The

BUZZ WORD

Volume 11
Issue 11
November 2020

Happiness is a warm puppy.

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

Happy Fall,

As you know by now we have started indoor visits. The "rules" for these visits change slightly from outdoor visits and I would like to take a moment to review why the changes were made:

Change in time for scheduling appointments. VVH does not have an employee that we can dedicate full time to do just the visitation scheduling. We heard many concerns regarding having to leave a message and wait for a call back. With a defined time to call and make appointments to visit, we hope to reduce this concern.

No food, drinks, or eating, allowed indoors. Outdoor visits provide the least risk of the spread of COVID due to the outside air flow. The removal of a mask to eat or drink during the visit increase**s** the risk of the potential spread of COVID-19 due to the decreased airflow within the Facility. VVH has adjusted our HVAC system to reflect the recommendations from the CDC on indoor airflow.

No pets except certified service animals. Pets were allowed outdoors as we did not have to worry about potential allergic reaction if there was a pet at a prior visit, again the outdoor air helped with this. Due to concerns of potential allergies or allergic reactions we cannot have pets inside the visiting area. Outside this was not an issue as the open air helped to all but remove this risk. Yes, our staff are allowed to bring their pets to work to visit with the Veterans and Members but they do not bring them into rooms where individuals may have allergy concerns.

I want to acknowledge, again, that we understand the rules around visits, especially not being able to hug, kiss, hold hands, etc. with your loved one, are very difficult. The rules for the visits are established by the State and CMS and it is our responsibility to ensure we comply with these rules, and we will continue to follow their guidance.

As we move into the holiday season we are working hard to limit the impact the visitation restrictions have on our celebrations. We will be leveraging technology as much as possible; especially for events such as our tree lighting, Wreaths Across American and our Day of Remembrance.

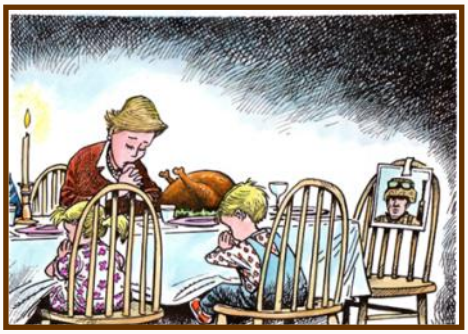
Thank you for your on-going support of the incredible VVH staff. It is their continued hard work and meticulous attention to infection prevention measures, both at work and at home, that have kept your loved ones COVID free.

***Take Care*, Melissa**

Melissa A. Jackson, MBA, FACHCA
Chief Executive Officer
Vermont Veterans' Home
www.Vvh.vermont.gov

From Deputy Administrator — Colonel Al Faxon

Season to be Thankful



Life sure moves fast. However, we must force ourselves to slow down and consider the many blessings we have; for me, this is especially important during Thanksgiving. I have a tremendous hardworking family and a wife that somehow continues to put up with my mischiefs.

I am beyond thankful to have been born in this wonderful country and grateful for the many opportunities it affords us as compared to other nations in the world.

I am very thankful for the continued opportunity to work here with you, our Veterans and Members, and this dedicated staff. Being here with you in our Home is a true honor. Every day I enjoy walking, talking, and working for you. Your stories of life are engaging and accurately describe what being an American is.

You have built and protected our great Nation during your fulling lifetimes. For my opportunity to be here with you, I am forever Thankful!

Semper Fi
AF

A new gallery is gracing the hallway to the Chapel.

In 1978, the first Veterans Day poster was received at the Veterans' Home and each year, one had been added to the collection. We are proud to exhibit all 43 posters. The Home acknowledges **Mark Jaeger,** Environmental Services, who organized and hung the posters.

Thank you, Mark.

Happy 100th Birthday, George

Happy 98th Birthday, Ethel

A Birthday parade was held in your Honor by your family and friends!!

All our friends in North Village know that kindness is good for healing, and benefits everyone living in our Home. Let's thank our friends today!

