

# The BUZZ

# WORD

Volume

May

Issue 5

14

2023



Having the Best Easter Egg Hunt costume and  
a basket full of chocolate Easter eggs is a sure way to get friends  
to share in your joy ... and candy!

[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 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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## *From the Administrator—Melissa Jackson*



To our Veterans, Members and VVH Family,

As we enter into May our activity calendar for weekend and special events is filling up quickly. Here is a list of upcoming events:

May 7 <sup>th</sup>	12 PM	Elks Steak Dinner Bennington Elks
May 29 <sup>th</sup>	11 AM	Bennington Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony VVH Memorial
June 17 <sup>th</sup>	11AM	Father's Day Car Show on the Front Lawn
June 25 <sup>th</sup>		Annual Fishing Derby
July 5 <sup>th</sup>	6:30 PM	Eagles Band Concert on the Front Lawn

We will be adding a special event section to our webpage to keep you up to date on the events. I hope to see you at these events.

*Take care,*

*Melissa*

Melissa A. Jackson, MBA, FACHCA

Chief Executive Officer

[www.vvh.vermont.gov](http://www.vvh.vermont.gov)



## **THANK YOU**

The VFW Auxiliary Post 1332 and the American Legion Auxiliary Post 13 presented a very generous donation to Melissa Jackson, CEO, towards two new projects at the VVH.

L-R: Nancy Sterling, Gail Beauregard, Joyce Gustavson, Donna Stone, Michele Burgess, VFW President Elaine Sherman, Melissa, CEO and Darlene Cumm Am. Legion President.



**L:** Melissa, CEO, received a sizable monetary donation from The Springfield Elks Lodge #1560 for our Veterans and Members.

**R:** In addition, for the Social Activities Room, an assortment of media equipment was made possible through the 2023 Beacon/Spotlight Grant. Toiletries and a large variety of arts and crafts supplies were donated as well.



*From the Deputy Administrator  
Asa Morin*



## Have you met “The Hug?”

The hug is a sensory device developed for use with people with late-stage dementia. It serves to fulfill a basic need to feel nurtured, allowing the person to give a hug and receive one in return with its soft weighted arms. On the outside it is soft and cuddly and on the inside is an electronic device that simulates a beating heart.

We hope to use the Hug not only for those with dementia, but also for those with anxiety or PTSD and at end of life to help provide comfort.

You truly must experience how it feels to get a Hug!

*Asa*



Asa Morin, MSW, LICSW, LNHA

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On March 29, the **50th ANNIVERSARY VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATION** pinning ceremony was attended by VVH Veterans. The event was held at the Empire State Aeroscience Museum in Schenectady, NY.



The Pin is  
**“ A LASTING  
MEMENTO  
OF THE  
NATION’S THANKS”**

for the Veterans’  
service to their  
Country.



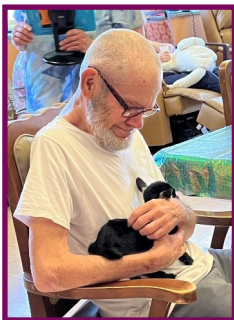
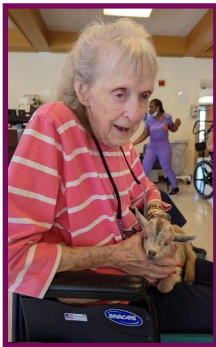
Love is

Love is sharing and caring...  
It doesn't seek revenge  
Love doesn't insult  
Love is kind and gentle..  
When you have it..  
Nothing else feels as good..  
Love is a beautiful handshake  
A kind word to the lonely  
A hot meal to a sickbound friend  
Love is so wonderful  
All of creation should possess it and  
Then we would have a  
A happier place on Earth..and above

CA Crawford



# Happiness is a.....baby goat

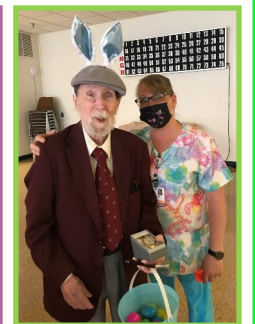
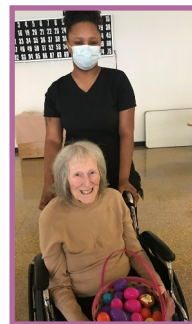
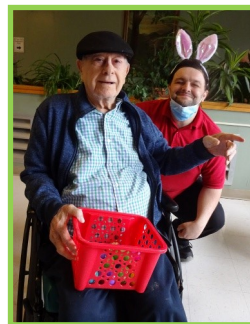
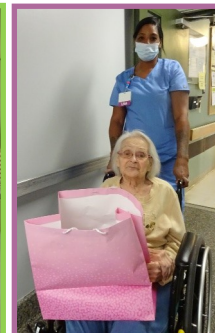
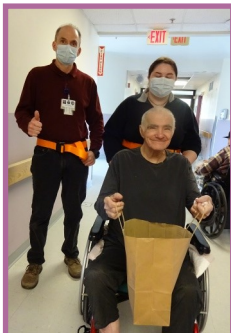
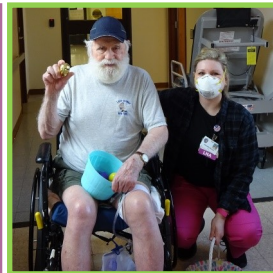




