturday, April 6, 2019 the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War was remembered with a Flag Raising ceremony. Veterans and Members and the Bennington community participated in the observance. The main entrance to the VVH is lined with the flags, which are symbolic of the Vietnam Veterans who had served between November 1, 1955 and April 30, 1975.

QAPI CORNER *From Quality Assurance—Karen Divis, Quality Assurance Nurse*

This month's QAPI Plan discusses our GUIDING PRINCIPLES

1. QAPI participation includes an interdisciplinary team involving all employees, Veterans/Members, family and Board members representing all departments and services.
2. We strive for continuous improvement in the delivery of our services so that our Veterans/Members experience the highest quality of care and quality of life permitted by their health status.
3. QAPI uses industry standards of practice to establish performance measures.
4. QAPI will support a system whereby Veterans/Members may choose the care that is most important to them.
5. A priority is the respect for care preferences expressed by our Veterans/Members.

We feel it is very important to provide those things that are important to our Veterans/Members and not what we feel it should be. Many times, those living in nursing homes feel they cannot make choices anymore and that is not true here at VVH. This is their home and we feel they should make choices as they would have made and then we try to meet those needs to the best of our ability.

We also strive to be the best. To provide the very best for Veterans/Members. Once we have solved a concern, we do not stop there; we try to make it better and better.

Those are the principles that guide us when providing care for our Veterans/Members.

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

Kathy Wheeler
Millie Harrington and Family
Corabelle Ammel
Samuel Zucker
Wayne Burgess
Arlington American Legion Aux. #69
John McKeon
Ray & Patricia Pipes
Chief Warrant Officer Mark Gardner
Sandra Schryver
James Gulley
Jim and Barb Logan
Pownal American Legion Aux. Unit 90
VFW Post 1332, Bennington
DAV Auxiliary, Bennington Chapter #4
VFW District #4, Milton
Phyllis & Rhonda Roberts
Eleanor Murno
George & Anna Guile

In Memory of John Powers

BDP Industries, Inc.

In Memory of Harry Farnsworth

Parker & Valeria Crossley

In Memory of Edward Bird

Joan Fish & Sandra Brutkoski
Chris & Emilia McCullough
Steven Bird
Tom & Carolyn Whittaker

In Memory of Thomas Brown

Raymond Durand

In Memory of Roland Mitchell

Lee & Denise Gadway
Therese Guay
Jeannette & Ralph Mitchell



Dr. Carol Salazar
donated a 3-foot
high, 5 pound
chocolate bunny
to the Home.

Events

**5 May - Elks Dinner
at the Elk's Lodge
12:00 p.m. - 2 guests
per Veteran or member**

2 June - Fishing Derby

15 June - Father's Day Car Show

Show your Support at the VVH Apparel Store!

T-Shirts-\$15

Sweatshirts-\$25

Sweatpants-\$20

Zip Hoodie-\$35

Polo Shirts-\$25

Baseball Cap-\$20

Winter Hat-\$12

Scarf-\$12

Ornaments- \$8

VVH Pens-\$3

Small Totes- \$15

Large Totes-\$20

Wind Breakers: Unlined-\$23-\$27
Lined—\$27-\$31



From Deputy Administrator—Colonel Al Faxon

Below are the Core Values for those of us blessed to work at the Vermont Veterans' Home. These values are the traits and qualities that represent our top priorities, our beliefs, and core fundamental driving forces to care for our Veterans' and Members. These are the values we desire to resonate with those we serve at VVH and for those looking in from the outside.

Commitment - We must be fully dedicated to becoming the very best at our jobs in order to carry out the mission of the Vermont Veterans' Home.

Stewardship - We will ensure responsible stewardship of our Veterans and Members, financial resources, natural resources, as well as the data and information entrusted to us.

Team Work - We all must work together in a positive and productive manner to accomplish the mission and goals of the Vermont Veterans' Home.

Respect - We must respect and preserve the dignity of every Veteran and Member, their families, visitors, volunteers, and employees we come in contact with.

Integrity - First and foremost, we must always strive to do what is right and in the best interest of our Veterans and Members.

Professionalism - Must be on display at all times; our success depends on maintaining a highly-skilled and compassionate workforce.

