

The BUZZ WORD

Volume
Issue 5
11
May 2020



Thank you to our Bennington Community
for the smiles from family and friends

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.

For any Further Questions Please Contact:

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<http://vvh.vermont.gov>

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Thank you
for a
wonderful

day and a
great
Parade!!!!



From the Administrator... Melissa Jackson



On April 13th and 14th representatives from the Vermont Department of Health were at VVH to conduct voluntary testing of Veterans, Members and Staff. 105 tests were completed on Veterans and Members and 129 were completed on staff. VVH will be receiving the results directly for all Veterans and Member testing. The results of the staff testing are being sent to our individual primary care providers. We have asked staff to inform us if they receive notification of a positive result.

In the event an employee reports a positive result from this testing, they will not be allowed to work until they have received two (2) negative COVID-19 tests within a 24-hour period. These tests usually take place around day 8 or 9.

In the event a Veteran tests positive, they will be moved to our Respiratory Care Unit at the discretion of our Medical Director. Veterans or Members in a private room may remain in their room if deemed appropriate by the Medical Director or attending physician. In both cases the Veteran will remain in their room for fourteen days, staff will wear full PPE which includes gown, gloves, surgical mask and face shield. The Veteran or Member will wear a face mask during care and in the rare instances when they are out of their room for medical necessary reasons. Two negative tests will be required prior to the discontinuation of the private room and PPE requirements.

We will notify the entire facility and family members if an employee, Veteran or Member tests positive. At no time will identifying information be released. Those who have had close contact with the positive Veteran, Member or staff member will be notified along with appropriate actions that they need to take. We will not be identifying which neighborhood a Veteran or Member resides on or where in the facility the employee works.

I want to stress that the information provided by this testing is a snapshot in time. In the event we have no positive cases, this does not mean we will never have a positive case. Regardless of the results, we will continue to work closely with the Vermont Department of Health to continually improve our mitigation efforts.

With gratitude,

Melissa A. Jackson, MBA, LNHA, FACHCA
Chief Executive Officer
Vermont Veterans' Home
www.Vvh.vermont.gov



Our hallways are alive with cards, notes and drawings from the VVH families and friends from all over the state of Vermont and beyond!

Thank you for keeping our Veterans and Members in your thoughts, your hearts and in your prayers.

From Deputy Administrator— Colonel Al Faxon

It is difficult to write or think about anything other than COVID-19 these days; however, it presents a good opportunity to reiterate the Core Values of our Vermont Veterans' Home. Those that come to work each day are the finest group of people I have ever met, and they live and work by these values.



These values are the traits and qualities that represent our top priorities, they are the fundamental driving forces that inspire the care for our Veterans and Members.

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.

Semper Fi
AF



Remembering
the Veterans and
Members of the
Vermont
Veterans' Home

We Thank You
from
Bennington



Chaplain's Corner

Howdy Folks,

It was a real pleasure to participate in the "Tribute to our Veterans Parade" at the Vets Home on April 4th, 2020. The Activities folks and members of the Staff did a great job getting the residents outside so they could see what appeared to be *hundreds* of vehicles and individuals circling the facility to show their **love** and support for our **Heroes**.

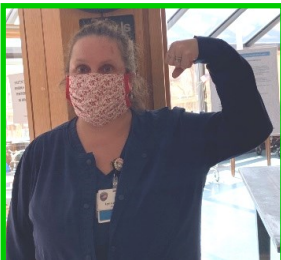
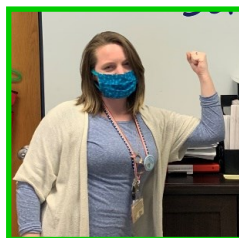
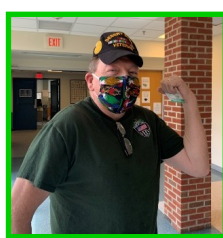
It has not been easy to stay away from the Vets Home, but it's the best we can do until this Coronavirus is defeated. I have called some of the residents to let them know they are in our prayers.

This virus situation has forced us at home to create ways to keep loneliness and boredom at bay until we are rid of this invisible pandemic. The wife and I have been making masks for anyone who needs one. We also do more reading and I am "thinking" about doing some of those "honey-do" projects !!!!!. And, of course, we're watching more TV than we should.

Some say this virus is God's way of punishing us for our sins or for failing to obey His commandments. Not so! Our God is a permissive God, that is, He allows or permits things to happen but wants us to turn to Him for strength and patience to cope and let Him handle the problem. That's where we tend to think we can control every thing. Also not so ! Yes, God is sad when we disobey Him, but is quick to forgive us when we repent. Remember, God causes all things to work for good to those who love Him. We must keep the faith and know God will deal with our trials and tribulations in His time, not ours.

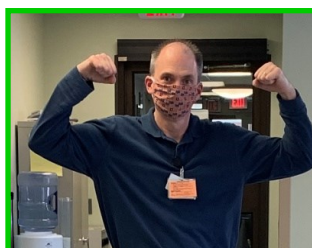
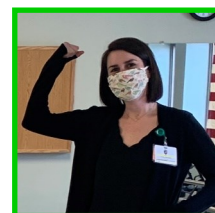
Please look to God for strength and pray that things will return to normal soon. I look forward to seeing you in the near future Pray for continued freedom from the Coronavirus at the Vets Home and don't forget prayers for our troops.

God bless. Chaplain Ken



When the going
gets tough-

the Tough wear
FACEMASKS!



