

The BUZZ WORD

Volume Issue 12
15
December 2024



Every time you smile at someone...
it's like giving them a little gift.



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:

Robyn Boland, Executive Assistant
robyn.boland@vermont.gov
802-447-6523



<http://vvh.vermont.gov>

Administration & Department Directors

Melissa Jackson: CEO/Administrator
447-6533
melissa.jackson@vermont.gov

Asa Whitcomb: COO/Deputy Administrator
447-6544
asa.whitcomb@vermont.gov

Donna Richards: Director of Nursing Services
447-6543
donna.richards@vermont.gov

Steven McClafferty: Finance Director
447-2732
steven.mcclafferty@vermont.gov

Paul Yerke: Food Service Supervisor
447-2815
paul.yerke@vermont.gov

Marjorie LaFountain: Therapeutic Activities Supervisor
447-6520
Marjorie.lafountain@vermont.gov

Christina Cosgrove: Behavioral Health Director
447-2792
christina.cosgrove@vermont.gov

Greg Krizan: Environmental Services Director
447-6528
Greg.krizan@vermont.gov

Custodial, Housekeeping and Laundry (CHL) Supervisor
447-2731

Cindy Gadway: Rehabilitation Director
447-6548
cindy.gadway@partner.vt.gov

Melinda Crowl: Marketing/Admissions Coordinator
447-2755
melinda.crowl@vermont.gov

Sarah Sigsbury: Admissions Nurse
447-6539
sarah.sigsbury@vermont.gov

Jeannie Cody: Quality Assurance (QA) Nurse
447-2782
jean.cody@vermont.gov



To our Veterans, Members & Families,

We wish you and yours a very happy, safe and healthy holiday season. We also would like to thank you for your continued trust in caring for your loved one and also your support.



Melissa and Asa

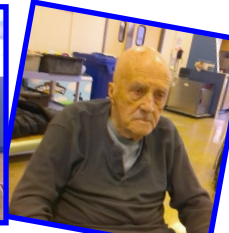
WELCOME

Congresswoman Rebecca Balint



Congresswoman Balint was accompanied by Thomas Renner, her community liaison, as she visited the facility.

Frank Wetherby, a resident and a member of the Board of Trustees, provided a tour of the VVH and was joined by Melinda Crowl, Marketing Coordinator.



Ray Gifford entertains with a little country, soul, blues and pop rock.



THANK YOU

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

The American Legion Auxiliary Unit 13 treated the Veterans and Members to ice cream and cake on Veterans Day.

They also delivered the desserts "ala-carte" throughout the facility.



Marjorie & Leslie (Activities) and Paul (Dietary) assisted the Ladies of the Auxiliary.



Students from the **LONG TRAIL SCHOOL** paid homage to the Marine Corps Veterans celebrating the 249th birthday of the Corps.

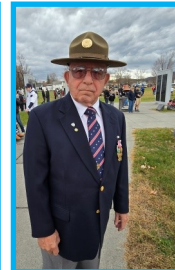
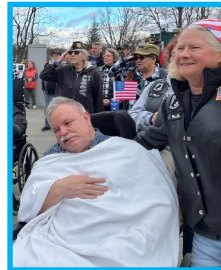
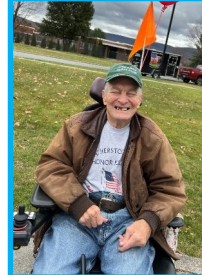
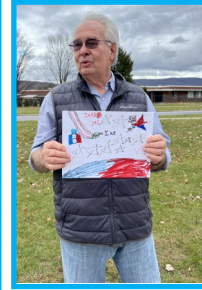


Cambridge Central School students brought and served cookies to the residents of the VVH. Cookies can make people smile but they can not be compared to the smiles of children.



VETERANS DAY

HONORING ALL WHO SERVED



Thank you to Preston Hayes, the Bennington Police Department and community volunteers for placing flags honoring Veterans and Members



The 5 photos below are courtesy of Paul Yerke, Veteran and VVH Dietary Supervisor



VVH Vets visit with fellow Veterans at Brookdale, bringing gifts, and to sit, chat, and reminisce



Telling My Story: A Christmas Gift for Generations to Follow

As we enter the month of December and prepare to celebrate the warmth and joy of the Christmas season, I find myself reflecting on the power of storytelling. Each of us has a unique narrative shaped by our experiences, a testament to our resilience, challenges, and triumphs. This month, I encourage you to consider the idea of “Telling My Story” not only as a personal endeavor but as a precious gift to ourselves and our loved ones. We are encouraged to speak out about our journeys, to recount the ways in which we have been touched and transformed. Our stories are not just ours; they belong to the collective memory of our families and communities or a legacy for your children, grandchildren, and even great-grandchildren.

Writing down our stories can be a deeply healing process. It allows us to reflect on our lives—the joys, the sorrows, and everything in between. Sharing our narratives can also foster connection and understanding with those around us. Our stories can inspire, comfort, and guide, just as the stories of those before us have shaped our own paths.

