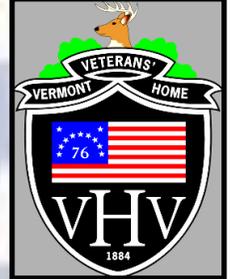


The  
**BUZZ**  
**WORD**

Volume **11** Issue 12  
December 2020



*Life is one grand sweet song, so start the music!*



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>

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## ***From the Administrator... Melissa Jackson***



As we approach the holiday season, I want to acknowledge how difficult the holidays will be for you and our Veterans and Members. The limits on visitation and group activities will make the holidays feel much different this year.

The staff is working very hard to ensure our Veterans and Members can enjoy the holidays while providing the much-needed support due to the inability to celebrate with their family and friends.

VVH staff will be going above and beyond in decorating the facility and the grounds for the holidays. We will ensure packages, letters, and cards are delivered promptly and will be assisting Veterans and Members with sending cards, letters, and virtual communication throughout the holiday season.

One way we are ensuring that our Veterans and Members have contact with their families and communities is by requesting recorded holiday messages, singing of carols, etc. that we will broadcast on our in-house television station. Please have your recorded message to Melinda Crawl, [Melinda.crawl@vermont.gov](mailto:Melinda.crawl@vermont.gov) by December 18<sup>th</sup>.

We held our first Zoom Family Update meeting in November and will do so again in December on the 16<sup>th</sup> at 4pm, the 17<sup>th</sup> at 6pm and the 18<sup>th</sup> at 5pm. Links to the Zoom Meetings will be posted on our website at the follow link:

<https://vvh.vermont.gov/content/coronavirus-information>.

You can participate in these meetings via Zoom or via the conference call number associated with each meeting. The meetings will be recorded and posted on our website within 48 business hours of the meeting.

As a reminder, VVH has an emergency alert system that we use to notify all family members of any updates related to COVID-19. You may receive a phone call, text, message, and/or email based on the information VVH has listed for you. If you prefer one form of contact over another, please notify VVH by calling our receptionist, 802-447-6510 or emailing [vvh.admissions@vermont.gov](mailto:vvh.admissions@vermont.gov)

Again, thank you for your continued support through this pandemic and I hope that you find peace and comfort during the holiday season.



***Take Care, Melissa***

Melissa A. Jackson, MBA, FACHCA  
Chief Executive Officer  
Vermont Veterans' Home  
[www.Vvh.vermont.gov](http://www.Vvh.vermont.gov)



***From Deputy Administrator — Colonel Al Faxon***



Veterans, Members, and Staff:

It is difficult for me to believe, but this is my last Buzz Word note to you as Deputy and Chief Operations Officer of the Vermont Veterans' Home. I am retiring at the end of December.

My five-year plan stretched into a gratifying eight. I have enjoyed my work here more than I can suitably put into words. This has not seemed like a job at all, but more like an extension of my family and friends.

The staff working here at the Home are superb. I could espouse upon each department, section and individual within VVH and how honored I am to have worked with you. Outside of the boundaries of VVH, I am proud to speak about how you care for our residents, our Home, and the hallowed grounds we sit upon.

Veterans, to me, you are heroes. All of you have a different reason for signing on the dotted line and taking the Oath of Office to serve and protect our great Nation; for that, I am eternally grateful. I will always value and remember my time with you. My wife, Nancy, and I are not leaving the area. When this onerous virus dissipates, I will be back partaking in events with you and I look forward to sharing stories and tales of our past exploits.

Semper Fidelis

A. M. FAXON JR.  
COLONEL, U.S. MARINES (RET)

**Dr. Peter King receives the Art Charron Selfless Service Award**



On behalf of the Board of Trustees, President Joseph Krawczyk presented Dr. Peter King with a plaque for his "continuing and selfless service to the Veterans' Home, its residents and the military community." (left photo)

Center photo: Art Charron (for whom the award was established) and Dr. King.

Board Members: Joyce Scribner, Jackie Kelly, Mike Klopchin, Art Charron (seated), Col. Joe Krawczyk, Dr. King, Mike diMonda, Charly Dickerson and Fred Dunn.

Howdy folks,

CHAPLAIN'S  
CORNER

My Wife and I have felt the impact of COVID-19 on a personal basis. She was in Albany Med for 5 days and on the day of discharge, we found out that her room mate had COVID. So, that put us into a 14-day quarantine. After 6 days of quarantine, we went to the hospital COVID test line and got tested. Now we wait 2 to 4 days for the results. If negative, we are ok to end quarantine, but if one or both are positive, a whole new regimen begins.

