



VERMONT VETERANS' HOME

VOLUME 11, ISSUE 33

DECEMBER 2018

The BUZZ WORD



*A Father holds his daughter's hand for a short while
but he holds her heart forever.*



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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From the Administrator... Melissa Jackson



Happy Holidays,

2018 has been another great year at VVH. We had great inspection visits with only minor issues identified and these have been corrected. We have improved the grounds of the Home to include the start of our Veteran Mobility Trail, the airsoft rifle and pistol range and the introduction of a surrey bicycle.

As the year comes to a close, we are focusing on Fiscal Year 2020 budget and capital projects. We are looking to fund projects focusing on safety and security, a biomass heating system of certain sections of the building, elevator repairs and upgrades to various nursing stations and congregate bathrooms in the facility.

Mark your calendars, **February 10th at 2pm** will be a **family council meeting**. At this meeting I will provide an update on the current operations of the Home, upcoming regulatory changes, and then provide time to answer questions and address nonspecific resident concerns.

Have a safe and happy holiday.

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

Christmas Tree and Challenge Coins Donated by The Green Mountain Bull Dawg Chapter of the Antique Truck Club of America.

Al Faxon, COO, accepts special challenge coins to be given to the Veterans.

Pictured are Jim White,
Dave Zsido, Perry Young,
Al Faxon, Fred Chase,
Don Keelan, Betty
Young, back : Mike
diMonda, Dick Frantz,
Marty Tobin
Seated: Art Charron



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

Williams Hardware through the Poultney
Auxiliary Unit 39
American Legion Aux. #50-Castleton
Melinda Durrler
Peter Sweet
Battenkill Valley Heath Center
Fisher Elementary School
Linda Guetti
Bennington Retired Teachers Association
WalMart
MAUMS ASD Classroom
Marilyn Ficalora
3rd & 4th Grade Students of Bennington
Elementary and Mr. Jerry O'Connor
Sacred Heart School
Wells Village School
Molly Stark Elementary and Peaches Hart
Gregory Duval
Cyndi Candiloro and the 3rd & 4th Grades of
Readsboro Community Library
April Erwinski
Coos County Nursing Hospital
Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging
Sherry Severs
Florence Bastidas
Lois and Howard Wechsler
Pownal Elementary School
Mrs. Sullivan's 1st Grade Class-TVES
Pownal American Legion Aux. Unit 90
VFW Post 1332
DAV Auxiliary, Bennington Chapter #4
VFW District #4
Phyllis and Rhonda Roberts
Sieglinde Sherman
Ann Story Chapter DAR
George Lesperance
Allan Laprino
Manchester Country Club, Wounded Warriors
American Legion Auxiliary, Dept. of VT
USS Bennington Association, Inc.
American Legion Auxiliary Unit 29

James Williamson
Mike and Debi Davenport– WWIA
The Kids and Staff at Kinder Works
Paul and Kaitlyn Beddie
Am. Legion Auxiliary Green Mtn Unit #1
1st Grade Class at Monument Elementary
Jessica Reed
Ms. Harrington's 3rd Grade-Fair Haven
Grade School

In Memory of Robert Reynolds

Jacqueline Towne

In Memory of Raymond Murray

Randy Murray
James and Ruth Woodard

In Memory of Richard Coffinger

Virginia Coffinger
Joann Coffinger
Eleanor Danforth
Kellogg and Elizabeth Humphreys II
Thomas and Catherine Coffinger Jr.
Jack and Janice Garrison
John Coffin

In Memory of Guy Dominigue

Schenectady HS Sunshine Club
Theresa Dansin

In Memory of Joe Mount

Jan Mount

**A VERY SPECIAL AND WARM
THANK YOU TO:**

**Mrs. Sharon Corey
Ladies Auxiliary Unit 50**

For her generous donation for the
Day of Remembrance
roses honoring
our deceased Veterans, Members and
Staff

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
Anne Baruzzi
(802) 447-6510
Email: anne.baruzzi@vermont.gov

VVH WISH LIST

Winter Hats - Mittens
Pinball Machine/Game
Air Hockey Table/Game
Neck Pillows
Body Pillows
I-Pods & I-Tune Cards
CD Players
Newspaper Subscriptions
Costume Jewelry
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



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

Show your Support at the VVH Apparel Store!

