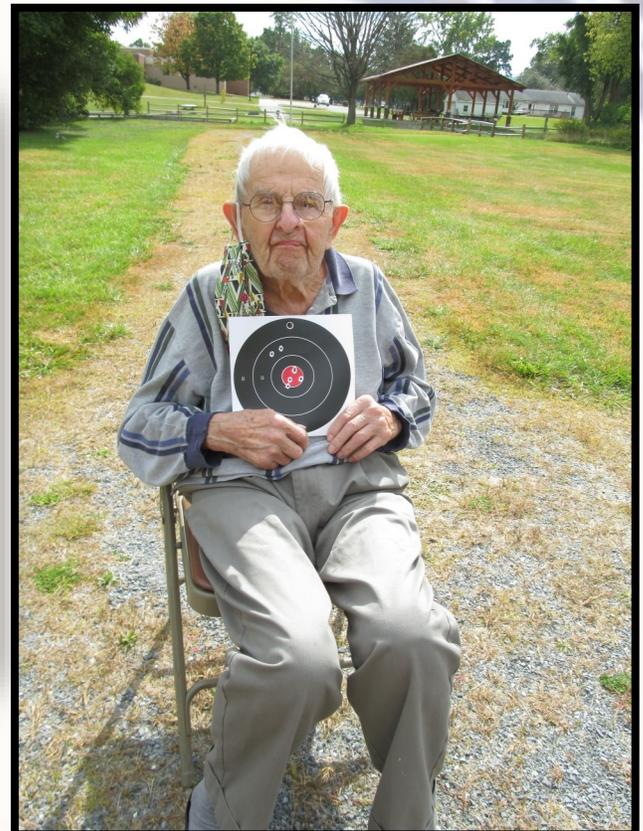


The

BUZZ

WORD

Volume **11** Issue 10
October 2020



Some of the things you were taught,
you will never forget. I still got it!!

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 ensuring 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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Happy Fall,

From the Administrator... Melissa Jackson



VVH began mandatory COVID-19 testing for our employees on September 30th. This testing is currently taking place monthly and may increase if the community spread of COVID-19 increases. VVH is making the determination on testing frequency by using a Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) database. This database tells us exactly how often we need to conduct employee testing.

What happens if an employee tests positive for COVID-19? VVH will do the following:

1. The employee who tested positive will be out of work for at least 14 days.
2. You will receive notification from VVH's automated notification system that an employee has tested positive. We will not identify the employee by name, department, shift or unit they work on.
3. All visits will be suspended for at least 14 days for outdoor visits and indoor visits for at least 42 days (these are the guidelines provided to VVH by the Vermont Department of Health).
4. All Veterans, Members, and staff will be tested every 7 days until such time the testing identifies no new positive results among Veterans, Members and staff.
5. Regular updates on the status of the testing will be provided via our automated notification system, our website, and our Facebook page.

Currently we have no employees with signs or symptoms of COVID-19. If we have positive test results from this testing, it will be from an employee who is asymptomatic and this is the reason CMS had mandated staff testing.

Indoor visits will start once we have completed the employee testing and have no positive cases. Indoor visits will change from outdoor visits. Due to space limitations, having only one area in the building for most of our Veterans and Members to have visits, we can only have one Veteran or Member and their visitors in the visiting area at a time. Some of the changes you will see with indoor visits:

1. Visits will be decreased in time from 30 minutes to 15 minutes as we cannot accommodate more than one Veteran or Member and their 2 visitors in the designated visiting area. This time may be increased in the future after we have evaluated several weeks of visits.
2. Each neighborhood will be assigned a weekday for visits and part of a weekend day for visits.
3. Pets will not be allowed to visit indoors.
4. Visitors will only be allowed in the visiting area and cannot enter any other part of the facility.
5. No sharing of food or passing of items will be allowed.
6. If you are late for your visit, it will have to be rescheduled as the 15 minute time frame needs to be adhered to so VVH can ensure proper disinfection between visits. If VVH is late getting your loved one to the visit, you will have your full 15-minute visit.
7. The scheduling and COVID screening for visits will remain unchanged.



I know that the changes in the visitation are hard on you and your loved one, just as they are for VVH staff. We appreciate your understanding as we move to this new phase of visitation and COVID-19.

Thank you for your continued support and do not forget to get your flu shot.