We must earnestly pray for an end to this terrible pandemic and for an aggressive effort to get the vaccine to the general population. God knows the situation we are in and will make His plan for resolution in His time not ours. We must trust God, keep the faith and pray, pray, pray.

Just as important is that we be thankful to God for those who have worked so hard to find the medical solutions, for those who are affected and the vaccine for all. Let us be grateful for those front line workers at the Veterans' Home who are keeping our Heroes from COVID. And don't forget to be thankful for the numerous blessings God bestows on us each and every day.

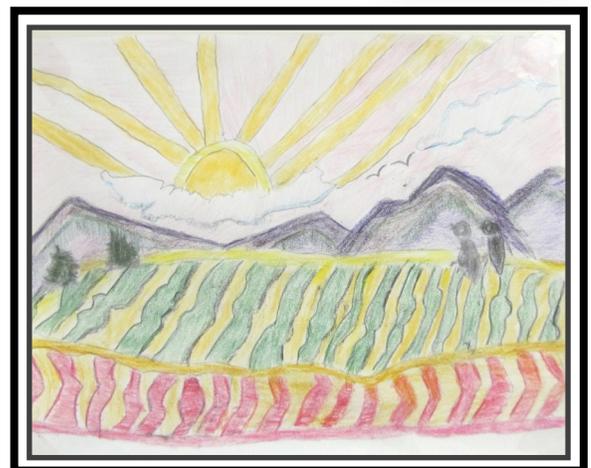


Thanksgiving has passed and Christmas is coming up and in spite of the trying conditions we must endure, we still have our overall freedoms. I hope you had a Happy Thanksgiving and wishing you a Merry Christmas.

And don't forget to PRAY, PRAY, PRAY. **God bless, Chaplain Ken**



**EDNA'S  
ART  
GALLERY**



# Jack-O-Lanterns



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

First and Third Tuesday of each month  
2 pm via Zoom  
**DECEMBER MEETINGS:**  
Tuesday, December 1 & December 15  
**JANUARY MEETINGS**  
Tuesday, January 5 & January 19

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



After graduation from USAF pilot training, two guys agree to meet every ten years in Florida to play golf and catch up with each other.

At age 32 they meet, finish their round of golf and head for lunch.

"Where you wanna go?"

"Hooters."

"Why Hooters?"

"They have those servers with tight shorts, gorgeous legs and are well endowed."

"You're on."

At age 42, they meet and play golf again

"Where you wanna go for lunch?"

"Hooters."

"Again? Why?"

"They have cold beer, big screen TVs, and side action on the games."

"OK."

At age 52 they meet and play again. "So where you wanna go for lunch?"

"Hooters."

"Why?"

"The food is pretty good and there's plenty of parking."

"OK."

At age 62 they meet again.

After a round of golf, one says, "Where you wanna go?"

"Hooters."

"Why?"

"Wings are half price and the food isn't too spicy."

"Good choice"

At age 72 they meet again.

Once again, after a round of golf, one says, "Where shall we go for lunch?"

"Hooters."

"Why?"

"They have six handicapped parking spaces right by the door and they have senior discounts."

"Great choice."

At age 82 they meet and play again. "Where should we go for lunch?"

"Hooters."

"Why?"

"Because we've never been there before."

"Okay, let's give it a try."



Humor provided by: Beth Anderson

## "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 your contribution to 25 words.

**Please e-mail to [Mary.Ryan@vermont.gov](mailto: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



## Celebrating 245 years

The history around the day of celebration is based upon the events surrounding the establishment of the original Marine Corps. On November 10, 1775 the Second Continental Congress issued the decree that established the Continental Marines. However, the Continental Marines were disestablished when the American Revolutionary War ended in 1783.

The Marine Corps was re-established by President John Adams on July 11 1798. In 1921, it was suggested that the original birthday of November 10 should be declared the official holiday of the Marine Corps.

The cake cutting ceremony has been performed since 1956. Traditionally, the first slice of cake is handed to the oldest Marine present, who passes it to the youngest Marine present.



