The BUZZ WORD

Volume 14 Issue 2
February 2023

HOME IS WHERE THE HEART IS.

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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http://vvh.vermont.gov

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From the Administrator—Melissa Jackson

Happy February,

Pre-COVID life is returning to VVH. We are now serving 3 meals a day in the main dining room for Veterans and Members on American, Brandon, the Dom and North. The Veterans and Members have had nothing but positive things to say about the reopening of Patriot Hall. It is awesome to see them moving about the facility, making new friends and reconnecting with their old friends. The country kitchens have reopened on each of the neighborhoods resulting in the elimination of meals being delivered on trays. This has also been well received.

Larger group activities are taking place and we are reaching out to community organizations that provided onsite activities and entertainment and inviting them back.

The "Resident Bank" reopened. During COVID lockdown when a Veteran or Member needed personal spending money, a call was made to Jodie Coon in our Finance Department and the funds would be delivered to the Veteran or Member. Jodie now has banking hours, and the bank is in our canteen. Veterans and Members can visit with Jodie during the established hours to obtain their personal spending money.

Work continues on the safety and security project with the focus on interior and exterior doors. A new key system for staff is under development.

After our monthly family meeting in March, we will move to a quarterly and as needed family meeting schedule. Invites/reminders will be sent prior to these meetings.

Take Care, *Melissa*

Melissa A. Jackson, MBA, FACHCA **Chief Executive Officer** www.Vvh.vermont.gov

NEWS FLASH: from Melissa Jackson, CEO, to the VVH STAFF

This morning (January 25, 2023) CMS updated their 5-star rating system and VVH achieved the following:

5 Star Overall Rating **5 Star Staffing Rating**
5 Star Quality Measures Rating **3 Star Health Inspections**.

We are the only nursing facility in Bennington to achieve an overall rating of 5 staring and 1 of 7 in the entire State (there are a total of 35 nursing homes in Vermont).

Your hard work, dedication, excellent documentation and individualized care of our Veterans and Members is truly reflected in this rating. You should be so proud of the work you do. I am very proud to be a part of this excellent team. Thank you thank you thank you for all you do.

Congratulations to the STAFF of VVH from Melissa.

From the Deputy Administrator
Asa Morin

To Our Veterans' Home Families:

In the past couple months, we have implemented a new system to communicate with friends and family (Automated Messaging System through our electronic medical record system). This replaces the emergency alert system we had been using and gives us more flexibility in its use. We are currently using it for two (2) purposes:

1. VVH notifications – Each Veteran or member can name two (2) people to receive various notifications. Examples are Covid notifications, emergency notifications, special events and general announcements.

2. Appointment Notifications – Each Veteran or member can name two (2) people to receive notifications regarding outside appointments (Day, time and place of appointment).

Notifications can be sent via phone message, text message or email.

As we try to iron out any issues with this new system, please feel free to reach out if you have questions or have received notifications that seem to have errors in them.

In the future, we will be using this system to provide notifications regarding care plan meetings.

More to come on this!

Asa

Asa Morin, MSW, LICSW, LNHA **Deputy Administrator/COO/CCO** **(802) 447-6544** **asa.morin@vermont.gov**

FORGIVENESS

It's about Forgiveness
Forgive God said for eternity
Forgive and Forget is the best way
It will lessen your cross along the way
Forgive God said it will bring you joy
And you will be Happier for it every day
So Forgive and Forget you will not regret.
This command from God's Big Masterplan
Amen

By: CA Crawford

UPCOMING EVENT:

Hill Country Cloggers

February 15 in Patriot Hall at 2:00 pm

INTRODUCING: GARY DeGASTA, PRESIDENT BOARD of TRUSTEES

Vermont Veterans' Home employees,

It is my honor to have recently been elected by my fellow Trustees to serve as the President of the Board of Trustees, Vermont Veterans' Home. I thank members of the Board for their trust and confidence in me.

As Board President, I pledge to do my very best to serve the Home, its residents and employees with the same level of dedication, commitment and distinction as our beloved late President COL Joe Krawczyk. Joe will be missed and be remembered for not only his leadership, but his love for family, friends, the Home and his colleagues and fellow Veterans.

As one of my first official duties as President, it is my pleasure to recognize and thank each and every employee, nursing and administrative support, full-time, part-time and temporary, for your dedication and commitment. The competency and compassion of the nursing personnel is evidenced in the exceptional care you have provided, and continue to provide to our Veterans, their spouses and Gold Star parents -- not only throughout the Covid-19 Pandemic, but 24/7 each and every day of the year!

