

The

BUZZ

WORD

Volume	Issue	12
	14	
December	2023	



I Love You

a BUSHEL
• AND A PECK •
* AND a hug *
AROUND THE NECK •
• * • *

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



This time of year is full of many activities and events at VVH. I extend an invitation to you and your family to join us at these activities.

Once again, we are excited to invite family members to join their loved ones for Christmas Dinner. This is our noon-time meal on Christmas Day. The first guest is free and additional guests are \$10 per person. Reservations are required and can be made with the receptionist. The deadline for reservations is December 13th.

Asa, Jon Endres, Sam Caron, Jamie Sherman, Aisling Taft and I traveled to Maine Veterans' Home in Augusta, Maine at the end of November. The purpose of this visit was to see a newly constructed State Veterans' Home and to gather some ideas for our A Wing project. Starting in January, I will have a special column that provides regular updates on the project. We are currently in the beginning of the design phase with the anticipated groundbreaking of January of 2025.

I wish you and your family a wonderful holiday season.

Take Care, Melissa

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

What is going on at the Veterans' Home in December? Check this list!

- 3rd—Whirling Twirlers
- 6th—American Legion Auxiliary Unit 13 - Ladies Holiday Tea
- 6th—Community Tree Lighting at 5:30 pm at the front gazebo
- 16th—Wreaths Across America, VVH Cemetery
Donation Weekend
- 25th—Family Christmas Dinner at 12:00 pm (noon)

January

- 1st—Vermont Veterans' Home New Year's Day Family Dinner
(see donations page for details)



From the Deputy Administrator
Asa Morin



To Our Veterans' Home Families:

There are many dates to celebrate in December, however, I would like to focus on December 5th, International Volunteer Day. Here at the VVH, we are fortunate to have many devoted volunteers who improve the quality of life of the Veterans and members. From retired staff who continue to come in almost every day, to the many MAU High School students who have worked in Activities and in Dietary this year, to the people who bring in therapy animals, to others who stop by every so often to give their time and talents. There are many opportunities for volunteerism at the VVH. If you are interested in volunteering in any capacity, please reach out to me at: asa.morin@vermont.gov or 802-447-6544.



In 2023 for International Volunteer Day, the United Nations recognizes the power of collective action: IF EVERYONE DID.

If everyone volunteered, the world would be a better place.

To our past, present and future volunteers –
Thank you!



Asa Morin, MSW, LICSW, LNHA

Deputy Administrator/COO/CCO

(802) 447-6544

asa.morin@vermont.gov



American Legion Auxiliary Unit 13 President, Darlene Cumm, presents a WW II memorial cap to a VVH veteran who fought in that war. Other members of the Legion, as well as Rep. Mary Morrissey, joined in the recognition.



Michele accepts freshly baked, yummy and delicious desserts for the Veterans and Members from members of the MAUHS Interact Club.



Michele displays the beautiful pine cone wreath created by Kim Mihuta. The various pine cones were actually gathered on the VVH grounds.



The Boston ROADDOCS of Housatonic, MA donated 100 Tee shirts and casual shirts for our residents.

Pictured L-R: Event organizer Ed Ostrander, Tony Velasquez, Jen Mifflin, Ed Fonseca, Mike Walczak, Kelli Walczak, Patricia Hemenway and Charles Spirydowski, President.

The mission of the EMS ROADDOCS is to promote a spirit of camaraderie among members of emergency services and those closely associated with the medical community through the common interest of motorcycling, hosting and supportingcharitable programs within our communities, etc.



Preschool Teachers Destiny and Grace of The Seacoast Community School of Portsmouth, NH spent time talking with their preschool students about the importance of the brave men and women who serve, or had served in the military.

After having read “The Wall” by Eve Bunting the following comments were made by the 4 and 5 year old children.

The military makes me happy.

I would give you a flower, because I hope it would make you feel happy.

The Book is sad. The soldier didn't have legs. And the book is happy because the boy got to have a paper with his (grandfather's) name.

I felt happy when the girls with flags walked by them.

If I could do something for a Veteran, I would say thank you for protecting the city.