Quentyn Webb, Room 102

Operation Good Cheer℠

Youth is the gift of nature.
Age is a work of art.
quote of Stanislaw Jersey Lek
From Mary Beth Anderson
a/k/a Mrs. J. Eric Anderson

Slot Machine brings Vegas to the VVH

EDNA'S ART GALLERY

Infection Control at work: "Be Safe – We Got the Flu

FROM PATRICIA BABCOCK, RN IP:

THANK YOU to all who participated in the staff flu vaccine clinics. At this time, **90%** of our residents received the flu vaccine with **76% of staff** participating. It was a little disappointing since Melissa Jackson, CEO, said she would shave her head if 90% of the staff were vaccinated—I guess she will not be shaving her head after all.

Please be safe during this time of year and remember: **wash your hands, practice social distancing and wear a mask**. You all know the drill!

PHYSICAL THERAPY MONTH

The Rehabilitation Department provides a wide range of services to our Veterans and Members on the road to recovery. Inpatient therapy is either in the therapy room or on the neighborhoods, whichever is more comfortable for our residents.

A wide variety of equipment is available in the gym including solo step, parallel bars, practice stairs, nu-step cardiac equipment, electrical stimulation, ultrasound, diathermy and hot and cold packs.

Graduates of the rehab program are accepted as outpatients to continue to meet their personal goals with the therapist they know.

SOCIAL SERVICES SUPPORT GROUP

Share concerns, experience, strength, hope, and to lend support to those who have a family member or friend at our nursing home.

First and Third Tuesday of each month
2 pm via Zoom

NOVEMBER MEETINGS:
Tuesday, November 3 & November 17

For more information, contact:
Jacob Rogers-Martin
802-447-6524 or 802-681-3035
Jacob.Rogersmartin@vermont.gov

"OPERATION GOOD CHEER".

We are asking for season's greetings, words of love and encouragement, jokes or anything that will bring joy to Veterans and Members.

Please include your name, e-mail or phone number with your submission and try to limit you contribution to 25 words.

Please e-mail to Mary.Ryan@vermont.gov or mail them to the Vermont Veterans' Home to my attention: Mary Ryan.

Hope to hear from you,
Mary Ryan, Special Projects

Chaplain's Corner

TRICK OR TREAT !!!!!!! Happy Halloween. I never did understand all the legends about All Saints Day, ghosts, goblins and witches and especially the going door to door to collect treats. So, I did a bit of studying and here is a brief summary of trick or treat.

Many of the customs we now associate with Halloween come from ancient celebrations. For example, the current custom of going door-to-door to collect treats actually started in Ireland hundreds of years ago. Groups of farmers would go door-to-door collecting food and materials for a feast and bonfire. Those who gave were promised prosperity, those who did not received threats of bad luck. When an influx of Irish Catholic immigrants came to the United States in the 1800s, the custom of trick or treating came with them.

Carving pumpkins and placing them on the porch at Halloween actually started with turnips. People would hollow out the turnips and place lighted candles inside to scare off evil spirits. When the Irish came to America, they discovered the pumpkin as a larger substitute for the turnips. Thus, we now carve pumpkins for Halloween.

Although Halloween has become mostly a secular holiday, we need to remind ourselves and our families of its Christian roots. The word Halloween itself is a shortened form of "All Saints Day" and All Hallows' Eve. If this holiday is properly understood and celebrated with all its trappings, it can be a way for us to deepen our understanding of our faith. It is a celebration dedicated to remembering the dead, including saints and all the faithful departed.

Let us be thankful that God has kept us safe from COVID 19 and to bless everyone working at the Veterans' Home for going the extra mile to keep our HEROS safe.

