

The BUZZ WORD

Volume **Issue** 3
15
March 2024



The advantage of being
eighty years old
is that one has many
people to love.



Jean Renoir

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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MARCH

From the Administrator—Melissa Jackson



Greetings,

After 47 and ½ years at VVH, our Activities Director, Michele Burgess, is retiring. Michele has been an integral part of the fabric of VVH and will be dearly missed. I have referred to Michele as the VVH Historian as she can tell you about taking care of World War I Veterans, the various building additions, and the change in care and services during her tenure. On behalf of everyone at VVH, I wish Michele a wonderful retirement.

In the next several months, the Veterans Administration will be screening all Veterans for possible exposure to toxic substances. We do not have a date for this screening but will share this information once we have established the dates and times. The screening will take place at VVH. We will be asking the VA to provide us with a copy of the screening so we can help our Veterans and you be prepared for their screening.

Some important things to know about this screening:

- The VA will conduct this screening every 5 years.
- The screening is a series of questions that should take between 5 and 10 minutes.
- This is not a diagnostic screening process. The purpose is to identify and document any potential exposure to toxic substances.
- Being screened is separate from joining any VA registry of toxic exposure.

Detailed information on this process can be found at the following link: [Fast facts about new toxic exposure screening for Veterans - VA News](#)

Take Care, Melissa

Melissa A. Jackson, MBA, FACHCA

Chief Executive Officer

www.vvh.vermont.gov

Our residents:



78 Male Veterans
2 Female Veterans

Purple Heart: 3
Never Married: 17

WWII: 3
Korea: 11
Vietnam: 46
Gulf: 3
Desert Storm/Shield: 1
Peacetime: 14
Multiple: 3
Unknown: 5

Army: 37
Navy: 24
Marine: 9
Air Force: 11
Coast Guard: 0
Merchant Marine: 0
Multiple: 2
Unknown: 1
Spouses: 17



NAME THE EAGLES CONTEST

A nesting pair of Bald Eagles has become a regular site at the grounds of the Home and maybe it is time to give them names.

RULES:

- ◇ A name for the male
- ◇ A name for the female
- ◇ Names should have historic significance
- ◇ A brief note why you chose the name

Entries can be dropped off in boxes located on the neighborhoods or the Activity Room suggestion box.

Deadline for all entries will be April 1 (no fooling!). See Melinda Crowl for more information. Contest is open to Veterans, Members, Staff, as well as families and friends of the residents. Entry forms will be available on all neighborhoods and in the Activity Room.

Veterans and Members will vote at the Resident Council meeting on April 3rd at 11am in the Activity Room. All Veterans and Members are welcome.

VVH HISTORY: THE FIRST SUPERINTENDENT

Sergeant **Robert John Coffey** (December 15, 1842 – July 9, 1901) was a Canadian soldier who fought in the American Civil War. Coffey received the United States' highest award for bravery during combat, the Medal of Honor, for his action during the Battle of Salem Church in Virginia on 4 May 1863. He was honored with the award on 13 May 1892. He single-handedly captured two (2) officers and 5 privates of the 8th Louisiana Regiment (Confederate States of America).^{[1][2]}



Coffey was born in Saint John, New Brunswick, on 15 December 1842. At the outbreak of the war he first enlisted into the 2nd Vermont Volunteer Regiment on 3 May 1861, serving for three months. He mustered into the 4th Vermont Infantry on 10 September of that year. He was promoted to 3rd Sergeant within this company and participated in several battles including the Siege of Yorktown (1862), Battle of Antietam, Battle of Gettysburg, Battle of Fredericksburg and the Battle of Funkstown. On 4 May 1863 he performed an act of bravery during the Battle of Salem Church, for which he earned a Medal of Honor.^[3]

Following the war Coffey married Demis Hattie Burnham, with whom he had one child. He was involved in the hotel business in several Vermont towns and also worked as a traveling salesman. When the Vermont Soldiers' Home was established in Bennington in 1887, the Board of Trustees unanimously chose him to serve as its first superintendent. He was also a longtime member of the Vermont National Guard and attained the rank of colonel as a member of Governor Urban A. Woodbury's military staff.