I invite you to take a moment to embrace your story. Whether through journaling, recording an oral history, or sharing it with a loved one, consider the profound impact your narrative can have. Your story is a gift—one that can heal, inspire, and connect.

As we celebrate the birth of Christ, let us remember that His story is one of hope, love, and redemption. May this Christmas be a time of reflection, connection, and the sharing of our unique journeys as we celebrate the gift of life and the stories we have to tell.



Wishing you a blessed and reflective holiday season.

In faith and fellowship, Chaplain Rick Setzer

Winter is Here

Winter is here, when the snow falls so nice on the trees..
Looks so nice... and the ice on the trees looks so nice.
Cats and dogs running in the snow having a good ole time..
Kids making snowmen having lots of Fun.
Others baking cookies for the day Smell so good.
Others going on a sleigh ride... having lots of fun.
Others taking a walk in the snow enjoying the day.
Some getting ready for the Holidays.
Others decorating their house for Christmas.
Some writing Christmas cards.
Sending them to family and friends 😊
Some wrapping Christmas gifts and
Putting them under the 🎄 looks great.
Children hanging their Christmas stockings
By the fireplace in hopes that Santa will soon be there.

But let's not forget the real reason for
Christmas - the day God was born.

By: Linda Loniewski PS Merry Christmas everyone



Students from Sacred Heart School talked with Veterans and Members and also conducted recital of the rosary for those who wanted to join in prayer.



Veterans' dinner at the Elks



Thank
You

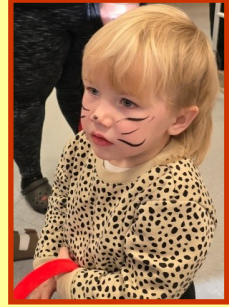
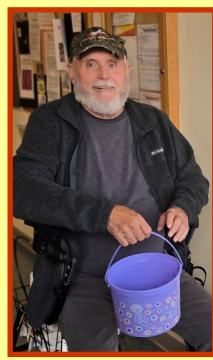
So

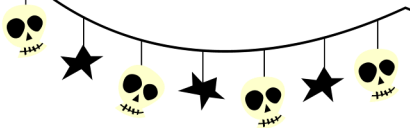
Much





Trick or Treat





HAPPY HALLOWEEN





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

- Bennington Elks Lodge #567
- RSVP of Rutland & Addison Counties
- American Legion Unit 31-Rutland
- American Legion Auxiliary Unit 13-Bennington
- Daughters of the Am. Revolution-Jacksonville
- American Legion Auxiliary Unit 90-Pownal
- Sons of the American Legion-Ludlow
- Harned-Fowler VFW Post 6471-Wells
- Harned-Fowler VFW Auxiliary Unit 6471-Wells
- American Legion Auxiliary Unit 323-Granville NY
- VFW Post 1332
- Jean Rensen
- Shelley Finn
- Phyllis & Rhonda Roberts
- Jean Bradway
- Dover Elementary School-3rd Grade
- Grace Christian School
- Molly Stark Elementary School
- Oliver Allen
- Sacred Heart School
- Long Trail School
- Preston Hayes
- Bennington Police Department
- Marilyn Ficalora
- Cambridge Central School District - 4th Grade
- Burke Town School - 4th Grade
- MAUHS - Interact Club
- Mettawee Community School - 5th Grade
- James Kinney
- Jennifer Kern
- William Smith
- Raymond James Global Account
- John Coffin

In Memory of Ed Ransom

Elizabeth Levesque

In Memory of Frank Snow

Doris Gage-West



Thank YOU

Oliver Allen makes a very generous donation towards the Mobility Trail. Pictured with Oliver is Paul Yerke.

**VVH Staff Recognition
Years of Service**

ACTIVITIES

Kelly Brown — 35 years

ADMINISTRATION

Melinda Crowl — 23 years

BEHAVIORAL SERVICES

James Galipeault — 2 Years

NURSING

Jodi Abbott — 2 years

Jo-Ann Beaudoin — 2 years

Amanda Loomis — 2 years



Mitchell Cody, US Marine, visits with one of our Veterans. Mitchell is the son of Jean Cody, Quality Assurance Nurse at VVH



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



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

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.

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

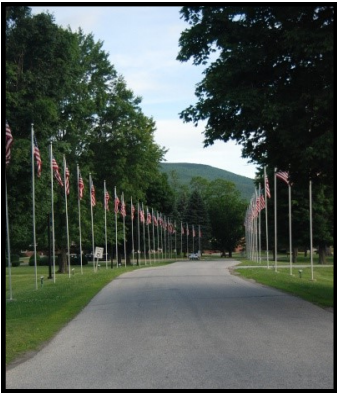
Music & Memory Fund:
Memory Music Players

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





Vermont Veterans' Home
325 North Street
Bennington, VT 05201



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

