



VERMONT VETERANS' HOME

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 3

MARCH 2016

The BUZZ WORD



**Southern Vermont College Women's Soccer Team
Brought Valentine's Cards, Lots of Love, Smiles and
Laughter to the 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:

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

(802) 447-6510

Email: 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



QAPI CORNER

**By: Karen Divis
Quality Assurance Nurse**



QAPI – What is **Q**uality **A**ssurance **P**erformance **I**mprovement?

Quality Assurance Performance Improvement is a data- driven proactive approach to improving the quality of life, care and services for our veterans/members. The activities of **QAPI** involve ALL staff members from every department, an interdisciplinary approach to identify opportunities for improvement. Included in that team are the veterans/members and families. Your views are sought, valued and considered in facility discussion making and the process for improvement.

QAPI continuously improves processes to meet standards and the goal is to go beyond those standards. It takes teamwork to improve the quality of life and care for our veterans/members.

Next time about **QAPI**: How do we accomplish this?

Chaplain's Corner...



Howdy Folks,

In our Christian world there is the Easter season, also known as the Great Fifty Days, beginning at sunset Easter Eve and continuing through the day of Pentecost (March 26 thru May 15, 2016). Don't confuse this with the Lenten season which is 40 days beginning with Ash Wednesday (Feb. 10 thru March 27, 2016). By the way, Father Holden and yours truly were delighted that so many attended our observance of the ashes in the Chapel on Ash Wednesday. In receiving the cross of ashes on our foreheads, we confront our mortality and confess our sins before God within our community of faith. After Chapel services we proceeded through the Home to administer ashes to those Veterans and staff who were unable to get to the Chapel.

The Easter season is the most joyous and celebrative season of the Christian year. It focuses on Christ's resurrection and ascension and on the givings of the Holy Spirit on the first Easter and the day of Pentecost. Lessons from the Acts of the Apostles (New Testament) replace readings from the Old Testament because the early church empowered by the Holy Spirit, is the best witness to the Resurrection.

Baptisms, confirmations and congregational reaffirmation of the Baptismal Covenant are highly appropriate throughout this season, most especially at the first service of Easter and on the day of Pentecost. May you all feel a special blessing during the Easter Season!!

Please pray for our men and women serving around the world. Also, pray for all those serving our Veterans and spouses here at the Vets Home.

God Bless,
Ken Coonradt, Chaplain



A Visit from Southern Vermont College's Women's Soccer Team





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:

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<http://vvh.vermont.gov>

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*From the Administrator...
Melissa Jackson*

There has been much talk about the newspaper articles regarding VVH and the admission of prisoners to the facility. I want to stress that no decision has been made to admit Veteran prisoners to the Home. **If**, in the future, this is something the home is considering I will notify you and allow time for resident and family input before a final decision is made. I ask that if you have any questions or concerns regarding VVH that you direct those questions to the facility. Staff members have reported getting phone calls at home asking for clarification on these issues, they have been very gracious and provided the information requested but also voiced they would like to keep their work life and personal life separate.

Joe, Al and I recently spent time in Montpelier testifying on our budget. This was well received by all the committees we testified before. The Legislators commented that they were very happy we did not need to request budget adjustment funds or capital funds this year. The Board of Trustees hosted a Legislative Meet and Greet while we were in Montpelier is this was well attended. This provided members of the Board, Al and I with the opportunity to speak one on one with many of those in attendance; all expressed support for the home.

I will begin holding quarterly Family Council Meetings. These meetings will be an opportunity for you to provide feedback and have general questions answered and the entire Home to provide you with an update on current projects and activities. These meetings are not meant to address individual care concerns; those need to be addressed with the resident's CCC or Social Worker. The meetings will take place from 6pm to 7pm in the A. Luke Crispe Multipurpose Room on the following dates: March 22, June 20th, September 27th and December 6th.

Take Care,

Melissa



The Board of Trustees Hosts a Legislative Meet and Greet

L to R: Representative Matt Trieber (Windham-3), Representative Kiah Morris (Bennington-2-2) and Representative Rachael Fields (Bennington-2-1) at the Legislative Meet and Greet.



L to R: Senator Dick Sears Jr. (Bennington District), Board of Trustees President, Col. Joseph Krawczyk, and Senator Brian Campion (Bennington District) at the Legislative Meet and Greet.



L to R: Steve McClafferty, Financial Director, Board of Trustee Member, Captain Brenda Cruickshank and Mary Ryan, Executive Assistant, stand together in front of the Vermont Veterans Home display at the Legislative Meet and Greet.



L to R: Representative Rachael Fields (Bennington-2-1), Representative Kiah Morris (Bennington-2-2), Representative Tim Corcoran II (Bennington-2-1), Melissa Jackson, CEO, Senator Dick Sears Jr. (Bennington District), Representative Alice Miller (Bennington-3), Col. Joseph Krawczyk, President, Board of Trustees and Senator Brian Campion (Bennington District).