Coffey died in Bennington on July 9, 1901, and his remains are interred at Green Mount Cemetery in Montpelier, Vermont.^{[3][4]}

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert_J._Coffey

Trust in God

Faith lets us lose our fear and trust God for the impossible

Hebrews 11:1-7

Faith is not a passive belief. It is an active confidence that stirs within our soul—an unwavering trust in God's promises and a firm conviction about His trustworthiness. When we are surrounded by uncertainty, our faith guides us and illuminates the path.

Verse 1 of today's passage says, "Now faith is the certainty of things hoped for, a proof of things not seen." Those words can be viewed as an encouraging invitation to dwell in trust which steadies the heart and anchors the soul. They are also a reminder that our hope rests in a loving and sovereign God.

In times of trials and challenges, faith becomes our refuge, whispering, "Don't be afraid, for God is with you." It motivates us to step out in obedience, even if doing so seems impossible. And it empowers us to face adversity with courage, knowing that God is working all things together for our good.

The Lord calls us to walk by faith (2 Corinthians 5:7) and surrender our doubts and fears to Him. He wants us to believe His promises even when circumstances seem bleak; trusting in Him lets us see beyond the visible to the eternal. We will then find strength, peace and the presence of our loving God guiding us every step of the way.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Exercise — having fun



with Kelly



and Rae Ann



SUPREME TRIPLE CHUNK BROWNIES ANYONE?

Rae Ann mixes the batter and prepares the brownies for the oven. When done, residents get a choice of a dollop of ice cream, chocolate sauce, a spritz of whipped cream and a Hershey's chocolate kiss. Most said YES to everything.

it's a party



BROWNIES



←
BEFORE

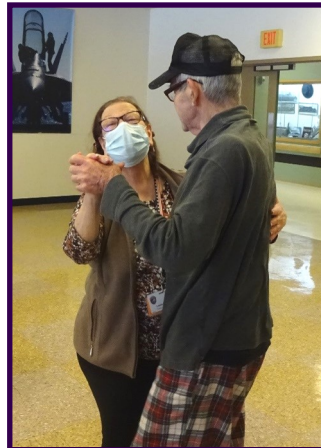
→
AFTER



Harmonic Duo



Valentine's Dance



MAKE YOUR OWN PIZZA DAY



Give me a minute I'm thinking..



There's a new game in town... or is it just on Brandon? Ed plays **"Head Hoops"** with Rae Ann from Activities.

Lisa, a Nurse on Brandon, found the activity and Rae Ann was a willing volunteer. You gotta ask: "What will the staff come up with next?"



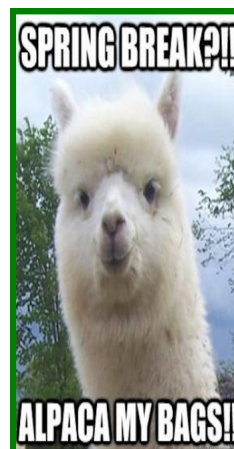
TO: VETERANS, MEMBERS, FAMILIES & FRIENDS

If you have scheduled a medical appointment for a resident, please let our friendly Scheduler know.

