Volume 1 Issue 7
July 2021

The BUZZ WORD

Luck, be a Lady tonight.

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 Summer-

Now that the State has reached the 80% vaccination milestone, VVH awaits updated guidance on our daily operations. Unlike the rest of the state, we did not get to return to "business as usual" pre-COVID-19. We continue to follow the COVID-19 guidelines of screening of visitors, and our Veterans and Members may only have visits, group activities and meals on their neighborhood. When we receive updated guidance, I will share that information with you.

Is it me or have you noticed the sudden increase in commercials for law firms advertising that they can help a Veteran with their VA Benefits Claim? They seemed to pop up overnight and they fail to tell people that there is a way to apply for benefits at no cost to the Veteran or their family members. In some cases, very few, a lawyer may be needed when filing an appeal but not for an initial claim. Veteran Service Officers (VSOs) can assist you with filing an original claim or an appeal. A VSO is an individual, usually a Veteran, who has received specialized training on how to apply for Veteran benefits. In most cases this is done free of charge. These individuals can be found at the VA Medical Centers or through the following Veteran organizations: VFW, DAV, Vietnam Veterans of American, and American Legion. Contact your local or state chapter and ask for the contact information for the VSO.

There is a Veteran Service Officer at VVH in the old Commandant's House every Thursday. Tom assists with initial applications for benefits and supplying the VA with updated medical information for potential increases in service-connected disability ratings. Tom can be reached at 802-753-7720 to arrange an appointment to discuss your situation and to assist with the application process.

Even if you or your loved one were denied benefits in the past, you may want to investigate applying again. The VA has updated illnesses that are related to the exposure of hazardous chemicals, materials and burn pits.

Finally, with the increase of Veterans, Members, and visitors out and about on the property, please mind your speed. Property speed limit is 15 miles per hour.

Take care,
Melissa

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

The VVH received this one-of-a-kind Thank-You poster made by the children of the **Sun Group** for a picnic at the Gibney Pavilion and a visit to the fish pond.

From the Deputy Administrator;
Asa Morin

This month I knew that I wanted to write about the Fourth of July, however I struggled to find the right words. So, I turned to our Veterans, and I asked the question, "What does the Fourth of July mean to you?" Here are a few of their responses:

"I always thought, I'm glad to be home and not overseas."

"It makes me think of Easthampton, CT. I was born there and went to grammar school there. I picture being in school, saluting the flag and saying the Pledge of Allegiance. Fourth of July is also time to raise hell, shoot firecrackers, drink beer and chase your girlfriend!"

"It's the day we were victorious over our enemies. We celebrate our Country and keeping our children safe."

"It's the start of our Country. 1776. It honors the soldiers who fought for our Country to be free from the British and from the King. It's a good day."

"This year, I am hopeful that the Fourth of July can also represent coming back together after a very long year."

"For sure a great day. It was midsummer, a parade today. Flags all over the place, WOW, and the night's fireworks still to come. My whole community turns out to celebrate. I remember this kid being the happiest."

This summer may not look like a typical summer at the VVH with big community events, but we are slowly starting to get back to celebrating together. We are working with volunteers and community groups to be able to offer some fun activities in the coming months so stayed tuned!

Have a safe and happy holiday!

Asa

Asa Morin, MSW, LICSW
COO/Deputy Administrator
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Michele Burgess, Activity Director, was presented with a very generous donation from The American Legion Riders Post 39 of Poultney.

Brandon Garden

To everything—-
turn turn turn

There is a season..
turn turn turn

And a time to every
purpose
under heaven

All infection control protocols were followed for this outing. Please contact the Home with any questions or concerns.

Ladies of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 13 present COO, **Asa Morin** (L) and Activities Director, **Michele Burgess** (R) with donations for the Veterans and Members of the Vermont Veterans' Home.

Happy 246th Birthday
United States Army

William "Bill" Corey cuts the birthday cake. Established June 14, 1775, this day honors the courage of the American Soldier to stand behind their Oath to protect the American way of life.

HISTORY WITH STEVE

Since I have not been able to travel in the past 14 months, it would not be of great interest of showing pictures and writing about Arlington, Bennington or Manchester. So, I have decided that since New England, and especially this area, has a lot of history, let me begin to write about history.

