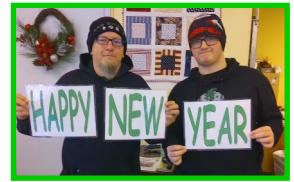


The

BUZZ

WORD

Volume Issue 1
16
January 2025



From Our Home to Yours



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!!

As I celebrate my 14th year at VVH, I am just as excited today as I was on January 3, 2011, when I first started here. 2024 has been an incredible year for VVH. The facility had many achievements in 2024.

We received the America Health Care’s Bronze Quality Award. We were recognized by U.S. News and World Report as providing Best in Class Long-Term and Short-Term Care. There is only one other nursing home in the State of Vermont to receive both recognitions.

We graduated 7 LNAs from an LNA class this summer and currently have 5 students in another class that will graduate late winter. Activities Director, Marjorie LaFountain, has brought new life into our Activities Program resulting in more programs that bring the community to VVH to interact with our Veterans and Members as well as getting our Veterans and Members back into the community. Greg Krizan now leads our Maintenance Department and is working hard on many improvement projects and ensuring his department has the supplies and tools they need.

Our A-Wing construction project has been delayed due to the overall cost of the project. We could have decided to scale back the project but that would have resulted in losing the small house, home-like model we want for our new memory care unit. Instead, we are applying for additional VA funding so we can build the project as designed.

I want to thank you for entrusting VVH with your care or the care of your loved one. I appreciate your trust in our staff.

Wishing you a wonderful 2025,

Take care, Melissa

Melissa A. Jackson, MBA, FACHCA

Chief Executive Officer

www.vvh.vermont.gov

ACTIVITIES

Marjorie LaFountain — 1 year

ADMINISTRATION

Melissa Jackson — 14 years

BEHAVIORAL SERVICES

Chad Foster — 1 year

CLEANING, HOUSEKEEPING, LAUNDRY

Kim Denny-Telford — 17 years
Dawn Leonard — 13 years
Lena Sterns — 6 years



DIETARY

Lawrence Goldwyn — 20 years
Paul Yerke — 5 years
Peter Cavanaugh — 1 year
Carter Mead — 1 year
Kanwara Santoostaroam — 1 year

NURSING

Ann Carbin — 9 years
Sheila Floyd — 9 years
Anne Hatton — 8 years
Sandra Quackenbush — 4 years
Kelsey Russell — 2 years
Carolyn Crawford — 1 year





Kitty & Gary Lewis, Bennington Elks #567, brought a myriad of wrapped gifts for the Vets and Members.



Anita Pratt (L) donated very colorful and cozy crocheted hats & afghans.

Paws and Boots brought quite an assortment of gifts of candy, clothing & stationery items. Kneeling: Owner & operator Michelle LeBlanc, Darlene Cumm, AL Aux. President, Jamie, Rep. Mary Morrissey and Ann LeBlanc.



Thank You

Steve Leach (R) presents Melissa, CEO, with 85 gift bags, 50 pins and other gifts for the VVH residents. Steve also made a generous personal donation.



American Legion Auxiliary Unit 13 was very busy taking care of the VVH staff with cookies, and a cake for our Veterans.

Heather Kinney and her Christmas helper (Bank of Bennington) deliver VVH Wish List items.



Veterans celebrate the 388th birthday of the National Guard, December 13.





Author Norman VanCor

Norman VanCor (right), Marine Sargeant, visited with Frank and discussed his book entitled:
Swift Silent Deadly

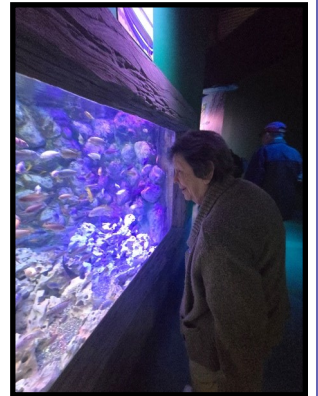
The story chronicles his missions into the jungles of Vietnam with his team and about the mental state of being at war. His experiences are the heart and soul of the book.



This ain't no FISH story

Veterans and Members took a trip to the VIA Aquarium in Schenectady.

According to the website:
...“the aquarium celebrates aquatic biodiversity...designed to connect people of all ages with our planet’s aquatic ecosystems”..



The Green Mountain Bull Dawgs, with assistance from the Vermont State Troopers, brought the annual Christmas tree which was presented to Melissa, CEO, from Don Keelan from his private lot. The tree is displayed in the gazebo across from the front entrance for the visual enjoyment by residents. Challenge Coins were also given to be distributed to our Veterans.

(photo courtesy of the Bennington Banner)

WILLY WONKA AND THE OOMPA LOOMPA HALLOWEEN BASH



ON
CARDINAL
POINT



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Embracing New Beginnings

As we step into the New Year of 2025, we find ourselves at a pivotal moment filled with hope, reflection, and renewed purpose. It is a time to assess the past year, celebrate our accomplishments, and look forward to the opportunities that lie ahead. In this spirit of new beginnings, I am reminded of the words from Isaiah 43:19 (NKJV):

"Behold, I will do a new thing, now it shall spring forth; shall you not know it? I will even make a road in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."

This scripture speaks profoundly to the essence of starting anew. God's promise of renewal is a reminder that no matter the challenges we faced in the past, there is always the potential for transformation and growth. Just as God can create roads in the wilderness and rivers in the desert, He can also guide us through our personal challenges, revealing paths we may not have seen before.

As we gather in fellowship, let us reflect on the blessings of the past year while embracing the possibilities that 2025 brings. Each of us carries a unique story, filled with struggles and triumphs, and together, we can support one another in this journey of faith and healing. The New Year is a wonderful opportunity to set intentions, whether they be spiritual, personal, or communal.

