



VERMONT VETERANS' HOME

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 11

NOVEMBER 2016

The BUZZ WORD



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

**** We will not be
accepting books or
magazines at this time.
THANK YOU to all
who have donated to
our Veterans at VVH.**

Southern Vermont Natural History Museum Visit



Chaplain's Corner...



Howdy Folks,

Faith, what is it? Are we born with it? Where does it come from? Well the Bible tells us that faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Our faith is our title deed to eternal life. Just as a title deed is evidence of real estate, so our faith is evidence of our eternal estate in God, (Cor.4:18).

Faith is taking God at his word and asking no questions, (Heb.11:6).

Faith is knowing that: "God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God" (rom.8:28).

Faith does not believe that all things are good, or that all things work well. It does believe that all things (good or bad) work together for good to those who love God.

Faith has two sides. One side has to do with the intellect. It is an intellectual conviction that Jesus Christ is God. The other side has to do with the will. It is a volitional surrender of the will to Jesus Christ as Master. This is seen when Thomas believed and confessed, " My lord and my God" (John 20 : 28). My Lord--- this was volitional surrender; My God--- this was intellectual conviction. Together you have saving faith (John 20:31). Saving faith is an intellectual conviction that Jesus is God, and volitional surrender to him as Lord (Master) of your life. By faith the mind trusts in God; the heart responds to the love of God; the will submits to the commands of God; and the life obeys in the service of God.

We are not born with this faith. It comes from hearing the word of God (Rom. 10: 17). This is why we are commanded to preach the gospel to every creature, that they may hear and believe.

You are urged to read the whole of chapter 11 of the book of Hebrews.

Please say a prayer for our troops.

God Bless -
Chaplain Ken Coonradt



The Navy 241st Birthday Celebration



There was a celebration to recognize the Navy's 241st birthday on Friday, October 14th. One of our Navy Veterans joined Col. Al Faxon, COO; PO2(AW) Evan Fitch; PO1(EXW/SW) Joseph Gonzalez; LT Stephen Warfield, CHC, USN and LCDR John Wilkes, SC, USN in the passing the sword/ cutting the cake ceremony. The cake was made by the Home's dietary department.



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:

**Mary Ryan, Executive Assistant
mary.ryan@vermont.gov
802-447-6523**



<http://vvh.vermont.gov>

Administration and Department Directors

Melissa Jackson, CEO/Administrator
447-6533
melissa.jackson@vermont.gov

Col. Al Faxon, COO/Deputy Administrator
447-6544
allan.faxon@vermont.gov

Steven McClafferty, Business Manager
447-2732
Steven.mcclafferty@vermont.gov

Patricia Crossman, Director of Nursing Services
447-6565
Patricia.crossman@vermont.gov

Cindy Rankin, Food Service Director
447-2815
cindy.rankin@vermont.gov

Michele Burgess, Activities Director
447-6520
michele.burgess@vermont.gov

Christina Cosgrove, Social Services Director
447-2792
christina.cosgrove@vermont.gov

Jon Endres, Environmental Services Director
447-6528
jon.endres@vermont.gov

Patti Parker, Housekeeping and Laundry Supervisor
447-2731
patricia.parker@vermont.gov

Jen Morrison, Program Manager of Rehab
447-6548

Karen Divis, Quality Assurance Nurse
447-2888
karen.divis@vermont.gov

Mary Hamilton, MDS
379-5279
mary.hamilton@vermont.gov

Gary Yelle, Admissions Coordinator and
Marketing Director
447-6539
gary.yelle@vermont.gov



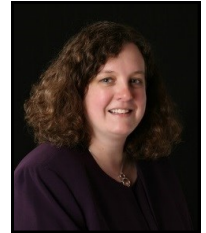
From the Administrator...
Melissa Jackson



Veterans Day is a day that we thank every Veteran, past and present, for their unwavering service to our grateful Country. Let us all remember that if it was not for their dedication, we would not have the rights and freedoms their sacrifices afford us all. We live in the greatest Nation in the world because of their commitment to duty, honor and Country. Please join with me and take a minute of your day to thank any Veteran and also their family for their service.

Take care,

Melissa A. Jackson, BSW, LNHA
CEO



**WINNER
OF
OCTOBER'S
RAFFLE**

Donations from Tunbridge, VT



Melissa Jackson, CEO and Al Faxon, COO accept donations from Tunbridge Church for the Veterans.