You are indeed "Fulfilling the Promise ".

On behalf of your Board of Trustees, I extend to you, your families and loved ones our most sincere wishes for a safe, prosperous and Happy New Year!

Gary

Gary M. DeGasta, COL USA (Ret.)
President, Board of Trustees
Vermont Veterans' Home

..here we come a-wassailing....Love and Joy come to you...

AMERICAN WAY

Pajamas all day

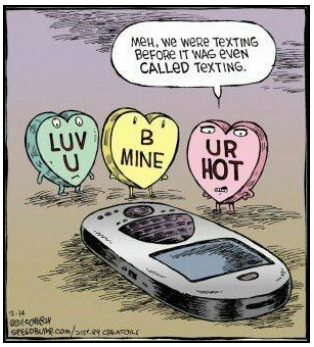
Staff enjoyed a day to be “comfy” while performing their usual and customary duties.

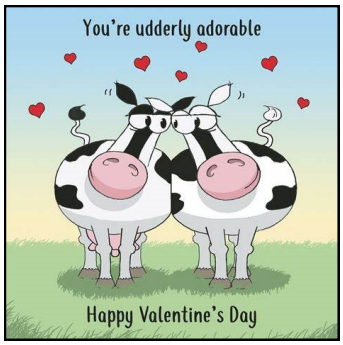
Sara gives the clues to LeRoy, Fred and Dennis who are working on completing the giant wall-sized crossword puzzle.

Exercise on American Way

Shooting Stick
a good way to spend an afternoon for the pool sharks.

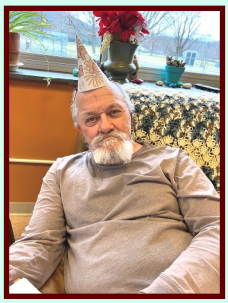
Knock, Knock.
Whose there?
Howard.
Howard who?
Howard you like a big hug and a kiss?



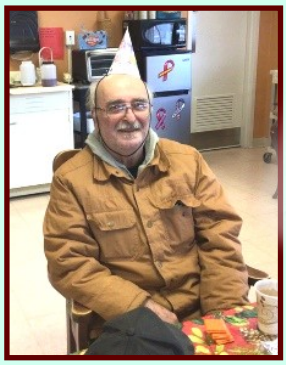


Knock, Knock.
Whose there?
Sherwood.
Sherwood who?
Sherwood like to be your Valentine.

Hannaford Supermarkets
provided party food and
munchies in celebration of
New Year's Day.



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

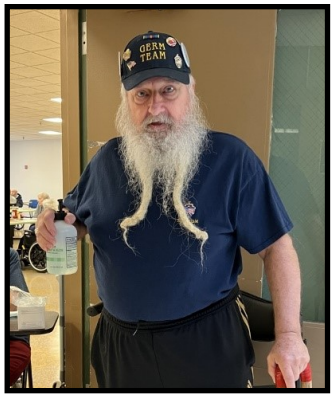


PATRIOT HALL is once again open for dining and Staff is ready to take orders and serve with a smile.

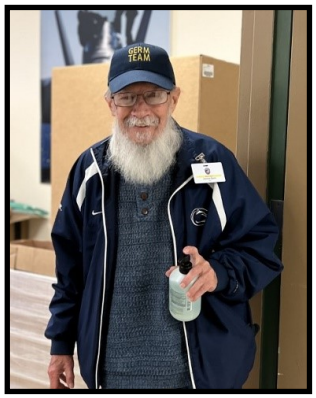
Where's the dessert menu?

Paul asks "Do you want fries with that?"

a good time to mingle with friends



WILLY



DENNIS

AUDREY

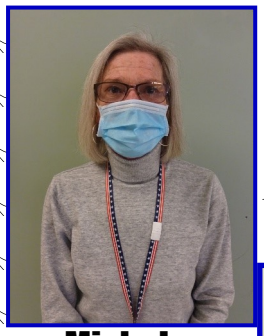
MIKE

GERM TEAM: BACK IN ACTION

ARMED WITH HAND SANITIZER, THE GERM TEAM GREETS ALL WHO ENTER PATRIOT HALL.

