

The BUZZ WORD

Volume
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2024



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Age is merely the number of years the world has been enjoying you

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 New Year



I hope each of you had a wonderful holiday season. The staff did a wonderful job making the holidays memorable at VVH. As we enter 2024, we have several projects that continue or will be started this year. We are finishing up the security project and the call bell system. We plan to install a putting green on the front lawn between the gazebo and the Commandant's House. The money for this project was donated prior to COVID by then American Legion Auxiliary President Linda Farmer; look for a ribbon cutting/dedication ceremony around Memorial Day.

We are bringing our simulation lab online. This lab has a computerized mannequin that will allow our staff to demonstrate their nursing competencies, train staff on new skills and provide refreshers on skills as needed. This mannequin can even interact with staff providing real life scenarios.

Quarterly Family Council Meetings will continue in 2024. They will take place at 6pm on March 13th, June 12th, September 11th and December 11th via Zoom. The link is as follows:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86882621396?pwd=eWxFOFZoS3FLdGFFTWlnT0VuejVFZz09>

Wishing you all the best in 2024, Melissa

Melissa A. Jackson, MBA, FACHCA

Chief Executive Officer

www.vvh.vermont.gov

AMERICAN WAY CONSTRUCTION UPDATE — JANUARY



Several members of the VVH staff made trips to Maine and Massachusetts to see new State Veterans Homes there. From these visits, we developed a wish list for what we would like to see in our new wing. The architects are in the process of developing plans for this wing. Construction is not scheduled to start until January 2025.



It is with a heavy heart that we say good-bye to Michelle who had been an integral member of the Activities Department.



She had touched so many lives over the 18 years she had been at the VVH and will surely be missed by many, especially the Veterans and Members she had led in song, trivia, exercise and other activities. We wish her well on her new endeavors.

From the Deputy Administrator
Asa Morin



To Our Veterans' Home Families:

In January we celebrate National Activity Professionals Week, from the 23rd to the 27th. Here at the VVH, we are blessed to have the best Activities Department, who are kind, caring and compassionate and who provide creative, innovative, and FUN activities all year round. We also have them to thank for the beautiful holiday decorations that bring such joy and holiday spirit.

I want to thank Michele B., Kelly, Rae, Sam, Sarah, Ginny, Holly, Leslie, Hayden, Alexis, and Amber for all their hard work. I also want to say thank you and send well wishes to Michelle Hunt (see page 3).

“The quality of life is determined by its activities” – Aristotle

Asa

Asa Morin, MSW, LICSW, LNHA

Deputy Administrator/COO/CCO

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Asa and Michele are pictured with Crystal Eastman Ketchum and her daughters who brought many gifts including 5 wagons, not pictured, loaded with gifts for the VVH residents. A business woman and an active mom, Crystal made the donation in memory of her mother, Linda

Eastman, who had passed away at a young age.



Melissa and Asa thank the members of the Bennington Rotary Club for all the goodies they brought for VVH residents.



Northeastern Baptist College came a-caroling inside and outside the VVH spreading cheer and joy.



American Legion Auxiliary of Bennington brought 235 bags of cookies for the staff to enjoy. The ladies baked over 700 cookies to brighten our days.



The Green Mountain Bull Dawg Chapter of the Antique Truck Club of America and VT State Troopers brought a Christmas tree, donated by Don Keelan, for the front porch of the Home. The residents asked that it be moved to the gazebo enabling Veterans and Members to see it from their rooms. Challenge Coins were also given to be distributed to the Veterans. L-R: Jim White, Trooper Travis Hess, Board Member Mike diMonda, Asa Morin, COO, Rep. Mary Morrissey, Don Keelan, Trooper Ryan Criss, Trooper Daniel Krzeminski, LT. Steven Coote and David Zsido. Not Pictured Phillip Burnham.

Steve Leach and Bill Jones of the VFW—Poultney, give a donation of gift bags for the Veterans and Members. Melissa, CEO, also accepts a personal donation from past VFW Commander Steve.



Lap blankets, hats, scarves, mittens, neck pillows and quilts were made by the Ladies of the American Legion Unit 50 of Bomoseen. With Melissa, CEO, are Unit 50 President, Mary Lee Harris, Phyllis Blanchard and Darlene Cumm, American Legion Bennington.



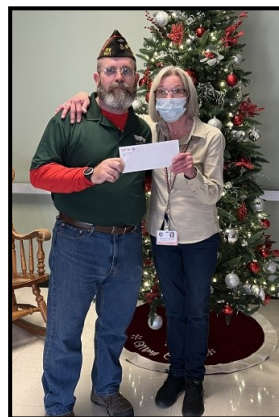
Michele accepts Christmas decorations from her sister-in-law, Terry Shaw & Terry's mom, Doris Leblanc.