L to R: Col. Al Faxon, COO and Board of Trustees Member, Captain Brenda Cruickshank.

Donations

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

Vivian Wolf
Louise James
Stuart Selikowski
Sara Forrest and Gals
Katherine Williams
Gary Bronson
Barbara Pallotta
Henry Pinsonneault
Danielle Many
Frank Ryan
Larry Feldstein
The Tuscan Sunflower—Lynn Frost
Springfield BPOE 1560
William Song
United Church of Christ
American Legion Auxiliary Unit #90
American Legion Auxiliary—Colchester, VT
American Legion Post 3
Daughters of the American Revolution
In Loving Memory William Praetorius
Kathleen Praetorius
In Loving Memory of Florence Santo
Priscilla Salem
In Loving Memory of Joseph Clarino Jr
Elizabeth Halki

In Loving Memory of Richard Bush
Paul Murphy
Coleen Frangella
James Williams
Sally Rogers
Diane Morrissey
Richard Singleton
In Loving Memory of John Veiga
Helen Veiga
In Loving Memory of Donald Zeller
Karen Boudreau
Paul Crispo
Eileen Trahan
In Loving Memory of David Buzzell
Regis Forrest
Mary Johnson
BPOE 567
Theresa PYDYCH
Deborah Cutler
Priscilla Salem
In Loving Memory of Catherine Strype
Maureen Strype
In Loving Memory of Anthony Garzione
Patti Percoski
In Loving Memory of Edward Prescott
Edward Miller Jr



BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

Tuesdays at 2:30 pm

Located in the Chapel at the Vermont Veterans' Home

For adults living with loss due to a death. Find comfort, coping skills and support Confidentiality is always respected. No fee to attend this group.

CAREGIVERS SUPPORT GROUP

Tuesday, March 15, 2016 at 1:00-2:00

A. Luke Crispe Room

If you have questions, please contact: Bill MacMillan at 802-447-6524

ALS SUPPORT GROUP

***Has been postponed until Spring**

Namaste Room on American Way

Please contact Christina Cosgrove, 802-447-2792, for more information.



From Deputy Administrator... Colonel Al Faxon



I would like to again congratulate the staff of the Vermont Veterans' Home for being awarded ten (10) Pinnacle Customer Experience Awards. Your 24/7 care of America's Heroes has not gone unnoticed. Of our population and their families, 1/12 are surveyed each and every month...from their input your excellence is reflected. I am very proud to work here with you!

Historically, last month was a busy month, following are just a few events tied to our military past in no particular order:

- 1943 we captured Guadalcanal, Dorchester hit by a torpedo (four Chaplain's Chapel)
- First Medal of Honor for WWII awarded to 2nd Lt. Nininger for the Battle of Bataan
- The Battle for Iwo Jima/Flag Raising
- Daylight raids over Dresden Germany
- 1898 Battleship Maine blown up in Havana
- Desert Storm Allied grounds offensive began
- The Tet Offensive in Vietnam
- The Alamo Col Travis "Victory or Death"
- Merrill's Marauders begin Burma Campaign (Colonel Merrill with pipe)
- USS Ranger (first aircraft carrier launched)
- BB-1 USS Indiana (first Battleship launched)



These are but a few of the many events that occurred militarily during the month. Some of these, our Veterans currently living here at the Vermont Veterans' Home participated in....true living American History!

If you are aware of a Veteran or spouse who requires the services our Home, please pass our information along, or have them contact the Admissions Department. We have a great community living and working here at VVH.... We know some of our brothers and sisters may be alone and in-need of our Home. We have a great place for them.....Spread the Word!

S/F
AF

The Greater Bennington USBC WBA Makes a Donation



L to R: Evelyn Rabideau, Sargent at Arms; Col. Al Faxon, COO; Colleen Gates, President; Linda Cassano, Director; Phyllis Cornell, Assoc. Manager and Melissa Jackson, CEO.



Relay For Life Kickoff



Some of the Home's cancer survivors proudly wearing their medals from the American Cancer Society.



Travels With Steve

Dear Veterans and Residents,

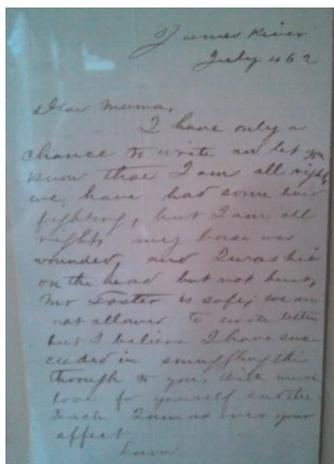
I had the opportunity to visit the Farm for Super Bowl weekend. We ended up going to a friend of my hosts' house for the festivities. But before I get to that I need to share two things with you that I think you would enjoy.