Contact: **TAMMY SHIELDS**

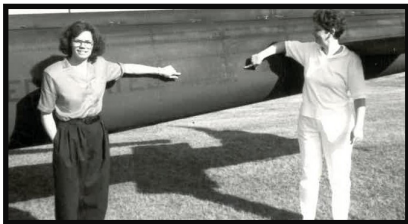
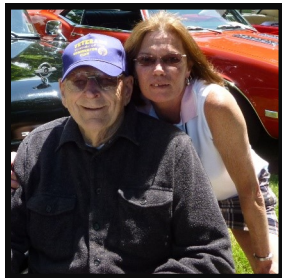
802.447.6542

Tammy.shields@vermont.gov



MICHELE BURGESS

1977-2024

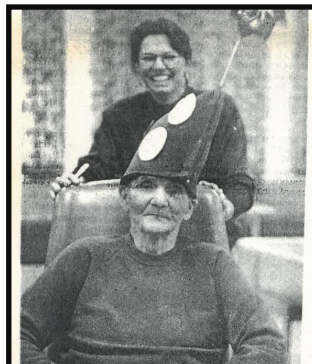
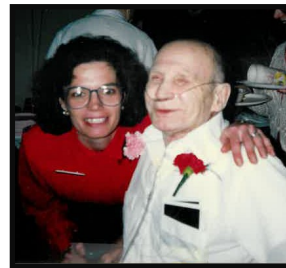


Best wishes

A Tribute for
47 1/2 years
of dedicated
service to
VVH
Veterans and
Members



Farewell!





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

Skip Reed
Willard's Market DAR
Phyllis & Rhonda Roberts
Joy Minns
VFW Auxiliary #758-St. Albans
American Legion Aux. Unit 13-Bennington
Elizabeth Cunningham
Pownal Elementary School
Shaftsbury Preschool c/o G. Marony
Sunderland Elementary School
McCullough Free Library
Nat'l Society of Colonial Dames-Manchester
Federated Church of E. Arlington
Girl Scout Troop 30228
Abuela's Plant Boutique & Floral Design
Casella Waste System
YMCA (Bennington Rec. Center)
Janet B. Nido
Marcia E. Clinton
USI Alliance Corporation
James Clark
Fran Endres

COMING EVENTS

MARCH 3 — Sunday
Taconic Music at 1:30 pm
(Patriot Hall)

MARCH 10 — Sunday
Las Vegas Day at 1:30 pm
(Patriot Hall)

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 13 of Bennington delivered special Valentine's cards made by Sunderland Elementary School and special treats tied with red ribbon with the attached poem:

Roses are red,
Violets are blue,
The freedom we have today
is because of YOU!

Thank you for your service to our Country.



L-R American Legion Aux. VP, Donna Stone, Paula Colbert, Darlene Cumm, AL Aux Pres. & Michele, Activities

VVH Staff Recognition Years of Service

ADMINISTRATION

Steve McClafferty — 12
Tammy Shields — 10 years
Lorraine Blanchfield — 1 year

CHL

Michelle Mabee — 4 year

NURSING

Robert Welch — 22 years
Jennifer Sausville — 10 Years
Diana Kingsley — 9 Years
Christina Campbell — 6 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

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 Fund:

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:

Music and Memory Players

Veteran's Mobility Trail Fund:

Monetary donations toward a paved walkway around the perimeter of the VVH

Wreaths for Veterans Fund:

Donations will go towards the purchase of wreaths for the wreath-laying ceremony

Freedom Park Fund:

Cardinal Point outdoor area enhancement and improvement

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.



**A Kiss
without a
Hug
is like
a Flower
without a
Scent.**

Richard Dame



Vermont Veterans' Home
325 North Street
Bennington, VT 05201



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

NATIONAL SOCIAL WORK/BEHAVIORAL HEALTH MONTH

celebrates social workers' constant contributions to our society. They enter the profession because they truly want to help others. They do the delicate, but important, work of meeting people where they are and helping them achieve their goals. Social workers are uniquely qualified and also trained to help communities, individuals and families handle personal and group troubles.

These professionals use psychology and sociology to solve social issues and improve individual lives – and it is no easy feat! And they strive every day to improve the quality of life for a Veteran or Member and advocate on their behalf.

Please take time to recognize our VVH Social Workers and thank them for the great things they do.



Anthony Andrea



Chad Foster



Christina Cosgrove, Director



Aisling Taft



Not pictured Kelly Hayes