Resident Council November Raffle

Want to win a VVH Hoodie?

Tickets \$1.00 each or 6/\$5.00

See Richard Vachon for tickets



**VVH's
New
State Of
Vermont
Licensed
Nursing
Assistants**

Donations

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

American Legion Ballard-Hobart Post #36
Ballard-Hobart Unit 36 Auxiliary
Theresa Praetorius
VT Wounded Warriors Golf Tournament Committee
Bennington International Motorcycle Club
Linda and Gary Dickinson, Sr.
Richard and Lauren Scheer
Ledgend Farm

In Memory of William Praetorius
Kathleen Praetorius

In Memory of Robert Husband
Thomas and Janet Coxon

In Memory of Sharon Greene
Mary-Lynn and David Buck
Ann Scarey white
Anna P. Becker
The Secor Group, LLC
Elizabeth Place and Tony Eastwood

In Memory of Robert Svitak, Sr.
Herbert and Rebecca Gall
Bill and Judith Knight
Kathy Slechta
Claire and John Lyons, Jr.
MRU Sunshine Fund
Marc and Arlyn Brierre

Bennington International Motorcycle Club Vets Run



BIMC hosted a "Vets Run" in October. A hundred percent of the proceeds went to the Veterans' Home. It was amazing the amount of people that showed up even in the cold, rainy weather. Top middle picture: BIMC donating the proceeds to the Veterans' Home. L to R: Col. Al Faxon, COO; Linda Dickerson, BIMC; Andy Smith, BIMC; Col. Joseph Krawczyk, Board of Trustees President; Tim Cole, BIMC and Melissa Jackson, CEO. The other pictures were taken the day of the event. Thank you BIMC for your generous donation and thank you everyone who showed up to the event despite the weather.





*From Deputy Administrator...
Colonel Al Faxon*

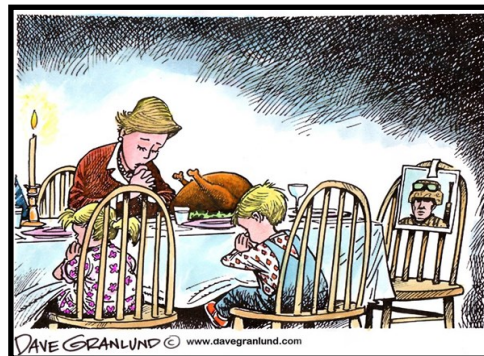


Season to be Thankful.....

I can't help but think on the many blessings in my life when Thanksgiving comes around. I have a great family and a wife that somehow puts up with me.



I am beyond thankful to have been born in this wonderful country and grateful for the many opportunities it affords us as compared to other countries in the world. I am very thankful for the continued opportunity to work here with you, our veterans and members, and this unbelievable staff. Being here with you in our Home is a true honor. Each and every day I enjoy walking, talking, and working for you. Your stories of life are engaging and truly describe what being an American is. You built and protected our great nation in its time of need.....for my opportunity to be here with you.....I am forever Thankful!



Semper Fi”
AF

We Had Our Flu Shot - Did You?





Elvis Impersonator





Mark Your Calendars

Marine Corp Birthday

Friday, November 4, 2016 at 2:00 PM

Elk's Dinner

Sunday, November 6, 2016 at 12:00 PM

Veteran's Day Parade

Friday, November 11, 2016 at 11:00 AM

Legatto Blues

Sunday, November 13, 2016 at 2:00 PM

Future Events

Dorset Theater Presents:

A Christmas Carol

Saturday, December 3, 2016 at 2:00 PM

Community Tree Lighting

Wednesday, December 7, 2016



HAPPY THANKSGIVING

Lunch Menu

Roast Turkey and Gravy
Mashed Potatoes
Baked Onions
Green Beans
Pumpkin Pie

Soup

Sweet Potato

Alternative

Maple Glaze Baked Ham

First guest per Veteran/Member is free of charge. \$10 for additional meals (**Maximum guest limit is 4**).

Space is limited this year because of the kitchen renovations. **First come, first serve!!** Please make reservations early.



Volunteers Needed

Shopping Trip Companion
(with our transportation)

Bingo Helper

Off Campus Event Companion

In House Event Helper

Helping with outside events

And More!