Kate made a surprise visit to the Home with Isabell, the therapy Beagle and Bob, the Therapy Cat.



Tom Jackson of the VFW, presents a generous donation with Michele receiving the gift on behalf of the VVH.



Dora and Leslie Holvy made a very thoughtful donation given to the Resident Council.



Mary & Steve show off Thanksgiving turkeys - thank you **gifts from The Board of Trustees of the VVH** to the staff for their exemplary service and dedication to the Veterans & Members.

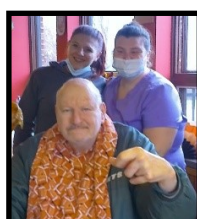
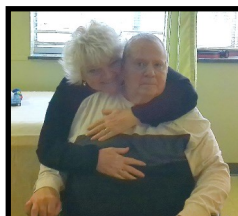
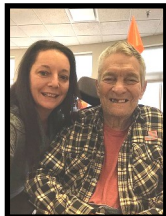
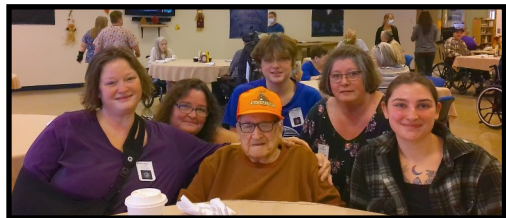


Quentyn receives one of the challenge coins from Asa, COO.

Quentyn said, "It takes people working together to produce the tree. It carries a good Christmas Spirit."



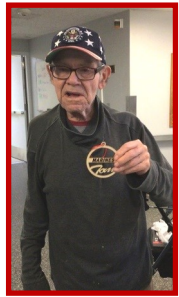
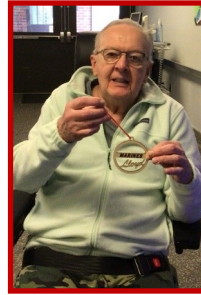
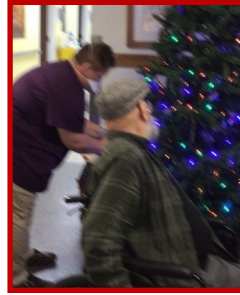
**A SUPERB THANKSGIVING DINNER WAS CREATED BY THE
CULINARY GENIUSES OF VVH NUTRITIONAL SERVICES**



AND SERVED BY THE EXCEPTIONAL VVH STAFF



The residents of Brandon Boulevard received special, personalized ornaments custom made by Frank Gaudette, husband of Lisa, an LPN on Brandon. The ornaments made lovely decorations for the tree.



The MISSION:
REMEMBER the fallen.
HONOR those who serve and their families.
TEACH the next generation about the value of freedom.

On a wet, snowy, cold day, 42 boxes of wreaths were delivered by Jason Westcott of NFI trucking and unloaded by nine volunteers pictured below left. The Bennington Composite Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol assisted in raising funds for the 495 wreaths.



On Saturday, December 16, Melissa Jackson, CEO, outlined the ceremony: an Invocation, presentation of the Colors, a short history and meaning of the day and presentation of the ceremonial wreaths, one for each branch of service and POW/MIA. As the wreaths were laid on the graves, the names on the tombstones were read out loud by the estimated 100 volunteers.



Community Tree Lighting & SANTA and MRS. CLAUS



Hot
Chocolate,
Cookies,
MAUHS
singing
Christmas
Carols and
Santa!
What a
perfect
night!!



V
F
W





Catered and Served by American Legion Auxiliary Unit 13



Leslie Howard is a child of a WWII Veteran and wanted to show her support for his Brothers in Arms.

She donated her hand-made beautiful afghans and lap blankets in red, white and blue to honor her Dad.

Darlene Cumm, President of the American Legion Auxiliary presented the donation from the Arlington American Legion Auxiliary Unit 69.

The stockings are just the "tip of the iceberg" so to speak as many other gifts were hidden in the tote below.





