



VERMONT VETERANS' HOME

VOLUME 13, ISSUE 4

APRIL 2019

# The BUZZ WORD





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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**802-447-6523**



<http://vvh.vermont.gov>

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## *From the Administrator... Melissa Jackson*



April is a month focused on acknowledging the family members behind those that serve or have served our country. April is the Month of the Military Child. The observance began in 1986 and was created by then Secretary of Defense Casper W. Weinberger. The Secretary felt that military children were very inspirational in handling the stress related to military life. There are currently 1.2 million children, worldwide, of active duty members and these children relocate three times more often than civilian families, moving every 2-3 years.

Gold Star Spouses Day is also observed in April. April 5th was designated Gold Star Spouses Day to honor the surviving loved one of military members killed in action. The Gold Star tradition began during WWI when the families of service members had a blue star flag in their window. If their service member was killed in action the flag was changed to one with a gold star. The tradition of the gold star observance began on the last Sunday in September in 1936, with Gold Star Mother's Day. The last Sunday in September remains Gold Star Mother's Day. Gold Star Spouses Day began in December of 2010 and two years later Congress codified April 5th as the annual day of recognition. I encourage you to find a way to recognize our Gold Star Families both in April and in September. Their loved ones' sacrifice for our country allows us to enjoy our daily lives.

Recently I have noticed more and more people thanking military family members for their service as well as their service member or Veteran. This gesture is often unexpected but truly appreciated by the family members. So, when you are thanking our service members and Veterans for their service please do not forget to thank their family members as well.

*Melissa*

*Melissa A. Jackson, BSW, LNHFA*  
*Chief Executive Officer*  
[www.Vvh.vermont.gov](http://www.Vvh.vermont.gov)



Melissa and Al accept a generous donation from the Bennington Association Bowlers USBC (United States Bowling Congress). Their donation of \$750.00 to the Activities Department will help bring pleasure to the Veterans' and members' daily lives, as it has for the past several years.

Here for the presentation were (left to right) Evelyn Rabideau, Linda Cassano, and Phyllis Cornell.



## Chaplain's Corner

Howdy Folks,

Many Christians believe that Lent should be always and everywhere dark, but the Church disagrees with this. One prayer I like about the Lenten season reads: "Father, God, each year you give us this joyful season when we prepare to celebrate the paschal mystery with mind and heart renewed."

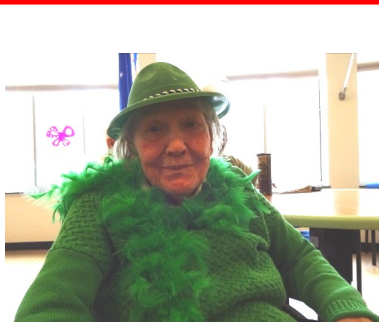


The emphasis on Lenten heaviness may reflect a misunderstanding of the aim of this liturgical season which is a preparation for Easter. Some of that preparation surely means repentance which includes considering our sinful patterns and attitudes. The word the Gospels use for repentance is metanoia, a change of mind and heart, and that doesn't always mean something dark or depressing. It could mean deciding to serve your church in a new ministry. It could mean choosing not to gossip or any number of our daily sins. Like our New Year resolutions, these Lenten "resolutions" could fill you with joy as you anticipate your "change of mind and heart" and fill others with joy as well.

So this Lent lets remember two things! First, Christ is already risen and will help you through this change of mind and heart. Second, the metanoia to which God calls you, will lead you, and others, to a more joyful life.

God Bless and Happy Lent - Chaplain Ken

### St. Patrick's Day Concert by the Air Force Ensemble



The Springfield Elks #1560 presented  
VVH the 2018–2019 Beacon Grant Award.