If you have a skill you would like to share with our Veterans, please let us know.

For more information about our Volunteer Program, please call :

Michele Burgess at 447- 6520

Dedicate some time to a Veteran. It's a rewarding experience.

Just For Laughs.....

Funny Thanksgiving Help-Line Calls

Snow Day

A Lady from Colorado called about "how to thaw" her frozen Butterball. She proudly shared the fact that her turkey was stored in a snow bank outside! It had snowed the night before and it then dawned on her that she didn't have a clue which snow bank her turkey was in. At that point, the conversation was really over because she was now on a mission to go find her turkey.

Flipping for Turkey

A disappointed woman called wondering why her turkey had no breast meat. After a conversation with a Talk-Line operator, it became apparent that the woman's turkey was lying on the table upside down.





Travels With Steve

Dear All,

Veteran's Day is upon us and I could not think of how to create a "Travel" log this year. Then I received the following email from someone I know. Enjoy the read.

As I came out of the supermarket that sunny day, pushing my cart of groceries towards my car, I saw an old man with the hood of his car up and a lady sitting inside the car, with the door open.

The old man was looking at the engine. I put my groceries away in my car, and continued to watch the old gentleman from about twenty-five feet away. I saw a young man in his early twenties with a grocery bag in his arm walking towards the old man. The old gentleman saw him coming too, and took a few steps towards him.

I saw the old gentleman point to his open hood and say something. The young man put his grocery bag into what looked like a brand new Cadillac Escalade. He then turned back to the old man. I heard him yell at the old gentleman saying: 'You shouldn't even be allowed to drive a car at your age.' And then with a wave of his hand, he got in his car and peeled rubber out of the parking lot.

I saw the old gentleman pull out his handkerchief, and mop his brow as he went back to his car and again looked at the engine. He then went to his wife and spoke with her; he appeared to tell her it would be okay. I had seen enough, and I approached the old man. He saw me coming and stood straight, and as I got near him I said, 'Looks like you're having a problem.'

He smiled sheepishly, and quietly nodded his head. I looked under the hood myself, and knew that whatever the problem was, it was beyond me. Looking around, I saw a gas station up the road, and I told the old man that I would be right back. I drove to the station and went inside. I saw three attendants working on cars. I approached one of them, and related the problem the old man had with his car. I offered to pay them if they could follow me back down and help him.

The old man had pushed the heavy car under the shade of a tree and appeared to be comforting his wife. When he saw us he straightened up and thanked me for my help. As the mechanics diagnosed the problem (overheated engine), I spoke with the old gentleman.

When I shook hands with him earlier, he had noticed my Marine Corps ring and had commented about it, telling me that he had been a Marine too. I nodded and asked the usual question, 'What outfit did you serve with?' He had mentioned that he served with the first Marine Division at Tarawa, Saipan, Iwo Jima and Guadalcanal. He had hit all the big ones and retired from the Corps after the war was over. As we talked we heard the car engine come on and saw the mechanics lower the hood. They came over to us as the old man reached for his wallet, but was stopped by me. I told him I would just put the bill on my AAA card.

He still reached for the wallet and handed me a card that I assumed had his name and address on it and I stuck it in my pocket. We all shook hands all around again, and I said my goodbye's to his wife.

I then told the two mechanics that I would follow them back up to the station. Once at the station, I told them that they had interrupted their own jobs to come along with me and help the old man. I said I wanted to pay for the help, but they refused to charge me. One of them pulled out a card from his pocket, looking exactly like the card the old man had given to me. Both of the men told me then that they were Marine Corps Reserves. Once again we shook hands all around and as I was leaving, one of them told me I should look at the card the old man had given to me. I said I would and drove off.

For some reason I had gone about two blocks, when I pulled over and took the card out of my pocket and looked at it for a long, long time. The name of the old gentleman was on the card in golden leaf and under his name was written: 'Medal of Honor Society.'

I sat there motionless, looking at the card and reading it over and over. I looked up from the card and smiled to no one but myself and marveled that on this day, four Marines had all come together because one of us needed help. He was an old man all right, but it felt good to have stood next to greatness and courage, and an honor to have been in his presence. Remember, OLD men like him gave us FREEDOM for America. Thanks to those who served and still serve, and to all of those who supported them, and who continue to support them.

God Bless each of you and God Bless America.

Steve

**The Activities
Crew**

