

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](http://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](mailto: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](http://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.

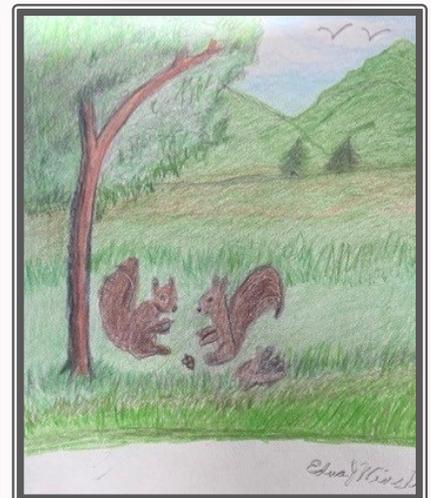
Here is a suggestion to help us cope with the situation we find ourselves in: Spend time alone with God. It's essential for our well-being. It is not a luxury or an option, it's a necessity. We need not feel guilty about taking time with God. Remember that satan is the accuser of believers. He delights 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  
Farkas  
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](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

Kiauna Wait  
(802) 447-6510  
Email: [Kiauna.wait@vermont.gov](mailto: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](mailto: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!

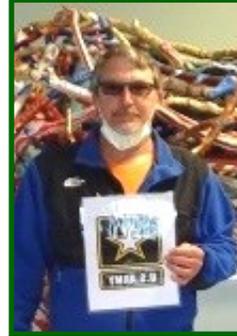
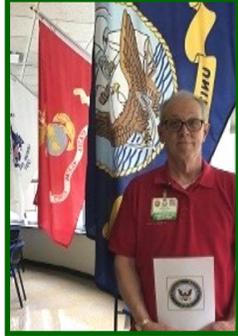




## **RED, WHITE, & BLUE Day!**

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