July 4th is among us and as we watch Old Glory fly in the wind, let me begin our history with the Declaration of Independence. What a wonderful document that future President Thomas Jefferson wrote. He was assisted by Benjamin Franklin and also future President John Adams. As a side bar, President Adams was a prolific writer. This is very evident during the early part of American history by reading the letters between him and his wife, Abigail. One can visit his house in Quincy, Massachusetts, which I have done several times while living in Quincy.

As one reads the Declaration, many of the indictments that are outlined are the basis for the first 10 Amendments to the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, that John Adams wanted before he and Massachusetts would sign off on the Constitution. That will be another essay. Examples include the following:

> For depriving us in many cases, of the benefit of Trial by Jury
> For quartering large bodies of armed troops among us
> He has constrained our fellow Citizens taken Captive on the high Seas to bear Arms against their Country, to become the executioners of their friends and Brethren, or to fall themselves by their Hands

It was the declaration that the Colonies have had enough of King George III and his unbearable rules that he had imposed on them for several years. All delegates wanted independence, but it all came down to wording. Adams' preamble, "It is necessary that the exercise of every kind of authority under the said crown should be totally suppressed" meant to overthrow the governments of Pennsylvania and Maryland. Maryland walked out in protest and Virginia proposed that the "…United Colonies free and independent States, absolved from all allegiance to, or dependence upon, the Crown or Parliament of Great Britain". The delegates wanted to state this declaration right, concise and be a powerful note to the King, that this is a new beginning for world order.

For another story on the 56 signers of the Declaration, please search Paul Harvey for the rest of the story. I will end with the words of this beautiful document:

"And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor".

Happy 4th of July to you all. God Bless each of you and God Bless America.

Steve McClafferty, Director of Finance at the VVH, is a frequent contributor to the Buzz Word.

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

University of New Mexico- MSC 01 1250

VFW Post #1332

Mark "Bo" Bollhardt

American Legion Auxiliary Unit #13

Jan Winte & Jacksonville Post Office- VT

William "Bill" Hartz

Betty Andrews

Jacksonville/Whitingham Homemakers

Phyllis & Rhonda Roberts

Ed Maroney & Willy's Variety Store

Luke & Ryan Trimble

American Legion Riders Post 39

Vietnam Veterans of America
(indoor picnic for the residents June 26th)

John Haverstock and Lorraine Richards
and the Nathan "Mike" Haverstock family

In Loving Memory of Vicki Sprague

David Brady

What was the most popular dance in 1776?

Indepen-*dance*!

* Joke provided by B. Bardsley *

VVH Staff Recognition
Years of Service

ACTIVITIES
Rae Ann Woods—33

CLEANING, HOUSEKEEPING, LAUNDRY
Robert Polly—9
Holly Waldron—4

DIETARY
Timothy Stratton—2

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
Dale Lampman—13

NURSING
Patricia Crossman, DNS—10
Mary Cicirello, ADNS—6
Tracy Greene—26
Sherry Kirchoff—16
Steven Smith—11
Wendy Kunzmann—11
Desiree Williams—8
Elise Webb—7
Misty Shores—5
Natasha Chambers—5
Wendy Ford—5
Mary Smith—4
Alexzandria Cross—4
Emily Thomayer—2
Elizabeth Boyington—2
Rachel Bishop—1
Cameron Gorman—1
Meredith Lampman—1

SOCIAL SERVICES
Laurie Saunders— 3

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)

Newspaper Subscriptions
Bingo Prizes
Crafts
Neck Pillows
Stamps
CD Players
I-Tune Cards
Body Pillows
Costume Jewelry
Outdoor Benches
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.

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

Luke and Ryan, ages 5 and 8, are the great-grandsons of Chaplain Ken Coonradt. They helped plant flowers donated by Ed Maroney and Willy's Variety Store.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Howdy Folks,

What's the difference between a Church and a Chapel? This question comes up often. Websters dictionary says a chapel is a subordinate or private place of worship, usually serving a business or institution. The Kauffman dictionary of religious terms says a chapel is a place of worship apart from a church proper. Examples of chapels often exist at hospitals, colleges, nursing homes and private schools. Some large companies provide a chapel for use by their staff and employees. Chapels are usually small rooms, are non-denominational, and contain no Bibles although some contain religious writings.

