



VERMONT VETERANS' HOME

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The BUZZ WORD



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

Please contact:

The Buzz Word Editor
Vermont Veterans' Home
325 North Street
Bennington, VT 05201

(802) 447-6510

Email: Barbara.Fitzgerald@vermont.gov

*Honoring
Those Who Have
Served*

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

**** We will not be
accepting books or
magazines at this time.
THANK YOU to all
who have donated to
our Veterans at VVH.**



Getting ready for the
Community Tree Lighting
In partnership with Bennington
Area Chamber of Commerce
And EfficiencyVermont
Pictured with Melissa are
Matt Harrington from the
Chamber and Meghan Chambers
from Efficiency



Chaplain's Corner...



Howdy Folks,

I thought you would like this little story.

"A Child's Angel"

Once upon a time there was a child ready to be born.

The child asked God, "They tell me you are sending me to earth today, but how am I going to live there, being so small and helpless

The child said, "But God, here in heaven, I don't do anything else but sing and smile, and it makes me happy."

God said, "Your angel will sing for you and smile for you, and you will feel your angel's love, and that will make you happy.

The child said, "And how will I understand when people talk to me, if I don't know the language that men talk on Earth?"

God replied, "Your angel will tell you the most beautiful and sweet words you will ever hear, and with much patience and care, your angel will teach you how to speak."

"And God," said the child, "What am I going to do when I want to talk to you?"

God said, "Your angel will place your hands together and will teach you how to pray, and I will hear you."

The child said, "I've heard that on earth there are bad people and many evil things. Who will protect me?"

"Your angel will defend you," said God, "Even if it means risking her life. You are more precious than anything to her."

The child said, "But I will always be sad, because I will not see you anymore."

God smiled and said, "Your angel will teach you the way for you to be good and come back to me, and through her you will know that I am always watching over you."

Then they heard a voice calling from Earth, and the child knew it was time to go. "God," the child asked softly, "If I am about to leave now, could you please tell me my angel's name, so I will know her?"

And God said, "Your angel's real name is of no importance...You will call your angel: "Mommy."

By the time you read this we will have celebrated and honored our Veterans. God bless our past and present Veterans. Be thankful for the freedoms their sacrificially have given us.

God Bless -
Chaplain Ken Coonradt



The young ladies presented Steve McClafferty, Financial Director with 2 homemade flag cases for the Home.



A visit from St. Mary's Academy



VERMONT VETERANS' HOME

Fulfilling the Promise

**325 North Street
Bennington, VT 05201**

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:

**Mary Ryan, Executive Assistant
mary.ryan@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, Food Service Director
447-2815
cindy.rankin@vermont.gov

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

Christina Cosgrove, Social Services Director
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

Jen Morrison, Program Manager of Rehab
447-6548

Karen Divis, Quality Assurance Nurse
447-2888
karen.divis@vermont.gov

Mary Hamilton, MDS
379-5279
mary.hamilton@vermont.gov

Gary Yelle, Admissions Coordinator and
Marketing Director
447-6539
gary.yelle@vermont.gov



From the Administrator...
Melissa Jackson



Happy Holidays!!

It is hard to believe another year is coming to an end. December is a very busy month for us and I hope to see you at some of the events. Each December I provide the following reminders:

1. Employees are prohibited from accepting individual gifts; this is a federal regulation not a Vermont Veterans' Home rule. Food or other items that can be shared by an entire neighborhood or department are fine. Our employees know that they must graciously decline any individual gifts. I ask that you do not put them in that very awkward situation.
2. Christmas decorations: No live tree, wreaths, or garlands. All lights must be UL approved. Please do not hang items from sprinkler heads or privacy curtain tracks.

I hope you enjoy your holidays,

Melissa A. Jackson, BSW, LNHA
CEO



The Elk's Steak Dinner



Thank You For All You Do For Our Veterans



Donations

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

Karen Boudreau
Nancy Aversano
Jackie Sullivan
John Quinn
Jill Thompson
Philip and June Sherwin
Virginia Leon
Danielle Many
Mary Jostrand
Marie Howe
Richard Jones
Carol Perkins
Sylvia Ward
Sandra Sokul

Sandra Brown
Christine Belanger
Phyllis and Rhonda Roberts
St. Mary's Academy
VT Law Students Association
St. John the Evangelist School
Brattleboro Chapter DAR
Mount Anthony Union HS Guided Studies Class
Pownal Unit 90 American Legion Auxiliary
Walmart

In Memory of Charles Sausville
Mr. Paul Sausville

In Memory of Vanessa Littlefield
Gary Littlefield



Legatto Blues Performs For The Veterans and Members





*From Deputy Administrator...
Colonel Al Faxon*



This is an amazing time of year here at the Vermont Veterans' Home. The number of individuals and organizations that have walked through our front doors both scheduled and unscheduled, to present donations and gifts to our Veterans is quite amazing.

We have received monetary donations, socks, pins, pens, poinsettias, hats, gloves, slippers, Christmas Cards, Christmas Trees, gifts for families, cookies, cakes, pies, song, and more.....truly quite amazing.

I would say those who have come knocking at our door to present all manner of support this Christmas and Holiday Season have done so to say thank you to all who have served. I also would like to get in that long line and pass on my gratitude and best wishes to you and your families.