# Bennington Elks Las Vegas Day



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

Ronald & Sharon Mack  
American Legion Riders Post 1,  
Saint Albans  
American Legion Riders #39, Poultney  
VFWs, Moose, Elks & American Legions  
from Springfield, Chester & Ludlow  
American Legion Aux. Unit 49,  
Fair Haven  
Church Insurance Co. of Vermont  
The family of Timothy Candib  
Springfield Elks Lodge # 1560  
Lee & Denise Gadway  
Therese Guay  
Arlington American Legion Aux. # 69  
American Legion Post 49, Fair Haven  
Marlys A.P. Lemnah  
Bennington County Beekeepers Club  
Pownal American Legion Aux. Unit 90  
VFW Post 1332, Bennington  
DAV Auxiliary, Bennington Chapter #4  
VFW District #4, Milton  
Phyllis & Rhonda Roberts  
Bennington Association Bowlers USBC  
(United States Bowling Congress)  
DVDs4VETs  
Mokihana Gushi  
Richard Bump and Family  
Joyce Novotny and Family

**In Memory of Roland Mitchell**  
Jeannette & Ralph Mitchell

## Events

**5 May - Elks Dinner  
at the Elk's Lodge  
12:00 p.m. - 2 guests  
per Veteran or member**

**2 June - Fishing Derby**

**15 June - Father's Day Car  
Show**

### **Show your Support at the VVH Apparel Store!**

T-Shirts-\$15

Sweatshirts-\$25

Sweatpants-\$20

Zip Hoodie-\$35

Polo Shirts-\$25

Baseball Cap-\$20

Winter Hat-\$12

Scarf-\$12

Ornaments- \$8

VVH Pens-\$3

Small Totes- \$15

Large Totes-\$20

Wind Breakers: Unlined-\$23-\$27  
Lined—\$27-\$31





### *From Deputy Administrator—Colonel Al Faxon*

I would like to begin by thanking the staff for your superb effort this winter. First, making it into work....greatly appreciated! Snow removal, impeccably clean building despite the salt and dirt tracked in, tremendous meals, superb infection control, laundry never stops....everyone, thank 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 named after this event), First Medal of Honor for WW II awarded to 2<sup>nd</sup> 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, 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,

Nancy and I at the Alamo last summer during the National Association of State Veterans' Homes convention

our Veteran's currently living here at the Vermont Veterans' Home participated in..... probably not the Alamo.

This is a difficult time of year for some not living at our Home, thus if you are aware of a Veteran or spouse who requires our services, 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 vulnerable. We have a great place for them.....Spread the Word!

S/F

AF

### Enjoying Music With Sheila



### **THE BUZZ WORD**

Three ways for you to receive the Vermont Veterans' Home monthly newsletter:

- ♦ Vermont Veterans' Home website:  
[www.vvh.vermont.gov](http://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](mailto:anne.baruzzi@vermont.gov)

### **VVH WISH LIST**

Mittens  
Pinball Machine/Game  
Neck Pillows      Body Pillows  
I-Pods & I-Tune Cards   or   CD Players  
Newspaper Subscriptions  
Costume Jewelry   or   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**

We are looking for people with music talent and or special talents of any kind who would like to give time to our veteran's and members on our special care unit. Please contact Michele Burgess at [michele.burgess@vermont.gov](mailto: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  
books, magazines, VCR tapes or  
clothing at this time. THANK YOU  
to all who have donated to our  
Veterans at VVH.**



# TWIG REMEMBERS...Jerry Kyhill

I had heard about him taking over Ted's Pizza and bringing in his new spicy Brooklyn sauces and he lived in Castleton but I had never met him.

His daughter was on the track team with my youngest girl, Jessica. So I go over to Rutland High Field (across from McDonald's) huge bleachers and only one guy sitting way up so I sit below him. A race comes up with our two daughters in it and we're hollering to beat heck. He comes down introduces himself and we had some fun. The two girls were in later races and were doing pretty good.