ACTIVITIES PROFESSIONALS WEEK

Every Smile Makes a Difference
improving and enriching the daily lives of
Vets & Members doing wonderful things



Michele

Sara

Leslie

Michelle

Kelly

Rae Ann

Sam

Holly

Ginny

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

Students of the VTC School of Nursing
SVMC Med/Surg
SVMC ICU
Southwestern VT Chamber of Commerce
Equinox Valley Nursery
Phyllis and Rhonda Roberts
American Legion Auxiliary Units of VT
Rosemary Lindsey
American Legion Auxiliary Dept. of VT
Ruth Grandy
N.V. & P.J. Gibson
Bennington Fire Department
Judy S. Russ Big O RV Campground
Champlain Valley Quilt Guild
Loud & Proud Quilters
Carol Ethier-Kipp
George Lenhardt
Order of the Eastern Star-Arlington
Springfield Elks Lodge
Arlington Lions Club
Dover Elementary 5th Grade
Debbie Craig
Sacred Heart Outreach Class c/o Hunter
Jeffrey S. Holmes Post 84
Harmed-Fowler Post 6471 VFW
Friends of the VVH-Wreath Account
Joyce & Timothy Bruso
RS Zwonih BSA Troop 658
c/o St Francis Xavier School

In Memory of Frank Babcock
Patricia Babcock

In Memory of Dorothy Campbell
Joseph Hervieux

In Memory of Joseph Krawczyk
Dolores Krawczyk

WOW—look at all those donations- amazing!

VVH Staff Recognition
Years of Service

ACTIVITIES
Sara Green— 9 years

CLEANING, HOUSEKEEPING, LAUNDRY
Justin Harrington —- 12 years

DIETARY
Shelly Hewson — 4 years

NURSING
Diane Harrington — 27 years
Melinda Zaffino — 17 years
Linda Sherman — 10 years
Tanya Harrington — 6 years
Michelle Ouellette — 5 years
Heather Amidon — 4 years
Mar Jah Toomey — 3 years

THE POWER OF A TEAM

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

Robyn Boland
(802) 447-6523
Email: Robyn.Boland@vermont.gov

VVH WISH LIST

"Music and Memory" Players

A monetary donation of $30.00 provides a customized music player to a Veteran or Member.

Bingo Prizes
Fidget Blankets
Costume Jewelry
Crafts
Neck Pillows
Two pocket front wheelchair/walker bags

Your donations are gratefully accepted.

THANK YOU

Please make the check for monetary donations to:

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

Please include the purpose in the "memo".

Due to COVID–19, we are still not able to accept:
books, CDs, puzzles or used clothing.

PLEASE NOTE: WE WILL NO LONGER ACCEPT DVDs due to modern technology of TV's and streaming availability.

We will keep you posted when changes are made.
Thank you for your patience and understanding.

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 in the memo area of the check 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:
Memory Music Player

Veteran's Mobility Trail
Monetary donations toward a paved walkway around the perimeter of the VVH

Wreaths for Veterans
Donations will go towards the purchase of a $15 wreath for the wreath-laying ceremony

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA FUND

renamed to

WREATHS FOR VETERANS

The Wreaths Across America Fund is now called **Wreaths for Veterans** to be recognized as a separate fund not associated with the national organization Wreaths Across America.

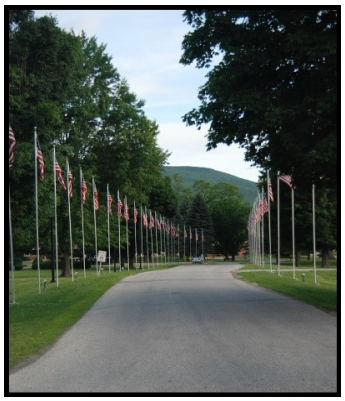
Wreaths for Veterans was established in memory of COL Joseph Krawczyk, past President of the VVH Board of Trustees, who faithfully served until his recent passing.

Donations will go to the purchase of the $15 wreaths towards our goal of the 500 needed for the wreath-laying ceremony in December.

FEBRUARY TRIVIA

1. What birthstone is for February?
2. What flower is for February?
3. What is a holiday in February ***OTHER THAN*** Valentine's Day?
4. In what year was the only recorded month of February that did not have a full moon?
5. Grand Central Station opened in NYC in February of what year?
6. What horoscopes share February?
7. Who sent the first recorded Valentine in 1415?
8. What popular social media website was launched in February?
9. What iconic children's toy was introduced in February, 1903?
10. Who declared the first leap day in 46 B.C. ?

ANSWERS: (1) Amethyst (2) Violet (3) President's Day (4) 1865 (5)1913 (6) Aquarius & Pisces (7) Charles, Duke of Orleans (8) Facebook (9) The Teddy Bear (10) Julius Caesar

"FULFILLING THE PROMISE: Caring for the Veterans of Vermont and their families"

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