



VERMONT VETERANS' HOME

VOLUME 9, ISSUE 12

DECEMBER 2017

The BUZZ WORD



Jennie LaBrake (left) and Kathy Williams (right) stand next to the tree planted in the Cardinal Point courtyard in memory of Kathy's father, Roy Fournier.



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.

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<http://vvh.vermont.gov>

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Dear VVH Friends,

Isaiah 60:1 declares “**Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee!**” We are entering the Season of Light. Even though the days are shortening, the nights are colder, and the temperatures are dropping, nevertheless this is the time we celebrate God’s light in our lives. For the Jewish community, Hanukkah is a time when the “miracle of the lights” is observed. This festival is celebrated by the kindling of the lights of a unique nine-branched menorah - candelabra. This holiday reminds us of God’s presence and of the importance of freedom and liberty.

Christmas is a time to celebrate the coming of the One who is the Light of the World, the One who is “the Light of the World.” In these challenging times of ours, it is important to remember that the Light has come which the darkness “can never extinguish.” Just as the dark days of winter give way to the warmth and light of Spring, so too, does that Divine Light illuminate our lives even in the times of greatest challenge. And the greatest gift any of us can receive is that “peace which passes all understanding.”

My roots are here in the Southern Vermont area. The local high school is where I graduated and many of my family members still live here. Presently, I serve as a pastor of a local church in Shaftsbury, Vermont. It has been a joy to become reacquainted with my old “stomping grounds”, as it were. There are many wonderful people in this community and here at the VVH. Surrounded by these “Green Mountains” we are truly blessed to be living in such a beautiful part of God’s creation. I have been with you for just a few weeks now and I hope to get to know each and every one of you in the days ahead.

Wish you God’s peace in this very special season. Merry Christmas to you all and Happy Holidays!

Pastor Richard McSherry

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Prime Rib au jus, Baked Potato, Prince Edward Island Vegetables

Alternate: Roast Turkey, Gravy, Cranberry Sauce

Dessert: Chocolate Dream Cake

First guest per Veteran/Member is free of charge

\$10 for each additional meal

Maximum guest limit is 4



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.

From the Administrator... Melissa Jackson



As 2017 draws to a close, I would like to take some time to review our accomplishments.

For the third year in a row we have received a deficiency free survey/inspection from the Veterans Administration. Members of our staff have attended national conferences to learn best practices and to share their outstanding work with other nursing facilities across the country. We have presented our fall reduction program to the VA and other nursing homes in the State of Vermont and have been invited to Washington, DC by the Secretary of the VA to participate in two conferences regarding Veteran care issues.

The Allen Gibney Memorial Pavilion is finally complete, and we will hold a dedication ceremony in the spring. Our Veterans and members are getting a lot of use of our golf carts taking rides around the facility grounds.

We continue to have great support from various community and Veteran organizations who help to add to the quality of life of those residing here.

In the coming year your support will be more important than ever, especially when it comes to ensuring the home has adequate funding. Please reach out to your local Representatives and Senators to let them know how important this home is to Vermont's Veterans and to ensure we receive adequate funding to continue to provide the best in class care.

Wishing you the best this holiday season.

Melissa

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

ATTENTION: NEW MEDICARE CARD ARRIVING IN 2018

In an effort to help reduce identity theft the federal government is removing social security numbers from Medicare cards. The new cards will have an individual identification number. It is very important the facility receive a copy of this new card to ensure timely and accurate billing. Please drop off or mail a copy of the card to our Finance Office.



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY
MARINE
CORPS**



ANTIBIOTIC STEWARDSHIP

Since penicillin was first discovered in 1928 by Sir Alexander Fleming in England, antibiotic use throughout the world has become an important part of modern health care to fight illnesses caused by bacteria. While the use of antibiotics became widespread, including veterinary and agricultural applications, it was recognized that bacteria were quick to develop resistance to these new drugs. In fact, bacterial resistance to penicillin was noted in 1946, the very first year it came into common use! Now, bacterial resistance is very common and at times infections are encountered in some people for which no antibiotics will work.