The girls are walking back with their hands over their eyes yelling "You're embarrassing us". A break comes and we walk over to talk. "We're just trying to help. You girls are all new to this and so are the girls you're racing against. They are racing from start to start line. You girls start racing and don't stop till 5 yards beyond that start line and see what happens."

They both started doing better but we were having too much fun with our cheering and they were still walking down with their hands over their eyes.

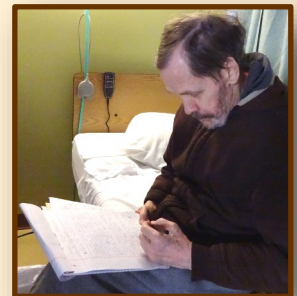
Jerry told me about his business. He wanted me to stop in his State Street shop and test out two new pizzas he was trying out. One was Hawaiian with pineapple on it. The other had a green spicy leaf and wasn't too bad, but I added "Why the heck did you put that sauce on them?" "What – now wait a minute. Think about it. That was a pretty good one wasn't it." "Oh, I get it Twig that was a great one."

God be good to Jerry Kyhill, what a fun-loving guy.

Now after they moved into Castleton and the kids were settled in, his wife Marge took an RN job at RRMHC. After there a while she applied for Labor and Delivery and worked alongside my wife.

Marge and her Castleton friends must have been fans of Tot's Diner's famous homestyle Saturday breakfast and were regulars at the hardware store.

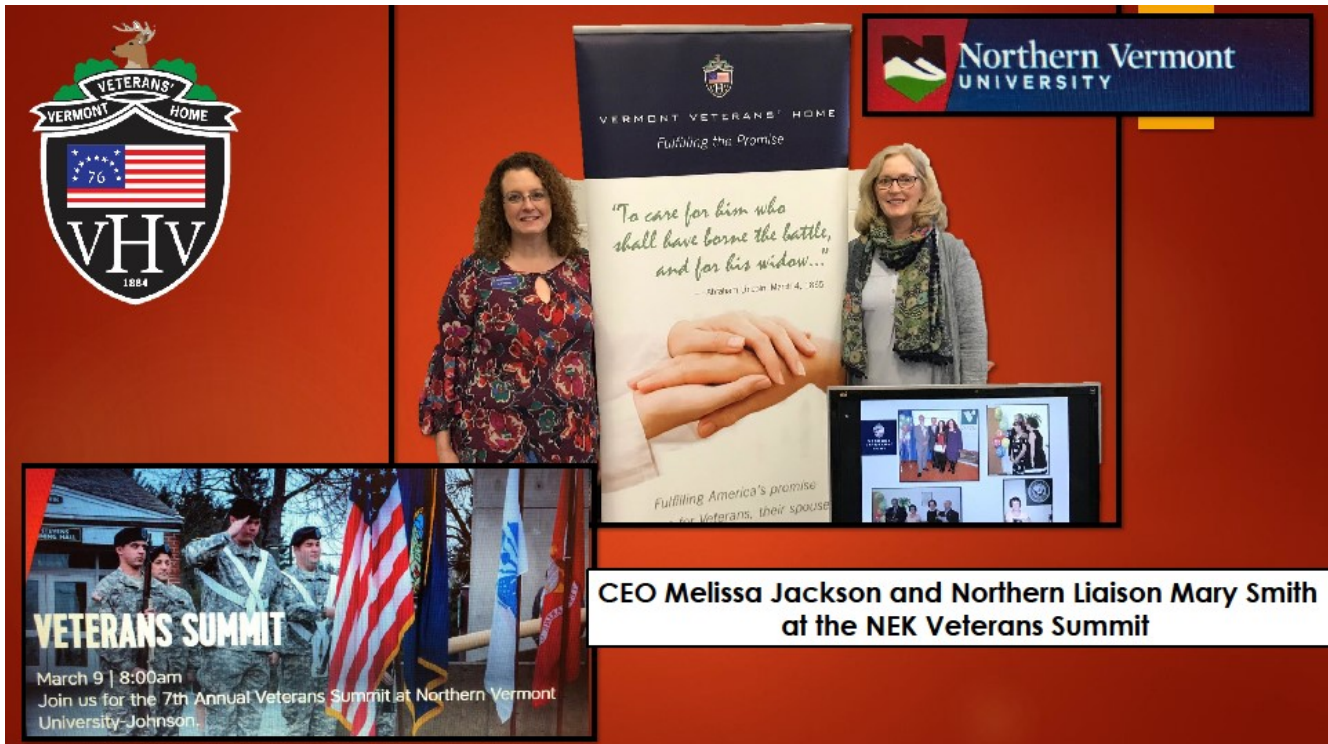
The USA is the melting pot. In from Brooklyn, NY, two of the nicest people you could ever want to meet. God bless. Twig