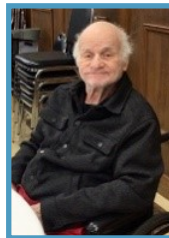
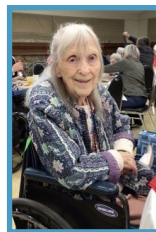
I would give the military transformers so they feel happy. Transformers make me happy. It's important you're happy too. It's kind.

I liked the story because the flags were there.

To the right are bookmarks made for the Veterans by the Sea Turtles, the preschool students.

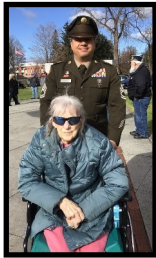


A SUPERB dinner sponsored and catered by BPOE 567–Bennington





Celebrating Veterans Day



PRESTON HAYES — A STORY of PATRIOTISM

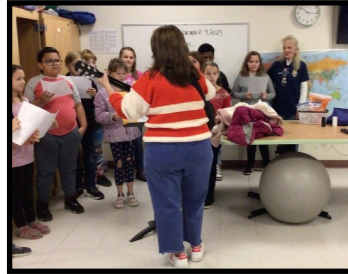


Preston started organizing the flag placements with Jon Endres, Director of Environmental Services, about 11 years ago for both Veterans Day and Memorial Day. Preston, who himself is a Veteran, began the tradition when he was an employee at Comcast and many other employees volunteered. Currently employees from the Town of Bennington, the State of Vermont, GMP and other families and their children help while Preston coordinates the team on this very emotional journey.

Brayden, Preston's son who is now 10, has been helping his father lay wreaths since he was 3 years old. Brayden is pictured holding a flag at his great-great grandparents' marker.



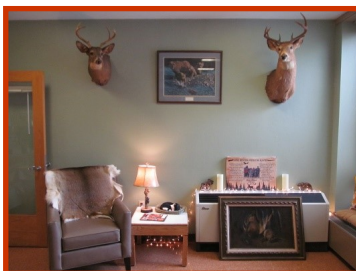
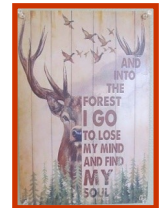
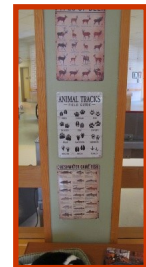
Students from **BENNINGTON ELEMETARY SCHOOL**, accompanied by Principal Richard Arroyo and Asst. Principal Benjamin Brownell, presented our Veterans and Members with cards in honor of Veterans Day. They also entertained the residents with a medley of songs including patriotic tunes.



Through the efforts of Laurie Dix (Unit Manager on American Way), Paul Yerke (Director of Nutritional Services), and generous donations from the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 13 and VFW Post Auxiliary 1332, the **HUNTING LODGE** started as a dream and became a reality with a Ribbon Cutting ceremony.



Laurie Dix & Rep. Morrissey cut the ribbon

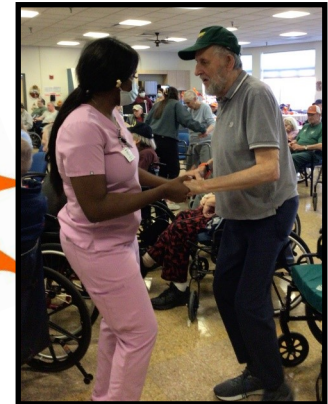




Two of the young men playing guitars are the sons of Christina Cosgrove, VVH Director of Behavioral Health.



Rockin' and rollin'
with
**MAPLE
ROW**
From Long Trail
School



TACONIC CHAMBER PLAYERS



The musicians: Joana Genova, Heather Braun, Ariel Rudiakov and Nathaniel Parke performed an Irish Jig, chamber music, international melodies, show tunes, toe tappers and ended with a rousing rendition of The Devil Went Down to Georgia by Charlie Daniels.

The versatility was astounding—and the Veterans and Members very much enjoyed the different genres.

