

The

BUZZ

WORD

Volume

Issue 6

11

June 2020



At the Vermont Veterans' Home a magical creature visits to spread hope and good cheer to all Veterans and Members.

www.vvh.vermont.gov



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:

Robyn Boland, Executive Assistant
robyn.boland@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, Nutritional Services Director
447-2815
cindy.rankin@vermont.gov

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

Christina Cosgrove, Director of Social Services
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

Cindy Gadway, Program Manager of Rehab
447-6548

Melinda Crawl, Marketing/Admissions Coordinator
447-2755
Melinda.crawl@vermont.gov



From the Administrator... Melissa Jackson

Dear Veterans, Members, and Family Members,

The staff continues to work hard to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 entering VVH. This seems like a never-ending battle and thus far we have been successful.

Many have asked when family members and friends can come to visit again. This decision will be made by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and the Vermont Governor. When visitation resumes it will be dramatically different than in the past.

Although we have not received specific guidance from the Governor, CDC, or CMS I would not be surprised if we see the requirement for all visitors to wear masks, to have their temperatures taken, and to complete a set of screening questions. We will be establishing a single point of entry for visitors, when the time comes, to help facilitate the screening.

One thing is for certain, anyone visiting who is showing signs or symptoms of any illness will not be allowed to visit until they are well again. I understand and appreciate the importance of family and friends visiting but this pandemic has shown us how important it is keeping all of our Veterans and Members safe. It takes just one sick visitor or staff member to cause a major issue. Employees who have a fever or signs and symptoms of illness are sent home before they enter the building.

We have had many family members visit our Veterans and Members at their room windows. We encourage this but with one very important reminder, **windows must remain closed** to help maintain social distancing. With notice, and if needed, we can provide your loved one with a cell phone so you can communicate better during these visits. We are also looking into ways to set up an area to make window visits more enjoyable for all involved.

At some point in time, VVH will start accepting admissions again. We are still in the development process of how this will work and will seek guidance from the Department of Health as we move forward. The Department of Health has established isolation and testing requirements for all new admissions. When we decide to take admissions, they will be placed on our respiratory care unit for 14 days before being moved onto one of the other neighborhoods and in with other Veterans and Members. These individuals will also have been tested for COVID and will have negative test results prior to moving off the respiratory care unit.

I am sure that the idea of having VVH open for admissions and visitors will lead to a lot of questions. Please send your questions to vvh.admissions@vermont.gov. We will begin compiling these questions and post the answers on our Facebook and webpages.

VVH now has the capability to conduct group notifications through electronic messaging. Do not be surprised if you receive a recorded message, text message, or email from us with important updates in the near future.

On behalf of all of us at VVH, I thank you for entrusting your loved one to our care, for the cards, letters, and pictures of support. We miss seeing you at VVH and hope that you will be able to visit again soon.

Take Care and Stay Safe.

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

Melissa



From Deputy Administrator— Colonel Al Faxon



Memorial Day is a day set aside to remember our fallen brothers and sisters for their many sacrifices. I usually think of it as "*What if Day*". What if we did not have the caliber of citizens that unselfishly thinks beyond themselves and has the willingness to lay down their life for others?

No doubt the borders of our Great Nation would be different; *what if* the South had won the Civil War and we remained divided; Europe's borders might be nonexistent except for a big swastika in the center. The Far East, who knows, but I can tell you many countries in that part of the world would be flying flags different from the ones they currently hoist.

To those who have given the ultimate sacrifice, I humbly provide thanks to you in Heaven for the many freedoms we enjoy in this country, and for those who remain free throughout the world because of you.

To our Veterans here at the Vermont Veterans' Home, I know Memorial Day is for those who died while serving in the military; however, I would also like to **thank you** for all your sacrifices and your devotion to duty. Without you, the world would be a far different place than it is today. To us, you are all heroes!



What if ?

Semper Fi
AF



Residents pass their time planting flowers while listening to Dr. King play his guitar.

Like the saying goes, "*Music gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination, and life to everything.*" - Plato



Chaplain's Corner

Howdy Folks,

Father Holden and I wish we could come in and visit everyone, but we were told that would not be smart in view of the COVID-19. Instead we are standing by and praying for you, hoping this pandemic will be over soon.

This week here in Shaftsbury, a number of Volunteers have been posting flags at the graves of our HEROS, our Veterans who have gone to Post Everlasting. It is a real honor to post a flag, to say "thanks for your service" and ask God to grant them peace.

We need to remember all of our Veterans who are buried across our land and in foreign lands, but also the sacrifices- some supreme- that they made so that we can continue to enjoy all the freedoms we take for granted.

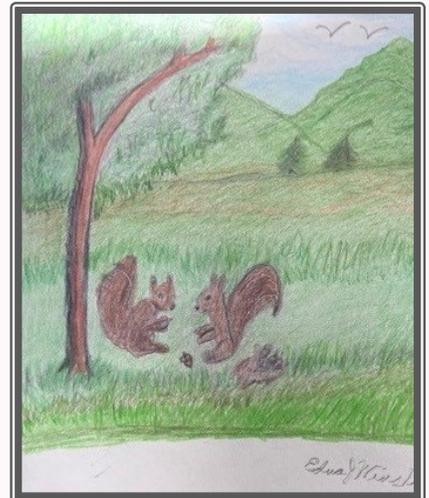
Here is a suggestion to help us cope with the situation we find ourselves in: Spend time alone with God. It's essential for our well-being. It is not a luxury or an option, it's a necessity. We need not feel guilty about taking time with God. Remember that satan is the accuser of believers. He delights in heaping guilt feelings on us, especially when we're enjoying God's presence. When we feel satans' arrows of accusation, we are probably on the right track. We need to use our shield of faith to protect ourselves from him. We need to talk to God about what is bothering us and ask Him to show us the way forward. We must resist the devils' ways. He will flee from us. Come near to God and He will reveal His presence to us. {extractions from Rev. 12:10, Ephesians 6:16, and James 4: 7-8 }.