With all the political speeches, the banter back and forth and the over the top antics, I saw something at the farm that is appropriate for this time of year. To the left is a picture of it.

For those of you who may never have seen one, it is a manure spreader. You collect the "residue" from the animals in either the stalls or in the fields, dump it into the hopper, turn on the PTO and away we go! The conveyor belt moves real slow but the tines at the end spin rapidly and it is raining "you know what" over the fields.



I need to share another picture of something I was shown which really hits close to home here. In the study at the Farm is a framed letter from a long ago relative. It is dated July 4, 1862 during the Civil War and here is what it says:



*James River
July 4 62*

Dear Mamma,

I have only a chance to write and let you know that I am all right. We have had some hard fighting, but I am all right. My horse was wounded, and I was hit on the head but not hurt. Mr. Foster is safe. We are not allowed to write letters but I believe I have succeeded in smuggling this through to you. With much love for yourself and the bunch I am as ever your affect,

Sam

If I read any letters of current soldiers who fought in WW II, Korea, Vietnam, Gulf War, Iraq and Afghanistan, I would think the essence of the letters would be the same.

Returning to the Super Bowl, we went over to his friend's house and watch the game in the "Man Cave" on the new 65" TV. There was plenty of food, drink, laughs, cigars, hootin' n' hollering and telling jokes. Most of them I cannot print or even repeat because I either forgot them or I was laughing too hard to hear them all. Then there was the game. My friend Sam called the score 24 -10 on Friday. But he thought Carolina would come out the winner. Until next year's Super Bowl LI (instead of 51)...

As always,
God Bless you and God Bless America.

Steve



On February 1, Benchmark began providing physical, occupational and speech therapy services to the Veterans residing at the Vermont Veterans' Home in Bennington, VT. The Rehab Team is looking forward to a growing partnership with Vermont Veterans' Home and the Community of Bennington.

Benchmark Therapies, Inc. was founded in 2005 to provide comprehensive rehabilitation to senior campuses in Pennsylvania. Benchmark continues to be owned and operated by its founder, Brock D. Eppley, MS CCC-SLP, a speech therapist by background. He began the company because he believed that the residents of nursing homes deserved a better care model that was centered on them as the patients. As of 2016, the company has grown to have 23 clients over 3 states. Our still small structure and unique business approach continues to allow us to focus on patient-centered care while providing exceptional customer service. Benchmark has been serving the six Pennsylvania State Veterans Homes in some capacity for the past 11 years and began to provide physical, occupational and speech therapy services to the Delaware State Veterans Home in July 2015. We believe that the veteran population is unique and consider it an honor to work with Veterans in various States.



“We specifically looked at making this move because it was to serve veterans. If it had been some other opportunity, we may have passed it by.” –Brock D. Eppley, President and Founder
“We are excited about the opportunity to serve yet another wonderful group of veterans.” –Brock D. Eppley, President and Founder.



Germ Police on Duty



F.Y.I.

Upcoming Events

Sunday, March 13 at 1:30 PM

Located in Patriot Hall
Las Vegas Day

.....

Sunday, March 20 at 2:00 PM

Located in Patriot Hall
Irish Program

.....

Saturday, March 26 at 2:00 PM

Located in Patriot Hall
One Man Band

.....

Monday, March 28 at 10:30 AM

Located in the Activities Room
Resident Council Meeting

Easter Luncheon

**Baked Ham with Cherry Glaze
Twice Baked Potato
Candied Carrots**

Alternate

Stuffed Chicken with Green Beans

Dessert

Carrot Cake



Christine Cross to Retire

By: Veteran, Mike Haverstock

The very popular Licensed Nursing Assistant, Christine Cross is to retire on March 17, 2016. Of her 29 years on staff at the Home, Chris says, "I've enjoyed every moment of it."



Her affection is returned by the Veterans she has helped. "She could

keep a secret, " Said one; Quite a gal!" said another.

Plans are to throw an ice cream social to mark the occasion which falls on St. Patrick's Day. Chris herself is quick to note she is not Irish, but French.

Why I Can't Leave Vermont

It's winter in Vermont
And the gentle breezes blow
72 miles per hour at 52 below.

Oh how I love Vermont
When the snows up to your butt
You take a breath of winter air
And your nose it freezes shut.

Yes, the weather here is
wonderful
So I guess I'll hang around.
But I could never leave Vermont
Cause I'm frozen to the ground.

Author Unknown.

Printed at the Tunbridge World's Fair
from handset metal type on an
1885 handfed letterpress.



VALENTINE'S DAY
DANCE
FEATURING
THE CATBIRD TRIO