I encourage each of you to take a moment for personal reflection. What new thing do you feel God is calling you to embrace this year? How can we, as a community, uplift one another in these endeavors? Let us approach this year with open hearts and minds, ready to witness the new things God is prepared to do in our lives and within our community.

May this New Year be filled with peace, joy, and the assurance that we are never alone on our journey. Together, let us walk forward into 2025 with hope and faith, trusting in the promise of God's unfailing love.



Blessings to you all in this New Year!

Chaplain Rick



UNLOADING THE WREATHS: 46 boxes each holding 10 wreaths





Wreaths Across America




December 14
 VVH Veterans &
 Members, staff,
 Board members,
 and our community

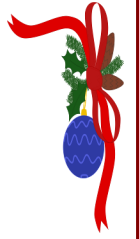












You better watch out.



You better not cry.



You better not pout,



I'm telling you why...





CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING



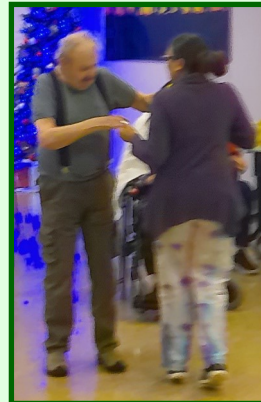
Veterans and Members were treated to a medley of favorite Christmas carols sung by many of the local school choruses and school children.



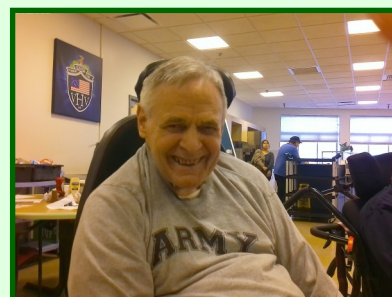
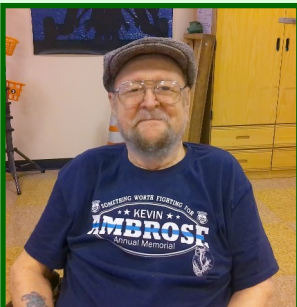
The Resident Council's toy drive was extremely successful collecting 225 toys due to the generosity of the VVH staff and a very generous donation from the DAV.



Vets suggest a new kitchen set for Paul, our Dietary supervisor!



Ray Gifford concert





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

Daughters of the Am. Revolution-Brattleboro
 Willard's Mountain DAR-Salem, NY
 Ormsby Chapter NSDAR
 Ethan & Mary Baker Allen DAR
 Paul LaFountain AL Auxiliary Unit 69-Arlington
 American Legion Auxiliary Unit 13-Bennington
 Jeffrey Holmes AL Post 84-White River Junction
 BPOE Chapter #567
 VFW Auxiliary-Department of Vermont
 VFW Auxiliary Unit 1332-Bennington
 VFW Auxiliary Unit 1034-Brattleboro
 VFW Auxiliary Unit 6471-Manchester Center
 VFW Auxiliary Unit 758-St. Albans
 VFW Auxiliary Post 778-St. Albans
 VFW Auxiliary 7823-Middlebury
 VFW Auxiliary Unit 9653-Lamoille County
 VFW Post 771-Springfield
 DAV Chapter 4-Bennington
 Red Mountain Chapter-Order of the Eastern Star
 Hannaford Supermarket
 Arlington Lions Club
 The Bank of Bennington
 Lloyd Blasen
 Dover Elementary School
 Phyllis & Rhonda Roberts
 Maureen Sprague
 Terry Lynn Gervais
 Paws & Boots
 Cathy McCuilliam
 Robert A. Farrara
 Larry & Cindy Miller
 Green Mountain Community School
 Steve Leach
 Arlington Memorial HS Community Service Club
 Anita Pratt
 Jim Quinlan
 Barbara Foote-Hennessy
 Maureen McDonald
 Myers Prouty Children's Campuses
 Julie M. Bransfield
 Ethan Smith
 Green Mountain Community School
 James Kinney

Beth Yandow
 William White
 Sophia Zampini
 Joann Lorman
 Nancy & Michael Morgan
 Mr. & Mrs. Kramer - In Honor of Donald Kramer

In Memory of Ed Ransom

Jane, Daniel & Michael Taylor

In Memory of William Praetorius

William Praetorius

In Memory of Lynn Mellish

Ruth & Terrence Keefe
 Peter & Judy Harrison
 Diane and John Potter

In Memory of William Bolton

James & Linda Billert
 Marilyn & Charles Boyle
 Sandra L. Burgess
 Charles & Elaine Cariola
 Gary & Judy Forrest
 Jay & Evelyn Iskowitz
 Katherine & Wallace Sheffer, Jr.



VVH Veterans
 Community Outreach
 share the holiday spirit
 delivering gifts to the
 residents of the CLR.



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

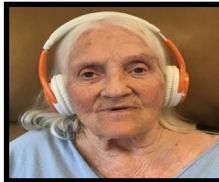
Robyn Boland
(802) 447-6523

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.



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

Appreciated by Veterans and Members:

Books of Stamps

Craft Items or Kits

Neck Pillows

Aromatherapy Lotions

Relaxation Oils

ATTENTION PLEASE—Make It or Build It Club is seeking donations of lumber, 2-4 feet in length, for projects. Various sizes are welcome.

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 not accepting: CDs or used clothing.

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

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 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:

Memory Music 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

Jesus Christ is king of our hearts

Jesus is a very different king

He rules with love

And selflessness

Shed his blood and died so

We could be free from sin

Maybe we can try to

Be more selfless and act

With more empathy like Him

This 2025

Happy new year to you all

ca Crawford



Vermont Veterans' Home
325 North Street
Bennington, VT 05201



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