Ornaments-\$8	T-Shirts-\$15
Small Totes-\$15	Sweatshirts-\$25
Large Totes-\$20	Zip Hoodie-\$35
Baseball Cap-\$20	Sweatpants-\$20
Winter Hat-\$12	Scarf-\$12
VVH Pens-\$3	
Wind Breakers: Unlined-\$23-\$27	
Lined-\$27-\$31	

Events Calendar

DECEMBER:

5th Tree Lighting, Front Gazebo at 5:00pm
12th Board of Trustees Meeting at 12:30pm
12th Day of Remembrance, Chapel at 3:00pm
15th Wreaths Across America 1200 noon
16th VFW Christmas Party

Before



After



Carving Jack-O-Lanterns

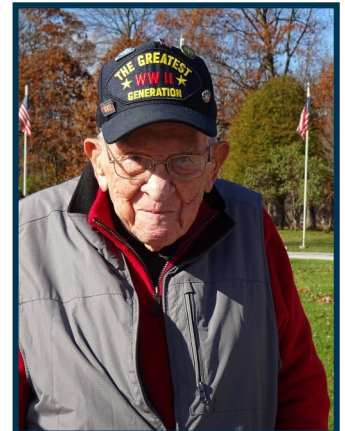
Before



After



Veterans Day Parade at the Vermont Veterans' Home



Laying of the wreath

242nd Marine Birthday—November 10, 2018



American Legion Gift Program—Thank you for your Generosity





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



Kathy Dugan, National President of the American Legion Auxiliary was a member of the Gift Program Team that assisted Veterans and Members with their selections.

Al Faxon, COO, accepts a donation from Debi and Mark Davenport (Wounded Warriors in Action President) to go towards an overhead cover for the shooting range. The Bennington Elks are represented by Art Charron (seated) and Charlie Boyle (far right).



Veterans Day Tribute By Molly Stark Elementary School



A
Little
Snow-
Man
humor



Chaplain's Corner

Dear VVH Friends,

The Biblical prophet Isaiah states, *“For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace There will be no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.”* [Isaiah 9:6-7]



From Isaiah's day unto this, the vision of a world ruled by peace, justice, and good-will is one which has given hope to humankind. And in spite of the long lamentable chronicle of human history, this vision, still speaks to us today.

Two hundred years ago today, in the small village of Oberndorf, Austria on the Austro-German border, gave birth to one of the most beloved of Christmas carols in the world. It was in the year 1818 that Silent Night was composed by the village pastor Father Joseph Mohr and the music by Franz Xaver Gruber, a school teacher and church organist. Silent Night has been translated into over 140 languages around the globe! The song has been recorded by many singers and in a variety of musical styles. Perhaps one of the best known versions was sung by Bing Crosby whose rendition was the third best-selling single of all-time! The words of Mohr are timeless-

*Silent Night, Holy Night, All is calm, All is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child. Holy infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.*

This year also commemorates another important date. One hundred years ago this past November, World War 1 came to an end. That long terrible conflict was finally over. The interesting thing is that at the beginning of that conflict we saw a glimmer of hope for that “peace on earth” for which the angels sang. Something unique in the annals of human warfare took place that first year of the Great War. Historians refer to it as the “Christmas Truce.” It seems that spontaneous and unofficial ceasefires sprang up along the Western Front of World War I at Christmas 1914. Songs and Christmas Carols could be heard floating across the “no mans land” that separated two belligerent armies. The opposite sides would respond in songs of the season in their own native tongues. Christmas trees were lit and in an act of “good will towards men” soldiers on both sides stumbled out of their muddy trenches and greeted each other. Food and small gifts were exchanged between the soldiers. In some accounts football games were played. Although sadly short lived, these amazing events give us a picture of a world wrapped in that “heavenly peace” that Mohr wrote about in his little Austrian village. It is indeed the vision of the Biblical prophets and the hope of us all. May God bless all of you with peace.

Pastor Richard

I will honor Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year.

Charles Dickens

TWIG REMEMBERS... Brother Robert Kiernan

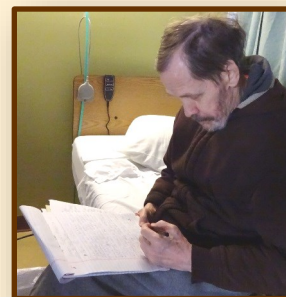
I am down near the fish tanks waiting for my meds and I see a lot of activity outside his room. There is a well-dressed businessman, a tall man, and a very short lady in very plain clothes. The tall man with a small round brown cover aback his head is heading towards the office, so I take off my hat and put it over my heart. He squeezes my shoulder and nods his head and says "It's Brother Robert".

I am going over "what should I write", handling of his 4-wheeler with those ever so fast quick, jerky motions, this special hello-by-name to all. Next morning at the back window of the Sports Bar luncheonette is a beautiful double rainbow.

The next day I am at the front desk telling Marion Ryberg and Rich Vachon about the rainbows and Rich pops back in his 4-wheeler, drops his head and said "That was Brother saying so long to us all".

Any doubts where this guy's going... The good Lord and his right-hand man, St. Peter, (job designer and personality qualifier) are waiting with a very special spot for you.