Be grateful for the Vermont Veterans' Home and those Front Liners who care for all our Patriots.

God bless, *Chaplain Ken*

ART BY EDNA WINSLOW

Edna Winslow, a resident at VVH, loves to create art in her spare time. She likes the different ways to create pictures, whether it is painting or using colored pencils or just sketching. Her inspiration comes from things she observes and then draws from memory. She loves to hand out pictures just to see the smiles on peoples' faces. So the next time you see Edna, ask about her art and be prepared to **SMILE!**



A NURSE
is basically a
SUPERHERO
in SCRUBS



Your passion for our Veterans' and Members' health is appreciated every day. Thank you for all you do.

National Nurses' Day - May 6th, 2020



Military Appreciation Month
The Proud Heritage of American Freedom

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

Phyllis & Rhonda Roberts
Stephanie Ryder
Detective Robert Zinc
Amber Sherman
Troy Design & Manufacturing Co.
Stephen A. Leach
MT Lebanon Lodge No. 46
Joel Whiting
Hannaford
Daughters of Isabella
Judy Coolidge & Group
Barbara Pespisa
Keith & Kelly Cross
Anonymous from The Dutchman's Tavern
Jennifer Washburn-Lee
Berkshire Bank
And ALL our "Mask Makers"

In Loving Memory of Nathan Haverstock

Thomas Scanlon

In Loving Memory of Richard Vachon

Thomas & Sandra Fields
Marion Ryberg

In Loving Memory of Jennie LaBrake

Stacy Molner
Jan E. Murray

Q: Why couldn't the pony talk?

A: Because he was a little hoarse!



** Joke provided by B. Bardsley **

Adopt-A-Veteran:

Northshire Baptist Church
Representative Chris Bates
Sandra Pinsonault
Mr. & Mrs. Richard E. Shum
Mr. & Mrs. Horn
Norman Hawley
Mrs. Donald Morey
Helen Maikisch
Reinold T. Tofer
Barbara Travers
Mary True
P. McLenithan
Ms. Anne Mitchell
Mrs. Betty Wilkins
McMahn
DJ McLean
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Cynthia Galbicsek
Sarah Neubecker
Ms. Kristina Martin
Sandra Lubeck
Phil Ciulla
Ms. Karen E. Coppin
Carol Stroffoleno
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Day
Evelyn McMahan
Ms. Mary Kelly
D. Bellin
C. Brooks
Sandra Wring
Greta Crandall
Chila Family
Giglio Family
Ms. Victoria Hawley
Willow Family
Mrs. Allison S. Wheeler

And Many More to come...

Thank you!

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

Kiauna Wait
(802) 447-6510
Email: Kiauna.wait@vermont.gov

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

VVH WISH LIST

I-Pod Shuffles
(4th Generation)



Neck Pillows
CD Players
I-Tune Cards
Costume Jewelry
Body Pillows
Newspaper Subscriptions
Stamps
Outdoor Benches
Earphones for TV and Music
Two pocket front wheelchair/walker bags

**Please make check for monetary donations
out to Vermont Veterans' Home:**

**Vermont Veterans' Home
Business Office
325 North Street
Bennington, VT 05201**

Your donations are gratefully accepted.

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 Veterans and Members on our special care unit. Please contact Michele Burgess at: michele.burgess@vermont.gov or call 802-447-6520.

PLEASE NOTE:

**** We will NOT BE ACCEPTING donations until further notice due to COVID-19. Be on the lookout for future notices as to when donations will resume. Thank you for understanding. ****

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES SAYS 'THANK YOU'!



To show appreciation, the Board of Trustees threw an employee luncheon and also handed out umbrellas with the VVH logo on them. What better way to keep people motivated? Keep up the great work everybody!



To the world, you are a mother.
To our family, you are the world.

Happy Mother's Day!

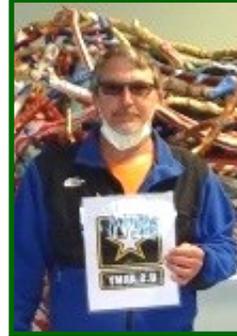
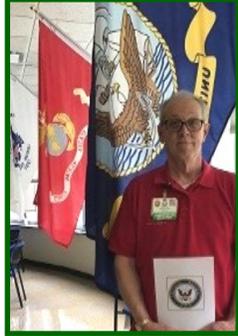




RED, WHITE, & BLUE Day!

Staff and Residents wear their patriotic colors in support of Nursing Care Week, which recognizes Nursing Home facilities all over the country. Thank you everyone for going above and beyond to make everyone feel cared for.





Military Appreciation Month
Thank you to service members and their families

“FULFILLING THE PROMISE”



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 Bennington, VT 05201

