

The

# BUZZ

# WORD

Volume **11** Issue 7  
July 2020

My Father  
Gave Me The  
Greatest Gift  
Anyone Could Give,  
He Believed In Me.  
Happy Father's Day!!!



On Father's Day, outdoor visits celebrated the beginning for Veterans, Members and loved ones to be together again.



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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*Have a great Summer!* ☀️

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

Happy Summer!!

We are very excited to be offering outdoor visits for our Veterans and Members. We have had a few minor hiccups with the rollout of this program but overall it is going well. As a reminder, you must make an appointment for these visits at least 48 hours in advance by contacting Mary Smith at 802-379-4542 Monday through Friday from 7:30am to 4:00pm. We will be reviewing the visit schedule in the coming weeks and making adjustments to the times we offer these visits. We will notify you of any changes via our website, Facebook page, emails, our emergency notification system and regular mail. If you would like to opt out of our emergency notification system, please send an email to [vvh.admission@vermont.gov](mailto:vvh.admission@vermont.gov) and once we receive this email, we will remove you from the notification system.

I have already received several emails asking about inside visits or the removal of the social distancing requirements. As of right now, we have not received guidelines or approval for inside visits or to remove the social distancing requirements. When the guidelines change we will be sure to let you know. I appreciate your understanding and willingness to follow the guidelines established for the outdoor visits. Based on the current guidance, we have cancelled many of our traditional outdoor summer group activities, this includes fishing derbies and outdoor picnics sponsored by the various Veteran Service Organizations. Our Activities Department is working hard to get Veterans and Members outside as much as possible. Last Friday we had an outdoor concert where the musicians stayed in the gazebo across from the front entrance and our Veterans and Members lined the driveway maintaining the appropriate social distancing.

Remember to follow all the important COVID 19 reminders: washing your hands often, practice social distancing, and wear a facial covering.

*Stay Safe.*

Melissa A. Jackson, MBA, FACHCA  
Chief Executive Officer  
Vermont Veterans' Home  
[www.Vvh.vermont.gov](http://www.Vvh.vermont.gov)



The Vermont Veterans' Home would like to congratulate the Class of 2020. We would like to leave you with this short message before you're off to follow your dreams:

*"Wherever you go, go with all your heart. Dream big and dare to fail. Spread joy and chase your wildest dreams."*

Thank you, and again,

**CONGRATULATIONS!!!**



Sgt. Faxon USMC, being promoted in combat after taking his Oath of Office.

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

Summer has finally arrived at The Vermont Veterans' Home and it sure was slow getting here! Just being able to get outside and feel the warmth of the sun seems to make things a little better.

The 4<sup>th</sup> of July is upon us - **Independence Day!** On this day I often reflect upon the Oath of Office we Veterans take upon enlistment and promotion. It is profound and noteworthy that we take our Oath to support and defend the Constitution of the United States; not to a person, a king, or congress, but an idea written on a piece of paper. It is truly powerful for people, for us all to cherish and protect.

*"I, \_\_\_\_\_, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic, that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office upon which I am about to enter; So help me God."*

The Constitution is an amazing document. It is the oldest written Constitution still operational in the world. The power of the document is specified in the very beginning, "**We, the people**". Democracy is undeniably a messy process. William H. Hastie, the first black federal judge in the United States (appointed in 1937), wrote: "Democracy is a process, not a static condition. It is becoming, rather than being. It can be easily lost, but is never finally won." ([www.facinghistory.org](http://www.facinghistory.org))

Thus, to our Veterans who signed on the dotted line, and repeated the Oath of Office during your time of service, thank you. Your service and commitment to our great nation have enabled the lost to be free, and the free to remain so. Your debt can never fully be repaid, but with much gratitude, please know I appreciate your service and sacrifice.

I also want to recognize those of you who keep and maintain the Vermont Veterans' Home in the state of cleanliness it is **ALWAYS** in. Individuals within the House Keeping Department do an **amazing** job! I am proud to walk and tour people through our home, and this is because of your efforts!



*Semper Fi  
AF*



Phil Sargent, a Veteran who resides at VVH, very generously donated \$25,000! \$10k went towards American Way unit and \$15k went towards the Mobility Trail Fund. Thank you for all your support, Sarge!

Thank you to Mary Ryan and grandson,



Ryan, for the beautiful gardening job done by the Brandon entrance. Seeing it brings a smile to the faces of staff and the Veterans and Members. We appreciate the hard work put in and volunteering your time.

## Chaplain's Corner

Howdy folks,

Have you noticed how individuals and groups tend to feel that everyone else should think exactly like they think. This is addressed in the Apostle Paul's message to the Galatians. Paul stated that God calls us to present liberty of conscience, not liberty of view. A true Christian will never come to you with the demand, "believe this or that", but with the demand that you square your life with the standards of Jesus. We are not asked to believe the Bible, but to believe the One whom the Bible reveals. If we are free with the liberty of Christ, others will be brought into the same liberty, the liberty of realizing the Dominance of Christ.