You get what I mean... "Twig Remembers"



Robert "Twig" Canfield

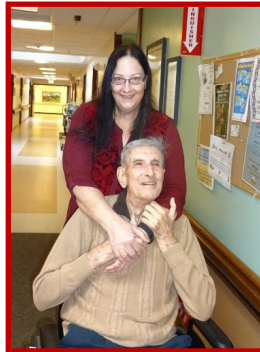


Bennington El 3rd & 4th Grade Students



Patty Dailey & Matt Bersaw from Sacred Heart School present donations to Melissa, Al & Michele

Thanksgiving Dinner: We Are Family



HAPPY
THANKSGIVING



CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Roast Beef au jus with Mashed Potato & Gravy

OR

Roast Turkey with Stuffing & Gravy,

Prince Edward Island Beans

Cranberry Sauce Squash Rolls

Dessert: Cheesecake with fruit sauce

First guest per Veteran/Member is free of charge

\$10 for each additional meal

Maximum guest limit is 4

Please make reservations with the Receptionist, 802-447-6510

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.

Gifts of Clothing—Labeling is Essential

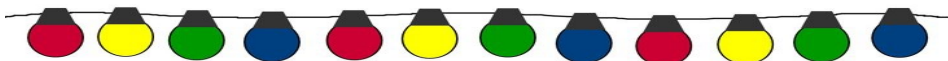
To Our VVH Family,

Many of our Veterans will be receiving gifts of clothing during the holiday season. It is extremely important that these items be given to the nurses to be properly labeled with the individual's name.



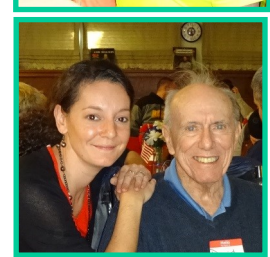
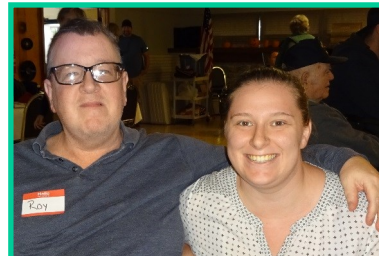
Many times clothing has gone to Housekeeping without proper identification and cannot be returned to the owner. This may cause some heartache for some of residents and our Laundry staff does an amazing job tracking down the owners but not all searches are successful.

We ask that you please have these items (clothing, socks, hats, blankets) labeled to enable our staff to return items to our Veterans and Members. Your cooperation in this matter is gratefully appreciated by us all.



**Happy
Holidays!**

Veterans Dinner at the Elks
Always a great time, great food, great service



From your Infection Control Team at VVH:

Are you familiar with the term Norovirus? (The stomach bug)

This virus is a highly contagious virus. There is no vaccine to prevent norovirus infection and no drug to treat it. It causes inflammation of the stomach and intestines which leads to diarrhea, vomiting and stomach pain. Not pleasant. Norovirus illness is not related to the flu (influenza) but do share some of the same symptoms. It only takes a VERY small amount of norovirus particles (fewer than 100) to make you sick. You literally are contagious from the moment you begin feeling sick and for the first few days after you recover.

During the winter months we are all in enclosed places, that is why it can spread quickly in health care facilities, cruise ships etc. Norovirus can stay on objects and surfaces and continue to infect people for days or weeks. It is hard to get rid of as it can survive some disinfectants.

Who can get Norovirus?

The answer is anyone; per CDC it is the most common cause of acute gastroenteritis in the U.S.

Is Norovirus serious?

It causes 19-21 million cases of acute gastroenteritis in the U.S. each year. 56,000-71,000 hospitalizations and 570- 800 deaths, mostly in young children and the elderly each year, per the CDC

How does Norovirus spread?

It spreads in many ways such as person to person, touching an infected person while caring for them.

Eating food or drinking liquids that are contaminated with the virus.

Touching objects that have norovirus on them and then putting your fingers in your mouth.

Tips to Prevent Norovirus from spreading:

- 1) **Proper hand hygiene, always # 1!**
- 2) Wash fruits and vegetable before eating.
- 3) Clean and disinfect contaminated surfaces.



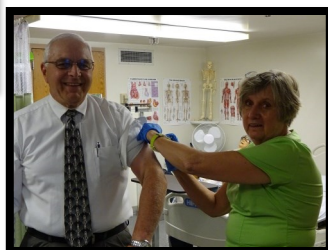
Patricia Babcock R.N. I.P.

The Germ Team will be watching you!

It's not too late to get immunized against the flu. Board of Trustees got shot by Patricia Babcock.



Col. Joe Krawczyk
President



Col. Gary DeGasta
Vice President



Mike Klopchin
Secretary



Andrew Cotrel
Member