Take Care, Melissa

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



From Deputy Administrator — Colonel Al Faxon

Global events like the recent natural disaster hurricanes that impact the southern United States, pandemics like COVID-19, or man-made incidents require families, communities, States, and us at The Vermont Veterans' Home to have Emergency Preparedness Plans in place and ready to roll.

The Vermont Veterans' Home Emergency Preparedness Plan is reviewed in its entirety annually, and we conduct exercises to support and test the plan throughout the year. We have been operating as an "Incident Command" since March when COVID-19 intruded into our lives. The term Incident Command was adopted by the National Incident Management System (NIMS) which guides all levels of government, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector to work together to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to and recover from incidents.



NIMS provides a shared vocabulary and processes to deliver support during an incident. Our plan is called an "All Hazards" plan, scalable and adjustable to respond to any event. Our response to COVID-19 is a prolonged incident.

At home, you should all have a basic understanding of how you will respond to an event that would disrupt your normal way of life like the power is off, water shortage, no transportation or anything else you see as a necessity in your life. The link <https://www.ready.gov/> contains in-depth information for citizen preparedness, as well as various checklists to assist you in being prepared.

As the Boy Scouts say... Be Prepared!

*Semper Fi
AF*



POW/MIA REMEMBRANCE DAY

Many Americans across the United States pause to remember the sacrifices and service of those who were prisoners of war (POW), as well as those who are missing in action (MIA), and their families. All military installations fly the National League of Families' POW/MIA flag, which symbolizes the Nation's remembrance of those who were imprisoned while serving in conflicts and those who remain missing.

Until 1979, there was no formal recognition day set aside for these important men and women in uniform. It is recognized on the third Friday in September and the **POW/MIA Day** was observed on Sunday, **September 20, 2020**.

As of April 2009, there are 1,741 American personnel listed by the Defense Department's POW/MIA Office as missing and unaccounted for from the Vietnam War. The number of United States personnel accounted for since the end of the Vietnam War in 1975 is 841. About 90 percent of the 1,741 people still missing were lost in Vietnam or areas of Laos and Cambodia under Vietnam's wartime control according to the National League of Families website.

The silhouette of the young man on the flag is based on the son of designer Newt Heisley. The flag features a watch tower with a guard on patrol, a strand of barbed wire and the motto "You Are Not Forgotten".



Shooting Range—ON THE MARK



RESIDENT COUCIL

Meet a few members of the Resident Council:

Quentyn - Room 135 on North Village, and Steve



EDNA'S ART GALLERY



Life goes on at the Veterans' Home



Resident Artists Audrey and Edna



Dear Friends,

The Social Services Department of the Vermont Veterans' Home will be facilitating a support group for families and friends of our residents. The purpose of the group is to share concerns, experience, strength, hope, and to lend support to those who have a family member or friend at our nursing home.



This group will take place the **first and third Tuesday of every month, and will begin on 10/13/2020 at 2 pm via Zoom**. I will be available to help anyone connect to the meetings.

This group is open to all who have someone residing here, so feel free to share this with anyone who may have an interest in this group. I will reach out to each participant 24 hours prior to each meeting date to remind all participants of the group date and time.

If you are interested, or have any questions, please contact Jacob Rogers-Martin at 802-447-6524 or Jacob.rogersmartin@vermont.gov.

Sincerely,

Jacob Rogers-Martin, Social Services

Banded Woolly Bear Caterpillar
(Isabella Tiger Moth)



Legend of the Woolly Bear Caterpillar

Did you ever wonder how the woolly bear got the reputation to forecast the severity of winter?

In 1948, Dr. D.H. Curran, a curator of insects at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City, took his wife to Bear Mountain State Park in NY to look at woolly bears. He collected as many as he could in one day and averaged the reddish-brown segments of the caterpillar. There are a total of 13 segments to the worm's little body. He returned to the same park for eight (8) years and collected his data.

According to his data, the wider the rusty brown sections or the more brown segments, the milder the coming winter will be. The more black there is, the more severe the winter.

His findings are not conclusive and not scientifically accurate, but it made the woolly worm the most recognizable caterpillar in North America.

And if you are wondering about the woolly bear moth, wonder no more.