This has led to an interest in the medical world to better manage the use of antibiotics so they remain useful for a longer period of time. This is called **Antibiotic Stewardship**. We, at the Vermont Veterans' Home, have joined with the rest of the country in the effort to ensure that antibiotics are used only when appropriate and stopped when no longer helpful, and that measures to prevent infections are used to avoid infections in the first place, such as handwashing and immunizations.

Have a happy and healthy holiday season – and a great way to do that is to wash your hands frequently, get your flu shot, and visit the Veterans' Home when you are healthy!

Peter King M.D., Medical Director



THE ELKS CLUB STEAK DINNER AND BINGO EVENT WAS MUCH APPRECIATED

AND
ENJOYED
BY MANY.
THANK YOU!



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

Bennington Elks Lodge No. 567
Pownal American Legion
DAV Auxiliary Chapter 4
VFW District 4
Rhonda & Phyllis Roberts
Christine Kernozek
Manchester Country Club-Wounded Warriors
American Legion Post 49
Kathy Praetorius
Pownal Elem. -Karen Whalen 6th Graders
Sunderland Elementary School
Village School of N. Bennington 4th Graders
Molly Stark Elem. -Early Ed Program
Students of Franklin School
778 Swanton Auxiliary
Wells Village School
Pownal Elem.-Mrs. Cristofolini's 5th Graders
Bennington Co. Retired Teachers Assoc.
Twin Valley Elem.-Mrs. Sullivan's 1st Graders
Helping Hand-Mrs. Bruce Caler
Missionary Alliance Church-Ladies Craft Grp
Lita Schloss
American Legion Auxiliary-Unit 90
Joyce Digennaro
Floyd Nutig
Charles Thompson
Peter Sweet
Brattleboro Chapter D.A.R.
Robert Dawson
Carol Perkins
Amanda Hill-A & E TV Networks
St. John the Evangelist School

In Memory of Frederick Ringwood

Robert & Rose Osborne

In Memory of Joseph Dell

Garret & Marguerite Roosma

In Memory of John Crase

Anna Flynn

Events Calendar

December:

6th Community Tree Lighting at 5:30

13th Day of Remembrance, 3:00 p.m.
in the Chapel

16th Wreaths Across America, VVH
Cemetery at noon

16th-17th Donation Weekend

17th VFW Christmas Party
at 1:30 p.m. in Patriot Hall



Happy Holidays

IN PROGRESS: BOCCE BALL COURT...
Being constructed by Life Scout Drew Dunlap of
Shaftsbury, Boy Scout Troop 334 in Arlington.
Drew (on the left in pic) is doing this project in an
effort to attain the Eagle Scout Rank. He is being
assisted with fellow Eagle Scouts & family.



**Can't wait for it to be completed ...
What fun!!**





From Deputy Administrator—Colonel Al Faxon

This is an amazing time of year here at the Vermont Veterans' Home. The number of individuals and organizations that have walked through our front doors, both scheduled and unscheduled, to present donations and gifts to our Veterans is quite amazing.

Those who have visited knocking at our door to present all manner of support this Christmas and Holiday Season have done so to say thank you to all who have served. I, also, would like to get in that long line and pass on my gratitude and best wishes to you and your families.

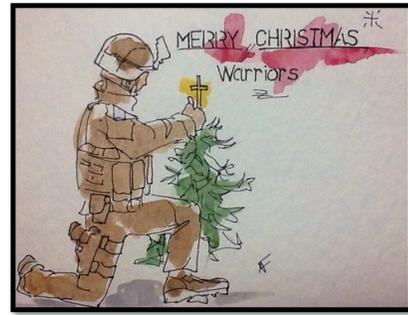


To the Staff of VVH....many of you have gone out of your way to make this a special time of year for veterans, members and fellow staff. Thank you for giving your time and energy to make this a special season for us all.