Robert "Twig" Canfield

## SMOKING POLICY

Per State and Federal Regulations all Veterans and Members who smoke at VVH must have a smoking assessment completed. At no time may a VVH nursing home resident keep a lighter, matches, etc. in their rooms. These **must** be kept with their nurse. Cigarettes may be left with the Veteran or Member as outlined in their smoking assessment. Please check with your loved one's nurse prior to leaving any cigarettes in their rooms.



**CEO Melissa Jackson and Northern Liaison Mary Smith  
at the NEK Veterans Summit**

The NEK (Northeast Kingdom) Veterans Summit was held in Lyndonville, VT.

### *From Quality Assurance—Karen Divis, QA Nurse*

#### **QAPI**

#### **CORNER**

Part II: The second area we are going to look at is “The Statement of Purpose.”

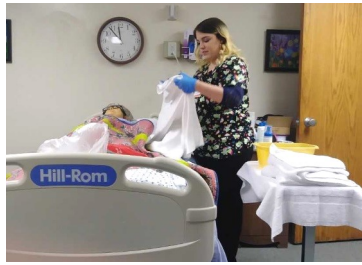
The Purpose of QAPI at VVH is to work creatively as an Interdisciplinary Team and have a process for improvement that adopts proactive principles and guidelines with measurable and attainable goals.

We must have measurable goals or how could we tell we have improved? It is also important to remember they must be attainable. If improving by 50% is realistic then that is what the goal should be. You do not want to put 100% and then not attain your goal but, remember, you can always change it and we are never done auditing, reviewing and improving. The reason we have interdisciplinary teams which are staff from the various VVH departments, is to bring a different perspective to the table. Everyone needs to be involved in QAPI because it takes teamwork to make any positive changes last.

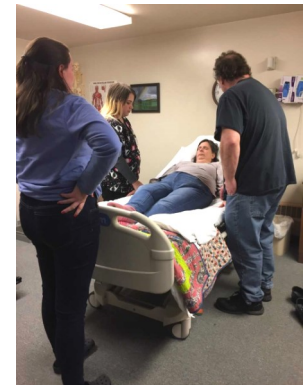
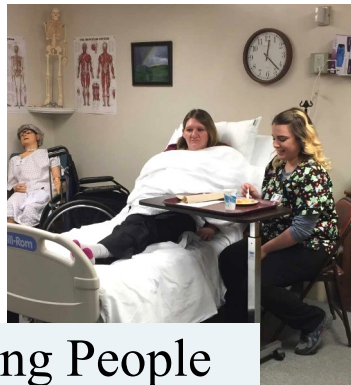
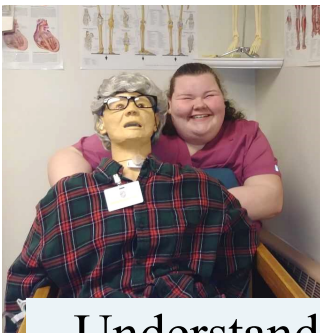
In Part III, we will discuss “Our Guiding Principles.”



# LNA Class of March 2019



## What to Expect



## Understanding People



## Graduation Day