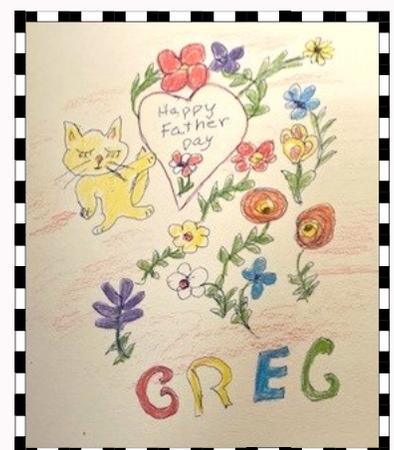
We must forever keep our lives measured by the standards of Jesus. We must stay connected only to His yoke and to no other yoke whatever, and be careful to see that we never bind a yoke on others that is not placed by Jesus Himself. It takes God a long time to get us out of the way of thinking that unless everyone sees as we do, they must be wrong. That has never been God's view. There is only one liberty, the liberty of Jesus at work in our conscience enabling us to do what is right.

Don't get impatient, remember how God dealt with us, with patience and with gentleness, but never water down the truth of God. "Go and make disciples" not "make converts to our opinions". I pray that soon I will be able to come visit and bring God's messages to you in our beautiful Chapel. Let us remember God is in charge and He will rid us of this pandemic in His Time, not ours.

God bless.

*Chaplain Ken Coonradt*

## EDNA WINSLOW ART GALLERY



**SHARP SHOOTERS take aim**



**BULL'S EYE!!!**



**First Outdoor**



**Summer Music**



**Concert**



**SOME**  
Super  
**Heroes**  
Don't have  
**CAPES...**  
They are  
called **DAD**



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

Voices of Vets, Inc.  
Judy Coolidge  
Natalie Martelle  
Dave LaChance  
Gospel Music Hymn Sing Foundation  
Pinnacle Quality Insight  
Keith Hunt  
Judith Estes  
Jerry Black  
Vermont Country Store  
Gail & Wendall Cameron  
Don Cushman  
Operation LTM  
Willy's Variety  
Carol Clevenger  
Donna Brown  
Stephen A. Leach  
Marilyn & Robert Verhaeghe  
Phil Sargent  
Cindy Herrmann  
Phyllis & Rhonda Roberts

**In Loving Memory of Barbara Vince**

Robert E. Cummings, Jr.

**In Loving Memory of Nathan Haverstock**

John & Rosamond Stadick

**Q: How come the Scarecrow won an award??**

**A: Because he was the most outstanding in his field!**



*\* Joke provided by B. Bardsley \**

**Adopt-A-Veteran:**

(Continued...)

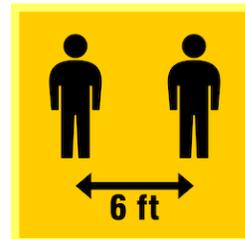
Margaret T. Lipscomb  
Mrs. J. Grote  
Jesse & Blake Dickinson  
Nicole Miera

**STAY SAFE !**

**Wear a Mask**



**Social Distance 6 feet**



**No shaking hands**



**Wash your hands often**



## 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)

## 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.

## 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 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. \*\***

## ARMY 245th Birthday



Sean Trombley accepts the sword from Col. Faxon



Sean and Ed Smith cut the cake. Veterans, Members and staff enjoyed the cake with ice cream.



Edna Quinn adds her icing artistry to the celebratory cake.



To the Friends and Families of our Veterans and Members,

We are now open to outside visits, but with very strict parameters in place. Unfortunately, not all family members and friends will be able to visit right now. Further down the line the restrictions will become less and less so more people may visit. Each resident is allowed **one outside visit a week**, with **up to two people per visit** and **each visit is 30 minutes**. All will need to be screened by a supervisor who will be monitoring these visits. All visits will have to be scheduled 48 hours in advance. To **schedule an outside visit**, please call **Mary Smith at 802-379-4542**. Please be patient as she will need to ask a few important questions. We know that it is frustrating having to be restricted from visiting your loved ones, but it's a step in the right direction. Ultimately, our main goal is to keep everybody here safe.

Thank you for your understanding.

If you cannot make an outside visit, please remember that you can always Facetime or Skype with your loved one. Please call Social Services or the Director of Activities to set it up. This way of communicating has grown more and more popular with everything being locked down and it's a nice way of still being able to see and talk to each other. Actually, we have been doing this since March 17th and have had lots and lots of phone visits!



# SUMMER FUN!



CAMPING

FRUIT

FUN

GRASS

HIKING

HOT

LEMONADE

OUTSIDE

PICNIC

PLAY

POOL

POPSICLE

SHORTS

SPRINKLER

SUMMER

SUN

SWIMMING

VACATION

WATERMELON

S R Y M B W R T X D A S J E H V R F  
 B W A A L O E P P H T D F Q M E V R  
 H N I E L E M V I R D U S E L J P U  
 I O P M D P M J O C U H I K I N G I  
 F L Z T M I U H P F N T N P T Z I T  
 C E I C Q I S J G O O I A O S U N A  
 W M F S C I N T U H R N C P T Q F D  
 H R D U T T G G U P Y Y T S P C T T  
 P E M T C R M J S O X G N I P M A C  
 L T G T A A T Y J Q S P X C N Y V X  
 U A I S C V A W X H D M V L T N F V  
 G W S W W Z O R N K N H M E I N H R  
 L K Y V S P Y M A G M Q N L A L E Z  
 U Z F H V F V O Y K A C E G Z X V Z  
 F E B J B V L O O P E M H W Z X M A  
 I T V A C A T I O N O T F H N R F B  
 E G B E E G C B T N F R H L J V H E  
 B I L H I V B Z A S Q C W H F P Z N  
 D H W W S F N D Y U I A C R W H U U  
 F V W X Q K E W J I H M R V R Y V F

# BINGO!





***“FULFILLING THE PROMISE”***



Vermont Veterans' Home  
325 North Street  
Bennington, VT 05201