Merry Christmas and a Happy Holiday Season to all!

S/F

AF



COMCAST
FLAGS PLACEMENT
FOR VETERAN'S DAY



American Legion Gift Program



"Bill"



shutterstock 838307298

A WONDERFUL VETERAN'S DAY TRIBUTE FROM MOLLY STARK 4th GRADERS



FROM ALL
OF US:
THANK YOU !!



*Honoring
Those Who Have
Served*



Wallace Mattison, of Pownal, received the Legion of Honor award from Valery Freland, Consul General of France in Boston at VVH on Nov. 22, 2017. Wallace was in the 29th Infantry Division, 115th Regiment in 1943-part of the Normandy invasion. American veterans who fought during WWII and fought on French territory qualify to be decorated as Knights of the Legion of Honor, to which there are approximately 93,000 recipients to date. It was an honor and privilege to have such an event held here at our Home.



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

Please contact:

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VVH WISH LIST

CD Players

CDs of any type of music

Newspaper Subscriptions

Costume Jewelry

Envelopes, Stamps, Pens, Writing Paper

Men's Caps

Men's belts and suspenders

300 piece easy grip puzzles

500 piece easy grip puzzles

Universal TV Remotes

Earphones for TV and Music

DVD Players

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

*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 or magazines at this time. THANK YOU to all who have donated to our Veterans at VVH.**





History seemed to be repeating itself from 10 years ago when individuals involved in the 2007 Washington DC U.S. Capitol tree delivery, were once again at VVH, this time assisting with the delivery of an 11-foot tree for our front porch-the only live tree permitted in the facility. Members include: Andrea Chase, Kevin & Lindy Lynch, Don Miller, State Rep. Mary Morrissey, Patty Surdam, Frank Thomson, Jeff White, Perry & Betty Young. Don Keelan donated the 11-foot tree from his Arlington property, which he has done for several years.

Dave Zsido, President of the Green Mountain Bulldawg chapter, presented Col. AL Faxon a trunk with 150 specially-made challenge coins. Some of our residents endured the cold to observe as the lights were draped on the tree.



Oh, Christmas Tree



A SALUTE TO MILITARY BRATS via THE DANDELION

It is not an elegant, graceful flower like a rose or a lily; nor does it flaunt its significance. However, the dandelion is not a lowly weed. Weeds are “plants in the wrong place,” undesirable, unattractive, and troublesome. Billions are spent each year to eradicate these alien invaders in search of the otherwise perfect lawns, but to really no avail. Every year these plucky nomads, these masters of survival, return and more money is spent to rid lawns throughout the nation of these “pests.” However, there was a time when dandelions were cultivated and coveted as a great treasure. Allow me to tell its story.

“I am dandelion, hear me ROAR!” It gets its name from the French *dent-de-lion* meaning lion’s tooth for its jagged tooth-like leaves, an apt name for a bold flower. The dandelion is a prized herb, not a weed at all, but an herb. If the lion is king of the jungle then the dandelion is king of the plant world; but, it has no “illusions of grandeur.”

The dandelion arrived on the Mayflower, not as a stowaway but as a valuable passenger brought to the New World purposefully. I can imagine that in each Puritan pocket were dandelion seeds safely tucked inside. The one flower that would be familiar, a taste of home, in this strange, dangerous New World. However, it was not just a reminder of home; those seeds were their pharmacy, their “first-aid kit in a box.” Those handfuls of seeds promised medicine, food, tea, coffee, jelly and wine. In short, an entire grocery/liquor/pharmacy store. Ray Bradbury, in his story *Dandelion Wine*, described the taste of dandelion wine as “a dessert wine that tasted like a blend of Chardonnay and corn-on-the-cob.” Delightful! Yet, we ignore this heirloom willed to us by the Puritans and call it a pesky weed.

TO BE CONTINUED: This is Part 1 of a 5 part monthly series written by our very own weekend receptionist, Marion Ryberg. Look for Part 2 in the January 2018 issue of the Buzz Word!