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

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 13—Bennington
Crippen Fellows American Legion Auxiliary Unit 50—Bomoseen
American Legion Auxiliary Unit 69—Arlington
American Legion Auxiliary Unit 59—Waterbury
American Legion Auxiliary Unit 90—Pownal
J. Clair Carmody American Legion Auxiliary Unit 39—Poultney
Ballard-Hobart American Legion Auxiliary Unit 36
American Legion Post 13
VFW Post 798 Auxiliary—Newport
Jeffrey S. Holmes Post 84—White River Jct. VFW Post 771
Hamed—Fowler VFW Post 6471
VFW Auxiliary Post 1332
VFW Post 1332—Bennington
VFW Post 7823—Addison County
VFW Auxiliary 778 c/o Melissa Levick
Blue Spruce Grange #574
Ann Story Chapter DAR—Rutland
Phyllis & Rhonda Roberts
Council on Aging
Northeastern Baptist College
Cub Scout Pack 330 c/o Elizabeth Skidmore
Kate and her therapy beagle and cat
Kaman Composites c/o Tim & Ann Tift
Engineered Printing Solutions c/o J. Glover
Rosemary Lyndsey
Joseph Fitzgerald
Julanne Sharrow
Brattleboro DAR c/o Stella Stevens
Jamie Southworth
Debbie Craig
Leslie Howard
Terry Shaw & Doris LeBlanc
Anne Perry
Susan Hopp
Vermont Paws & Boots c/o Michelle LeBlanc
Rosalie Boland
Ormsby Chapter NSDAR
Stephen Leach
Dora & Lesley Holvy
MAUHS Chorus
Mt. Anthony Union Middle School-6th Grade
Mt. Anthony Union Middle School—Horizon Team
Castleton Elementary School—4th Grade
Dover Elementary School—3rd Grade
Grace Christian School
Pownal Elementary School c/o Sophia Zampini
Stamford School c/o Ms. Sherman
Volunteers for Wreaths Across America
Joseph Bouffard
Arlington Lions Club
Terry Lynn Gervais
Cathy McWilliam
Green Mountain Bull Dawgs

Poultney American Legion Riders
Readsboro Library c/o Cyndi Candiloro
RSVP & Volunteer Center of Rutland c/o Maryesa White, Dir.
Serenity Singers
DAR Ethan & Mary Ellen Baker Chapter c/o Cynthia Bushey
Red Mountain Chapter #41 OES c/o K. Cotrofeld, Sec.
Noel & Lesley Olin
Kathy Manzaletk
Vermont State Employees Association (VSEA)
VNA Hospice c/o Christine
Vergennes Leo Club
Silverbells c/o Crystal E. Ketchum & daughters
Rotary International—Bennington
Frank Gaudette

IN MEMORY OF RICHARD CORSETTI

William and Andrea Hogan
Elizabeth Levesque/Levesque Family Rev Trust

IN MEMORY OF ROSEMARY LILLIE

Deborah & John Williams

IN MEMORY OF LINDA BOUFFARD

Mike Soulia & Marie Bouffard

IN MEMORY OF MARILYN KENYON

Neil Kenyon

VVH Staff Recognition Years of Service

ADMINISTRATION

Melissa Jackson, CEO — 13 years
Kim Denny-Telford — 16 years

Cleaning, Housekeeping & Laundry

Dawn Leonard — 12 years
Lena Stearns — 5 years

NURSING

Dawn Keus — 30 years
Ann Carbin — 8 Years
Sheila Floyd — 8 Years
Anne Hatton — 7 years
Kayla Perkins — 6 years
Sandra Quackenbush — 3 years
Kelsey Russell — 1 year

NUTRITIONAL SERVICES

Lawrence Goldwyn — 19 years
Paul Yerke — 4 years



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 overwhelming generosity, we no longer need blankets, lap blankets or afghans.

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

Appreciated by Veterans and Members:

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**

Please include the purpose in the "memo".

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



Tim Tift, Kaman Composites, gives Asa, VVH COO, a generous donation to the Activities Fund.





Vermont Veterans' Home
325 North Street
Bennington, VT 05201



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

**A Holiday Message to Vermont Veterans' Home (VVH) employees,
volunteers, advocates, community stakeholders and agency staff**

On behalf of YOUR Board of Trustees, I want to wish each of you and your families and loved ones a Happy Holiday Season and our Best Wishes for a safe and prosperous 2024!

The VVH's reputation as one of the best nursing homes in Vermont and the country, is a testament to your competency and compassion!

Regardless of what department you work in, VVH employees and agency staff have played an important role in ensuring the health, welfare and well-being of our Home's residents and helped to "Fulfill the Promise" to Vermont veterans, their spouses and Gold Star parents.

The Board recognizes your dedication to service, and we thank you for what you do every day!

Gary M. De Gasta, COL USA (Ret.), President
for/The Board of Trustees of the Vermont Veterans' Home