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

Bennington Rotary Club  
Phyllis & Rhonda Roberts  
VFW Bennington  
Pownal American Legion Aux. Unit #90  
VFW Post 1332  
DAV Auxiliary, Bennington Chapter #4  
VFW District #4  
Patricia Thomas  
Armstrong Farms– for all of the pumpkins!  
Gloria Toro  
Audrey Jones  
Homemaker Group  
Middlebury VFW Ladies' Aux. Post #7823  
Trudy P. Agres  
Mark Bowhart

**MASK DONATIONS**

VFW Auxiliary Post #648  
American Legion Post 490  
American Legion Auxiliary Unit #5  
Ann Thomayer  
VFW Auxiliary Post #758  
VFW Auxiliary Post #7779  
Robin Owens

**In Loving Memory of Michael Borden**

Robert & Mary Gratz  
Ronald & Rosemary Lindsey  
Christine Perras & Daniel Dobbert  
Pam Prouty  
James & Mary Weeks

**In Loving Memory of Mildred Harrington**

Donna Belluzzi

**In Loving Memory of Raymond Dana**

Brenda Sargent

**In Loving Memory of Winthrop "Wink" Roberts**

Gail Bouregard

**In Loving Memory of Arthur Knapp, Sr.**

Walter & Judith Barrows

**In Loving Memory of Janet Hollister**

Denise & Tyler Hollister  
Robert Cummins, JR  
Melinda & Scott Dickie  
Robert Henry & Beverly Mack  
Larry & Nancy Callender  
Phillip & Laurali Hollister  
David & Patricia Henry  
Jill Brass

**In Loving Memory of Leland Hood**

Frances Hood

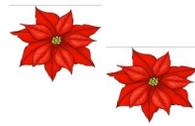
# DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

Established by the Board of Trustees in 2012, The Day of Remembrance is a memorial to Veterans, Members and employees who have passed away since December 2019. The ceremony consists of a presentation of the individual, service and conflict(s) and a brief biography of their lives and comments from the staff.

Unfortunately, this year, we are unable to invite you to our Home to remember our loved and lost.

**We will hold a virtual service to honor them and will share it on YouTube December 16<sup>th</sup> 2020.**

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCNHxxoG8I9udf9KxUX4JQkg>



The wreath was donated to Al Faxon, COO, and the Vermont Veterans' Home by the "children in Sandgate" and Karen Tendrup.



What did the salad say during the fire?

Romaine Calm.

\* Joke provided by B. Bardsley \*

## THE BUZZ WORD

Three ways for you to receive the Vermont Veterans' Home monthly newsletter:

- ♦ Vermont Veterans' Home website:  
[www.vvh.vermont.gov](http://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](mailto:Kiauna.wait@vermont.gov)

## 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

## VVH WISH LIST

I-Pod Shuffles  
(4th Generation)



Neck Pillows                      Stamps  
CD Players                      I-Tune Cards  
Costume Jewelry              Body Pillows  
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**

**Due to COVID-19, we are not able to accept: books, CDs, puzzles or used clothing.** We will keep you posted when changes are made. Thank you for your patience and understanding.



Representative Mary Morrissey with Post 13 Auxiliary Donna Stone and Darlene Cumm, brought Veteran's Day cards for the residents. Accepting the donation are Michele Burgess and Steve McClafferty.



Veteran's Day 2020



Honoring the Men and Women Who served our Nation



In keeping with tradition, the Elks served the filet mignon dinner to the Veterans only this time it was on the Home turf. Assisting their effort was the dedicated Dietary Staff.

Thank You Elks 567 & VVH Dietary Staff



## Antibiotic Awareness Week

November 18-24, 2020

- Occasionally it is important to review Antibiotics when they should and should not be used.
- As most people know, antibiotics are only needed for treating certain infections which are caused ONLY by bacteria as viruses can not be treated with antibiotics.
- Some examples of viruses are COVID-19, flu, sore throat (except strep) and the common cold/runny nose. Common conditions that justify antibiotic use are strep throat, whooping cough and urinary tract infections.
- Studies (Center of Disease Control) also have shown that in otherwise healthy children and adults, antibiotics for bronchitis will not help you feel better, it just must run its course. Also, when antibiotics are not needed, they will not help you and can hurt you with the side effects.
- Taking antibiotics, when unnecessary, creates resistant bacteria. That is why it is important to only use an antibiotics when you really need it!
- Do not get me wrong, Antibiotics do save lives, BUT they just are not always the answer when you are sick.



Patricia Babcock, R.N., I.P.

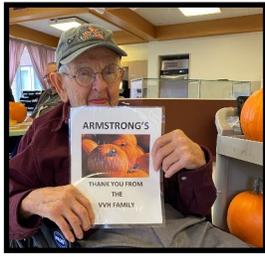
### WH STAFF GETS IT TOGETHER FOR HALLOWEEN FUN!



Thank you, Comcast and volunteers, for the American Flag salute remembering and honoring the Men and Women of the Armed Forces and their service to the United States of America.

## Veteran's Day 2020





Thank you Armstrongs for our pumpkins



***"FULFILLING THE PROMISE"***



Vermont Veterans' Home  
325 North Street  
Bennington, VT 05201