God bless and Happy Halloween. **Chaplain Ken**

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

Living Sober
Deborah C. Larson
Meg Oceanna
Carl & Chris Bucholt
Phyllis & Rhonda Roberts
Anthony Sfogliano
American Legion Post 13 Family
Ann Story DAR, Rutland Chapter– Julanne & Grace
Mahar Funeral Home
Chicks with Sticks

MASK DONATIONS
Sue Webster
Joan K. Conrad
Mary Harker
Mr. & Mrs. Noyes
Sandy LePoidevin
Mary Hubbell
Maxham
Sew What!?
Janet Greene & Robert Lumbra
Harned-Fowler VFW Aux. Post #6471
Town of Orleans– Kelly L. Darling

In Loving Memory of Erwin Currier
Silvia Boulger

In Loving Memory of Janet Hollister
Carol & Anthony Wigger
David Hollister

In Loving Memory of James Ray Worley
Face masks from Marie Coffey

In Loving Memory of Lenny Nichols
Rose Nichols

In Loving Memory of Carlton Clark
Face masks from Loraine Clark

How come you can fool vampires?

Because they "*suck*".

* Joke provided by B. Bardsley *

Enjoying the Outdoors & Colors of Autumn

Happy Retirement Anna Carmichael

THANK YOU, ANNA,
for your 19 years of service to our Veterans and Members as a member of the housekeeping team and the VVH family.

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 Newsletters
- Email
- Mailing List (postal)

To be added to our lists please contact:

The Buzz Word
Vermont Veterans' Home
325 North Street
Bennington, VT 05201

Kiauna Wait
(802) 447-6510
Email: Kiauna.wait@vermont.gov

VVH WISH LIST

I-Pod Shuffles
(4th Generation)

Neck Pillows
CD Players
I-Tune Cards
Costume Jewelry
Body Pillows
Stamps
Newspaper Subscriptions
Outdoor Benches
Earphones for TV and Music
Two pocket front wheelchair/walker bags

Please make check for monetary donations out to Vermont Veterans' Home:

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

Your donations are gratefully accepted.

THANK YOU

We are looking for people with music talent and/ or special talents of any kind who would like to give time to our Veterans and Members on our special care unit. Please contact Michele Burgess at: michele.burgess@vermont.gov or call 802-447-6520.

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 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:
iPods, Headphones, iTunes cards

NEW: Veteran's Mobility Trail
Monetary donations toward
a paved walkway around
the perimeter of the VVH

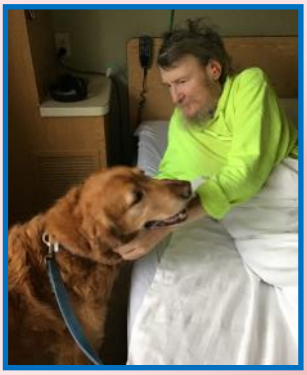
PLEASE NOTE:

**** We will NOT BE ACCEPTING donations until further notice due to COVID-19. Be on the lookout for future notices as to when donations will resume. Thank you for understanding. ****

BINGO!

AMERICAN WAY

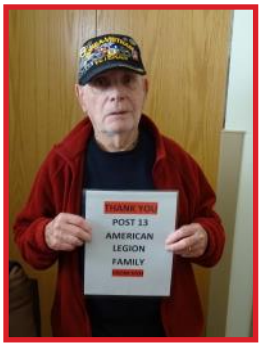
Furry Friend



SUPER HERO ICE CREAM

A Very Special Thank You To the American Legions Post 13 Family

We appreciate the very generous donation to the Activities Fund, especially THE BINGO FUND!!

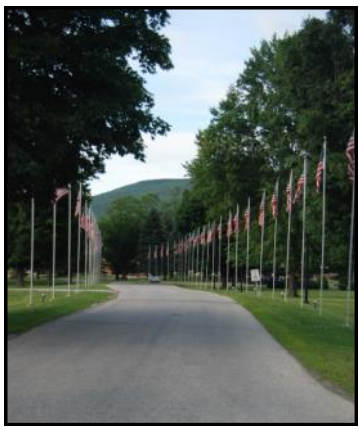


Stuffing

Scarecrows

File photos from October 2019

REMEMBERING THE 245TH U.S. NAVY BIRTHDAY – OCTOBER 13, 1775

"FULFILLING THE PROMISE"

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