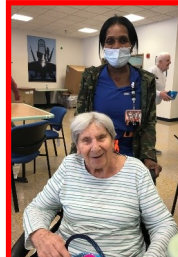
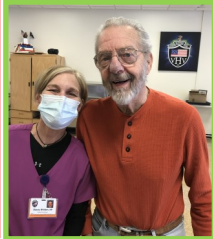
# EGG HUNT



**Preparing  
1000 eggs  
for the  
egg hunt**







For finding the most eggs, the golden eggs and the specially colored eggs the **WINNERS ARE**

The Prize Consultants

North  
Stephan

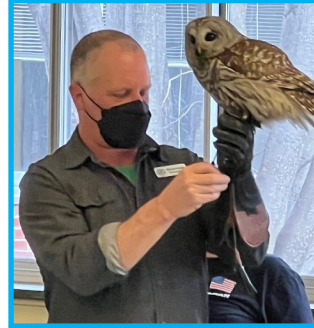
Brandon  
Leroy

DOM  
Willy

American  
Vinny



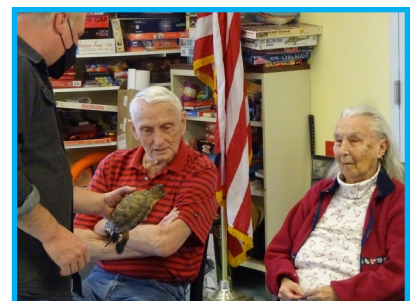
## Southern Vermont Natural History Museum with Michael



Veterans & Members thoroughly enjoyed learning about the habits of an owl, falcon, possum, turtle and everyone's favorite... The snake.









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



VFW Auxiliary Post 1332  
American Legion Auxiliary Post 13  
American Legion Department of Vermont  
Springfield Elks Lodge #1560  
Crippen-Fellows Auxiliary Unit 50  
American Legion Post 69  
Margaret Galvin  
Phyllis and Rhonda Roberts  
Steve Leach  
Marilyn Ficalora  
Jack Frielingsdorf  
Debbie Craig  
State of Vermont Treasure's Office  
Priscilla Lanpher  
Joel Whiting  
Northeast Kingdom Eagles Ladies Auxiliary #4329  
Nicole Breault

**In Memory of John Hamilton**

Wesley Baker Living Trust

**In Memory of Richard Vitagliano**

Melanie & Jonathan Perry  
Carole Ann Thorp

**THANK YOU  
CRIPPEN-FELLOWS UNIT 50**

for the wide variety of items donated for the  
enjoyment and use by our Veterans and  
Members. Jewelry, toiletries, lounge pants  
and blankets, lap blankets and socks were  
just a sampling of the gifts too numerous to  
mention.

**VFW POST 1332  
THANK YOU**

for the complimentary tickets to your special  
events, such as dinners and music events for  
our independent Veterans and Members.  
Some of our residents have already taken  
advantage of your generous offers!

**VVH Staff Recognition  
Years of Service**

**ACTIVITIES**

Michelle Hunt — 18 years  
Samantha Caron — 6 years

**ADMINISTRATION**

Asa Morin, COO — 9 years  
Marion Ryberg — 11 years

**CLEANING, HOUSEKEEPING, LAUNDRY**

Rick Cottrell — 18 years  
Belinda Matte — 12 years

**DIETARY**

Carla Lambert — 10 years  
Jordan Ross — 1 year

**ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**

John Boulger — 18 years  
Jon Endres — 9 years  
Anthony Antonio — 6 years  
Stephen Bennett — 4 years  
Robert LaBrake — 2 years

**FINANCE**

Althea Kane — 6 years

**NURSING**

Melissa Hurt — 30 years  
Courtney Zazzaro — 14 years  
Jessica Godspeed — 9 years  
Danielle Record — 9 years  
Shannyn MacVicar — 4 years  
Tara Bills — 3 years

**Social Services**

Aisling Taft — 2 years





### 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 (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](mailto: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.

Fidget Blankets

Crafts

Neck Pillows

Aromatherapy Lotions

Relaxation Oils

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

A former Sergeant in the Marine Corps took a new job as a high school teacher.

Just before the school year started, he injured his back. He was required to wear a plaster cast around the upper part of his body. Fortunately, the cast fit under his shirt and wasn't noticeable.

On the first day of class, he found himself assigned to the toughest students in the school. The smart punks, having already heard the new teacher was a former Marine, were leery of him and he knew they would be testing his discipline in the classroom.

Walking confidently into the rowdy classroom, the new teacher opened the window wide and sat down at his desk. When a strong breeze made his tie flap, he picked up a stapler and stapled the tie to his chest.

Dead silence...

The rest of the year went very smoothly.



Vermont Veterans' Home  
325 North Street  
Bennington, VT 05201



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