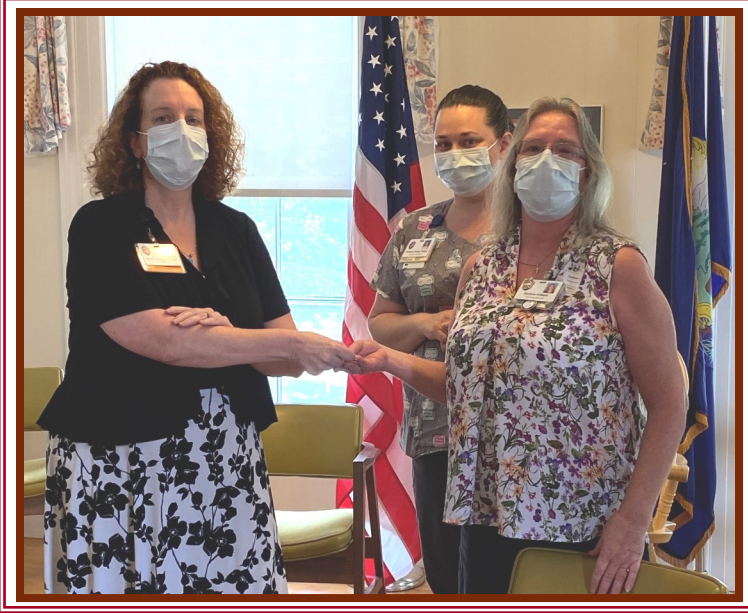
The Four Chaplains All-Faiths Memorial Chapel here at the Vermont Veterans' Home is unique, or perhaps better phrased as a "quasi-church-chapel" because it serves as both a Church for Catholic Mass as well as an All-Faiths Chapel for religious services. It is large enough to accommodate up to 100 people, yet small enough for individuals or small groups to come for quiet, meditation, or counselling with their clergy.

Most Christians refer to church as the building where we go to worship. However, Jesus considers His followers as the Church, the natural and the spiritual. The hymn "We Are the Church" says it quite well. The first verse goes like this, "The church is not a building, the church is not a steeple, the church is not a resting place, the church is a people," and refrain, "I am the church, you are the church! We are the church together! All who follow Jesus all a-round the world! Yes, we're the church together!"

With the pandemic slowly becoming a past event, hopefully, we will soon re-start holding Mass and All-Faiths services in our Chapel-Church.

Please continue praying for our troops and be grateful to God for those who are caring for our heroes, both Veterans and spouses.

God Bless,
Chaplain Ken

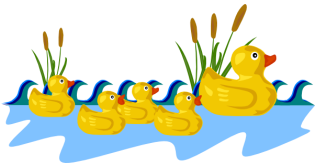


Kim Telford and Darlene Eriksen Awarded Challenge Coins

CEO, Melissa Jackson, presented Vermont Veterans' Home Board of Trustee Challenge coins to Kim and Darlene.

An individual must be nominated for this prestigious award which signifies their contributions to the Home which are beyond and above their usual and customary duties.

We are extremely proud to congratulate Kim and Darlene for their exemplary service.



DUCKS ON PARADE

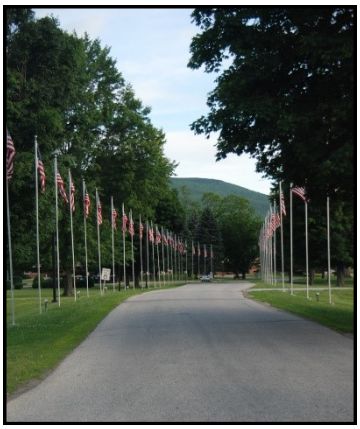
Our Mama Duck hatched 8 eggs and the family was escorted to the pond by VVH staff. We are proud to report, all are doing well.

Hello Vermont Veterans' Home Folks!

As **Melissa, Jon and I** have recently discussed, a teak bench was donated by the family of **Nathan "Mike" Haverstock** and it was delivered and placed Saturday on the far side of the trout pond -- the site of Mike's prize-winning catch a couple of summers ago. Please note the dedication placard, which honors both **Mike** and the terrific staff of the **Veterans' Home**, which was always so good to him during his time there. Many thanks, again, for all that you do for Vermont's Veterans and their families. Please feel free to share this email with other members of the staff and/or reference it in the **Buzzword**, as it may prompt other such donations in the future. Please also feel free to relocate the bench as you may see fit.

Best wishes! John Haverstock and Lorraine Richards on behalf of the Haverstock Family

Memorial Day (originally known as Decoration Day) is **a federal holiday** in the United States **for honoring and mourning the U.S. military personnel who have died in the performance of their military duties.** The holiday was observed on May 30 from 1868 to 1970, but now it is observed on the last Monday of May.

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

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