THANK YOU

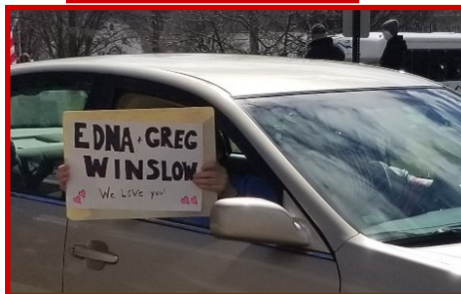
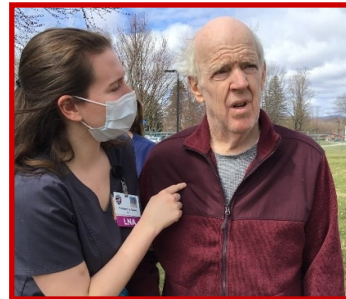
to ALL the "Mask Makers" !!

Your donations are appreciated and
WE LOVE all the creative patterns.

The Community Parade



for Veterans and Staff



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

Arlington American Legion Aux. Unit #69
Joyce Simard

American Legion Post #13
Congregational Church United Church of Christ
Sons of The American Legion Squadron #69
Phyllis & Rhonda Roberts
Gail Anderson
Cecily & Emma Strohmaier
Timothy Bates
John Mahar

In Loving Memory of Nathan Haverstock
Constnace J. Spillar

In Loving Memory of Al Dunfee
Peter & Nancy Hammond

In Loving Memory of Richard Belluzzi
Vin & Tom Belluzzi
Peter & Diane Reszko
Stan Aufieri
Friends from Regency
Tom, Elaine, and Myles Babcock
Charles & Marilyn Boyle
Colleen Moore
John & Sylvia Carpenter
Robert & Vivian Seman
Donna & Michael Barriere
Robert Belluzzi, Sr.
Dawn Clark
Kevin & Margaret Seman

In Loving Memory of Richard Vachon
The Johnsons, Planners, Beaudoins, & Murphys
Keith, Linda, & Katie Vandale
Edgar & Joanne Holden
Ruth Ratelle
Jane & Gregory Luke
Barbara Vachon Bukovinsky & Dave

In Loving Memory of Jennie LaBrake
Helene & Fred Deysenroth
Lynn & Michael Andrews
Alison Malmborg
Dick Frantz
Carol Salazar
Colleen Moore
Mary Driscoll
Brenda & Michael Rose
Jan E. Murray & Jean Kilgore

In Loving Memory of Katherine Camp
Virginia Couch



Special thank you to **Richard Setzer**, who was the master-mind for the **Community Parade**. The display of unity and cheer lifted the spirits of Veterans, Members, and Staff.

We appreciate **Stephanie Hewson**, Acting Manager for Bennington Staples, and the **Staples Team** for the donation of **Purell Hand Sanitizers**.

Also, we are grateful to **Mack Molding's Michelle Lucas** for administering N95 Mask Fit Testing.

We have an assortment of **face mask** donations from:

~ Jennifer Washburn
~ Vickie Lampron
~ Jo Ann Trinkle
~ Bonita McKeighan
~ Anthony & Mary Jo Costello
~ Erin & Clara Olson
~ Mary Lou Wheeler
~ Abbie Labatt Dansereau
~ Southern Vermont Disaster Relief
~ JoAnn Harwood
~ Green Mountain Mask Makers
and all their contributors
~ American Legion Aux. Unit #13
~ Judy Estes
~ Jan Leslie
~ Grace Leslie
~ Anna Mattison
~ Mary Hubbell
~ Mona Gauthier
~ Sandy LePoidevin
~ Carol Newell
~ Grace Sohn
~ Mr. & Mrs. Michael Coffey
~ Donna Richards
~ Judy Doonan

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

Kiauna Wait
(802) 447-6510
Email: Kiauna.wait@vermont.gov

VVH WISH LIST

I-Pod Shuffles
(4th Generation)



Neck Pillows

CD Players

I-Tune Cards

Costume Jewelry

Body Pillows

Stamps

Newspaper Subscriptions

Outdoor Benches

Earphones for TV and Music

Two pocket front wheelchair/walker bags

**Please make check for monetary donations
out to Vermont Veterans' Home:**

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

Your donations are gratefully accepted.

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 Veterans 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
donations until further notice
due to COVID-19. Be on the
lookout for future notices as to
when donations will resume.
Thank you for understanding. ****

Invitations to the Parade... and look what happened !!!





Where in the wide world can man
find nobility without pride,
Friendship without envy,
or beauty without vanity?
Here, where grace is served with muscle.
And strength by gentleness confined.
He serves without servility; he has fought
without enmity.
There is nothing so powerful, nothing less
violent.
There is nothing so quick,
nothing more patient.
All our history is in his industry.
We are his heirs,
He is our inheritance.

Ronald Duncan

True Patriot sculpture by Rita Dee

The Horse “raises awareness of the sacrifices made by...military men and women everyday. True Patriot is dedicated to our soldiers in service to our freedom and safety...” stated Rita.

Horses have been through battles over the centuries and have served their soldiers well during fearful and difficult times. The horse contains words, messages of thanks, quotes, phrases and images from students who assisted in the venture. These words embody a soldier’s service to their country. The poem above sums up the personal feelings and emotions of Rita about True Patriot.



Veterans & Members



In our hearts



Forever