Excellence - We must strive to attain the highest level of quality and satisfaction in delivering person-centered care to our Veterans and Members.

Service - We will treat all Veterans and their families with the utmost dignity and compassion; and consistently demonstrate care, concern, and understanding in every encounter.

I am honored to work at the Vermont Veterans' Home with a staff that strives to meet these values each and every day.

S/F
AF



**Employees dressed in blue for
National Child Abuse
Awareness Month**



THE BUZZ WORD

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

- ♦ Vermont Veterans' Home website:
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
Robyn Boland
(802) 447-6510
Email: robyn.boland@vermont.gov

VVH WISH LIST

Mittens
Pinball Machine/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

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

THANK YOU

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 or call 802-447-6520.

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.**

TWIG REMEMBERS...Anson “Bill” Kipp

What an experience! He had all of these nice relatives visiting. There was at least four each day. I got to know every one of them. They would swap tales of the good old days. And then they would converse and discuss. You know it was right where the old Stewarts was, and then Bill would inform them on what was in that spot in 1947.

I'm from Rutland so I don't know much about this area. Well it's about one hour away if you use Rt. 7. I was getting a bit familiarized with Bennington and the surrounding towns. Bill was a good old-fashioned gent. We had a lot of fun and helped each other out quite often.

God bless Kipper. That's what they all called him, and they all loved him. One of his LNA's called him her Little Love Muffin. Another LNA not only resembled Aretha Franklin but she too had the voice of an angel. She would put him to sleep with “Yes Jesus loves you, the Bible tells me so.”

Not a doubt in my mind that “The Kipper” will truly be missed around this facility. Twig

TWIG REMEMBERS...Judy & John Reed

The cleanup committee has no idea what a little square piece of paper with 80 names means to a writer. I remember some, like this one.

Judy & John Reed, sweethearts since high school. Judy, well how do I explain – just say it. She was easy to look at and she had a nice little shape. She was a captain of cheerleaders, all the way through. She was also Class Salutatorian, and this allowed for the many jobs she held in town (one was Town Treasurer). She also handled the monies for the family swimming pool cleaning business.

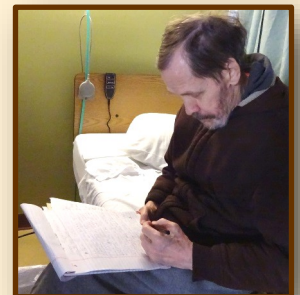
Big John, what an athlete. One of the best first basemen, a great power forward and a great wide receiver (and long hands).

John was the foreman in metal stamping when I worked at Telescope Folding Furniture. We waited tables together at the Hampton Manor. We sent him home with a bad stomach and that was his last night there. Judy put down the law.

It would be hard to find a couple who put more time in working with F.H. kids than these two. Thirty years guiding their own. The youngest, Scott, is still tops in goals in soccer and still in top ten scorers in basketball and he was first string all league shortstop too.

How about 57 years married to the same person.

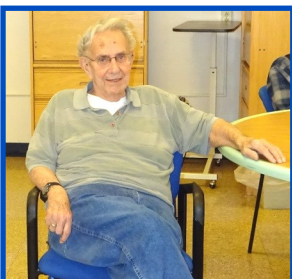
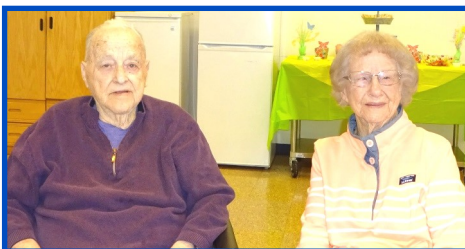
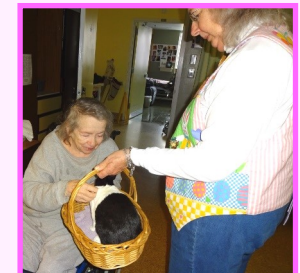
God bless John & Judy Reed. Twig



Robert “Twig” Canfield



A visit with the Easter Bunny



Taconic Chamber Players

An afternoon performance was very well attended and enjoyed by the Veterans and Members.