Courtesy of Mike diMonda, Board of Trustees for the use of his literature: Folklore, Fun Facts & Traditions, The Old Farmer's 2020 Almanac



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

Bruce Knaack
Norman Hawley
Mary McFall
Phyllis & Rhonda Roberts
Lost Target– ammo for shooting range
Mike Andrews– pictures taken of picnic table donation
Lois Bisson
Jeannie M. Clermont
U.S.S. Bennington PACT
Marlene Black & Renee Zeek

Recognition for our wonderful mask makers

Nicky Coalter-Greene
American Legion Aux. Unit #67
Harned-Fowler VFW Auxiliary Post 6471
Betsy Hurley
VFW Auxiliary #758
Deborah LaValley
Marci Hardy
Mary Kenesey
Joan Powell
Janet Ott
Sarah Franklin
Melanie
Sharon Spade-William
M/M Linker
Bags By Wendy
Patricia Lyman
Valerie Bogart

In Loving Memory of Raymond Dana

Minga Rae Dana

In Loving Memory of Winthrop “Wink” Roberts

Debra Stevens Avison
Frank & Sandra Jones
Barbara Lowe
Harned-Fowler VFW Auxiliary Post 6471

In Loving Memory of Victor Acebo

Marie Tomberg

What did the snail say when he was riding on the turtle?

Whooooooooo!!!!



* Joke provided by B. Bardsley *



GRADUATES:

CAMERON GORMAN

MEREDITH LAMPMAN

CHRISTINE RODRIGO

MICHAEL SIGSBURY



Cindy Murray,
Education
Coordinator,
congratulates
Christine Rodrigo



Above right: Cameron Gorman

Unable to attend: Michael Sigsbury

Below: Meredith Lampman



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 (postal)

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

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.

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

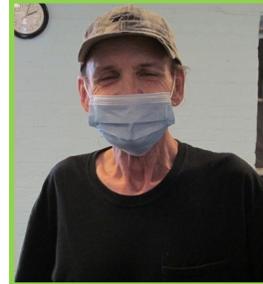
NEW: Veteran's Mobility Trail

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. ****

Environmental Services & Housekeeping Week September 6-12



The VVH acknowledges the dedicated members of the Cleaning, Housekeeping and Laundry staff who do so much for our Veterans and Members. We appreciate and salute this great team.

Unfortunately, not all members of this unbelievable staff were available for photos.

To the Families and Friends of our Veterans and Members:

The holidays are fast approaching and will be like no other we have experienced. In anticipation of limited visits, we are launching **“OPERATION GOOD CHEER”**. We are asking for season’s greetings, words of love and encouragement, jokes or anything that will bring joy to Veterans and Members.

The November issue will feature the submissions we receive, but if there are too many for one edition due to space limitations, we hope to continue publishing **“OPERATION GOOD CHEER”** in future issues. We will try to print as many submissions as possible.

A limit of 20-25 words is requested. Please include your name and contact information with your submission, and the good news is—names are not counted in the 25-word limit.

Please e-mail to Mary.Ryan@vermont.gov or mail them to the Vermont Veterans’ Home to my attention: Mary Ryan. We are very excited for your participation in these special editions and I look forward to hearing from you.

All Best, Mary Ryan, Special Projects



Chaplain's Corner

Howdy, Everyone-

Gosh, it is autumn and the leaves are already beautiful. Never saw such bright colors and there are so many trees yet to turn. The leaf peepers will get their money's worth this year.

As you may be aware, Father Holden and I are recording services on Wednesday mornings in the Chapel to be broadcasted at a later date. Let's pray we will soon get back to normal and be able to worship face to face. We need to be patient and know that God is very aware of our frustrations and will bring an end to this pandemic in His time, not ours.

A bit about patience: If you have ever spent hours stuck in rush hour traffic or held a crying baby at 2 a.m., you know something about patience. According to the Bible, patience is a form of perseverance and forbearance that allows us to respond to frustrating circumstances and with grace and self-control.

Contrary to popular opinion, patience is not merely a personality trait but is a biproduct of the presence and work of the Holy Spirit in the heart and mind of the believer. We must wait patiently for the Lord to do His work in us. (Psalm 40-1). If it seems slow, wait patiently, for it will surely take place. It will not be delayed. We develop patience as we learn to live an eternal perspective. (Habakkuk 2-3). Patience is produced by the hope a believer has in God's eternal glory. (Romans 8-25).

I hope to be able to visit you all soon. Please remember to pray for our troops.

God Bless, Chaplain Ken



File photos from September 2019

REMEMBERING THE
AIR FORCE BIRTHDAY



SEPTEMBER 18, 1947



"FULFILLING THE PROMISE"



Vermont Veterans' Home
325 North Street
Bennington, VT 05201