**Thank
You**



On behalf of the
Veterans and
Members, we
sincerely thank
the following for

their very generous donations:

Phyllis & Rhonda Roberts
American Legion Auxiliary Unit 13-Bennington
American Legion Auxiliary Unit 39-Poultney
VFW Auxiliary #778—Swanton
VFW Auxiliary #6471-Manchester Center
VFW Post Auxiliary 1332—Bennington
Interact Club at Mt. Anthony Union HS
Marilyn Ficalora
Kim Mihuta
Seacoast Community School
Coleen Zimpfer
Brattleboro DAR
Students of Dover School
Twin Valley Middle & High School Students
grades 6 through 10
Mrs. Kenyon's 2nd Grade - Shaftsbury Elementary
Readsboro Community Library
John Lyons
Bennington Senior Center
Rev. Dr. Fred Freitas
Children's Church at Harvest
Boston Roaddocs
Seth Warner-Rhonda Ferrand, NSDAR
Marcel Grenier
Bennington Elementary School
VNA & Hospice of Southwest Region
Mt. Anthony Middle School
Grace Christian School
Shaftsbury Elementary School c/o Ms. Umphlett
John Coffin
John and Lisa Hango
Champlain Valley Christian School
Franklin Elementary School
Masonic Service Association of N. America

**VERMONT VETERANS' HOME
NEW YEAR'S DAY FAMILY DINNER**

When: Monday, January 1 at 12:00 pm
(noon)

What: One (1) free guest, \$10.00 each
additional Guest

**RESERVATIONS and
PRE-PAYMENT ARE REQUIRED**

RSVP by Wednesday, December 13 to:
VVHAdmissions@vermont.gov
or

call the Receptionist at 802-447-6510.
(Receptionist will collect payment)

Make checks payable to: VVH

Menu: Pork Tenderloin Medallions w/
Spiced Apples / Stuffed Sole
Rosemary Roasted Red Potato
Asparagus
Assorted Desserts

**VVH Staff Recognition
Years of Service**

ACTIVITIES

Kelly Brown — 34 years

ADMINISTRATION

Melinda Crowl — 22 years

NURSING

Eunice Rice — 14 years

Jodi Abbott — 1 year



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 The Buzz Word

♦ 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

Due to your generosity, we **no longer need** fidget blankets or wheel chair bags.

We will accept
only new or like-new
Books and Puzzles



Craft Items or Kits
Neck Pillows
Aromatherapy Lotions
Relaxation Oils

Your donations are gratefully accepted.
Please make the check for monetary donations to:

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

We are still not accepting: CDs 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.

MONETARY 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 Players

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 wreaths for the wreath-laying ceremony

Freedom Park:

Cardinal Point outdoor area enhancement and improvement

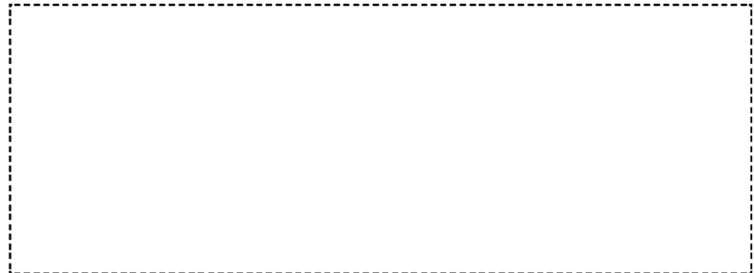


thank
you

The VFW
Auxiliary Unit
6471 of
Manchester
Center
donated
cases of
Depends.



Vermont Veterans' Home
325 North Street
Bennington, VT 05201



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



THE VERMONT VETERANS' HOME CHRISTMAS FAMILY DINNER



When: Monday, December 25 at 12:00 pm (noon)

What: One (1) free guest, \$10.00 each additional Guest

RESERVATIONS and PRE-PAYMENT ARE REQUIRED

RSVP by Wednesday, December 13 to VVHAdmissions@vermont.gov
or call the Receptionist at 802-447-6510. (Receptionist will collect payment)

Make checks payable to: VVH



What is on the menu you ask? Beef medallions / baked ham, roasted root vegetables, baked potato / baked sweet potato and assorted desserts.