To the Staff of VVH....many of you have gone out of your way to make this a special time of year for veterans, members, and fellow staff. Thank you for giving your time and energy to make this a special season for us all.

Merry Christmas and a Happy Holiday Season to all!

S/F
AF



Marine Corps 241st Birthday Celebration



A few of the Home's proud Marines



Semper Parati
UNITED STATES MARINES



Molly Stark Elementary music program



Bennington Elementary, Vice Principal, Jerry O'Connor and students



Veteran, Roy D. and LNA, Sara Sweet



A few members of the Board of Trustees address the visitors at the Home after the parade.

VETERANS' DAY FESTIVITIES



Mount Anthony Union HS Marching Band



A beautiful cake donation



The Chapel Bell - Circa 1885



The Home's little soldier visitor.



Mark Your Calendars

Upcoming Events

Dorset Theater Presents:

A Christmas Carol

Saturday, December 3, 2016 at 2:00 PM

Community Tree Lighting

Wednesday, December 7, 2016 at 5:30 PM

Day of Remembrance

Wednesday, December 14, 2016 at 3:00 PM

Wreaths Across America

Saturday, December 17, 2016 at 12:00 PM

VFW Christmas Party

Sunday, December 18, 2016 at 1:30 PM

Christmas Luncheon

Roast Prime Rib Aus Jus
Garlic Mashed Potatoes
Prince Edward Island Vegetables

Dessert
Cheesecake

Alternative
Baked Stuffed Chicken Breast



First guest per Veteran/Member is free of charge. \$10 for additional meals (**Maximum guest limit is 4**).

Space is limited this year because of the kitchen renovations. First come, first serve!! Please make reservations early.

Putting Up The Tree

- 1) Cut the cords that bind the tree to the roof of your car. Allow them to snap back and strike you in the eye.
- 2) Curse.
- 3) Slowly pull the tree toward you.
- 4) Wobble under its weight for a few seconds, then fall down.
- 5) Curse.
- 6) Stand up and notice the fresh scratches in the roof of your car.
- 7) Curse.
- 8) Drag the tree to your front door. Spend 15 minutes figuring out how to open the door while simultaneously getting the tree through it.
- 9) Drag the tree away from the door so that you can enter with the tree facing in the right direction.
- 10) Once inside, fill the tree stand with water.
- 11) Knock all the water out of the tree stand because you forgot to wait to fill the stand until after putting the tree in it.
- 12) Curse
- 13) Your tree should now be in the stand. Notice the fallen needles that have reduced your tree to half the size it was when you bought it.
- 14) Down several cups of eggnog to settle your nerves.
- 15) Slur your curses.



*From
the Dietary Department*





Travels With Steve

Dear All,

A favorite line from a recent movie describes how my recent vacation started. "It's an adventure, Harry". Our flight from Albany to Charlotte was cancelled due to engine issues – oil was leaking. Good decision not to fly the airplane so we had to wait until 6p to get a flight to Charlotte and then on to Miami for the night. We arrived in Miami at 1:30 Sunday morning and did not get into the hotel until after 2a. Woke up at 8:30 to get the 9a shuttle back to the airport for the 11:30 flight to Cozumel, Mexico. The airline was nice. They paid for the hotel room, shuttle and gave us food vouchers.

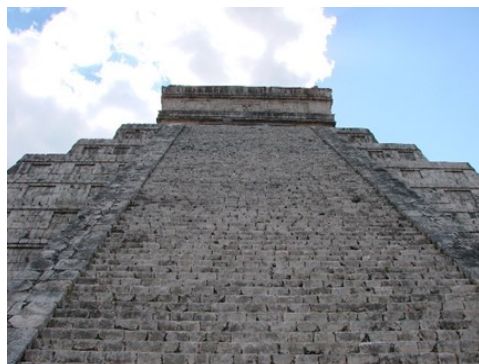
Our week in Cozumel was great. The weather was in the upper 80's all week long with the sun shining all the time. My brother and I went to the mainland on Thursday to visit the Mayan ruins at Chechen Itza and to a sinkhole which I will call the fountain of youth. Chechen Itza is on the mainland of Mexico in the Yucatan Peninsula and is a UNESCO World Heritage Site that was inhabited between 600 – 1300AD. The area encompasses about 5 square miles and there are many buildings on the site. The main pyramid has 4 sides each with 91 steps and then a single step at the top to reach the altar, which totals 365 which is the number of days in the year. What is really interesting is that when you face either the north or west sides of the temple and clap your hands the returning sound is that of the Quetzal bird. For those of you who have internet access, please search for this. It is really amazing and having been there makes it more amazing. There is also the Warrior Temple, which was of interest to me and I think would be to some of you.



Temple at Chechen Itza



Warrior Temple



Steps at the Chechen Itza



Ball Field at Chechen Itza

Next month I will finish off the vacation with pictures from the hotel, center Cozumel and the sunsets. Just what we need for the new year! I will try not to mention anything about the tequila tasting tours and the many different tequilas there are.

Have a Merry Christmas, God Bless each of you and God Bless America.

Steve

Thanksgiving Day Spent With Family

