

# The BUZZ WORD

Volume	Issue	11
	<b>12</b>	
November	2021	



## Celebrating the 246<sup>th</sup> Birthday of the U.S. Navy

*The central theme of this year's 246th Navy Birthday and Heritage week is "Resilient and Ready", which speaks to the Navy's history of being able to shake off disaster, such as the loss of a ship or a global pandemic, and still maintain force lethality and preparedness. It allows the messaging to showcase readiness, capabilities, capacity, and of course the Sailor—all while celebrating our glorious victories at sea and honoring our shipmates who stand and have stood the watch.*

[www.vvh.vermont.gov](http://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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**802-447-6523**



<http://vvh.vermont.gov>

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*From the Administrator... Melissa Jackson*



To our Veterans, Members and VVH Families,

As we approach the holidays, we have been trying to find a way to make visitation during the holidays as fair as possible - while still abiding by infection control and COVID-19 guidance. For that reason, we are going to require appointments for visits for Veterans and Members who have a roommate. This will ensure that there is adequate indoor visitation space for everyone. The visitation schedule, which can be found at the following link: [www.signup.com](http://www.signup.com), has been updated with times for visits and specific visit locations on each of the neighborhoods.

***Follow-up from recent Family Meeting questions :***

**When will the guest room be available again?**

We do not have a date when this room will be available. We continue to monitor the community transmission of COVID-19. Unfortunately, this remains high for Bennington County. Additionally, we need to work out the logistics of allowing family members to spend the night while maintaining COVID-19 guidance and regulations.

**What is the plan for outdoor visits and the colder weather?**

We are purchasing four outdoor shelters - one for each unit. These shelters will have a heat and light source, but will not be “weather tight”. When these shelters are needed for visits (i.e., during outbreaks), we will need to use our online scheduling software to manage the visits.

**How can I warm up food that I bring to enjoy with my loved one?**

Each neighborhood has a microwave that family members can use for this purpose. Our kitchen staff cannot reheat food brought from home.

**Will I be able to have a holiday meal with my loved one?**

We will not be offering family members the ability to join their loved one on the holiday for a meal. Due to COVID-19 guidance, we do not have the necessary space to safely provide sanitized areas for our Veterans and Members, along with a family member to have a meal with them. We are working on other options and there will be more to come in the near future.



Take care, *Melissa*



*From the Deputy Administrator  
Asa Morin*



To our VVH Family and Friends,

This month I am excited to announce a new partnership between the Vermont Veterans' Home and CAT-TV (Catamount Access Television). For Veterans Day, CAT-TV is featuring "CAT-TV Honors" where they will show pictures and brief written stories about local Veterans during the month of November. You may submit your loved one for CAT-TV honors at <https://www.catamountaccess.com/cat-tvhonors>



CAT-TV serves as the local community media center in the Bennington area. Their cable channels are viewable on the Comcast system locally on channels 1075, 1085 and 1095. Content is also viewable via their website: <https://www.catamountaccess.com/> and Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/CATTVbennington/>.

Additionally, we are working with them on filming in-depth interviews of our Veterans that will be shown throughout the year. We hope for several of these interviews to air in the month of November. If you are interested in your loved one participating in a filmed interview, please reach out to myself or Melissa. So far we have a large interest from the Veterans in participating in this.

*Asa*

Asa Morin, MSW, LICSW

COO/Deputy Administrator

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**Corey McCann  
Social Worker**

American Way &  
The Dom

**Aisling Taft,  
Social Worker**

Brandon Boulevard &  
North Village



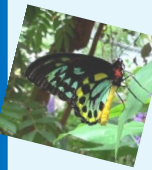
**The VVH proudly welcomes new members  
of our Social Services team.**

Corey, MSW, graduated from Marywood University May of 2021.

Corey is passionate about dementia care and the gerotranscendence stage of life and assisting people in end-of-life care.

Aisling, MSW, graduated from SUNY Albany in May 2010. She has spent her professional career working with older adults and said "what inspires me about working with older adults is that every elder has an unique history, perspective and story and I feel privileged to be part of their narrative".

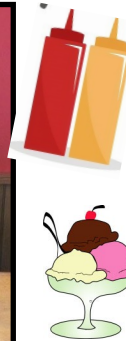




Magic Wings Butterfly Conservatory & Gardens was a wonderful outing for our Veteran and VVH staff



Waiting to be served



Not waiting to be served



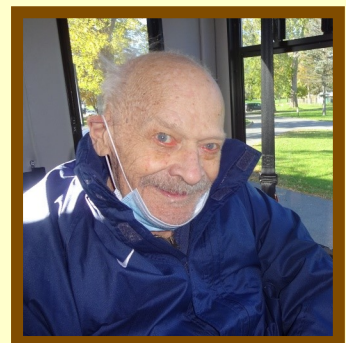
Not Waiting



# NORTH VILLAGE







# ROAD TRIP



**Senior Vice Commander of American Legion Post 27, Tom Scanlon, presented three garden benches for the Veterans Mobility Trail.**

**Melissa Jackson, CEO, accepts the generous donation on behalf of the Veterans and Members of the Home.**





## 2021 National Veterans Day Poster Contest

The theme for Veterans Day 2021 is centered on the centennial commemoration of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Located at Arlington National Cemetery, the Tomb was initially dedicated by the Army on Armistice Day, November 11, 1921, with the burial of an unknown service member from World War I. Over the past century, additional unknowns have been buried at the Tomb, and the site has become a people's memorial that inspires reflection on service, valor, sacrifice and mourning. This year's Veterans Day poster competition asks artists to envision a design that evokes elements of the history, legacy, and meaning of the Tomb during its centennial anniversary. Whether inspired by historic images of the Tomb, the ceremonies and rituals that take place at the site, or the physical Tomb itself, artists should interpret the Tomb's centennial in a way that honors its past and recognizes its continued importance in American society to all.





**Brandon Boulevard outdoor picnic: apple cider donuts and ice cream**



Girls  
Day  
Out



### **"Namaste Care"**

a program that brings respect, reverence, and dignity to people with advanced dementia is coming back to VVH!

In 2003, we developed a program called "Namaste" for our Veterans/Members with advanced dementia. Cardinal Point, our Special Care Unit for people with Dementia, was bringing joy and a sense of belonging to our Veterans/Members with moderate dementia through "The Club", a program that brings continuous activities to people who can't self-initiate activities due to their dementia.

We noticed that people with advanced dementia were not able to engage and benefit from "the Club" as much as we would have hoped, so "Namaste Care" was born! "Namaste" is a Hindu word and typifies a way of greeting where people put their palms together and say "Namaste". "Namaste" means seeing one another fully with deep reverence and respect. This quality of deep reverence and respect is what we wanted our advanced dementia program to embody.



Creating the right environment is essential for "Namaste". Imagine a room with soft lighting, soothing scents and beautiful music. The room has 8 comfortable recliner chairs gently holding 8 of our Veterans/Members. The Namaste facilitator could be giving the participants a hand massage or reading poetry to the group.

The other important quality for "Namaste Care" is creating a way of "being" in the Namaste room where Veterans/Members with advanced dementia are fully seen by staff who make connections with the individuals through loving touch and a soft approach.

Christina Cosgrove  
Director of Social Services

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

Phyllis & Rhonda Roberts

VA in Bennington

Steve Leach

Jeanne Ladd

Ms. Betty Andrews

Larry Davis

Middlebury American Legion Post #27

D.A.R. Brattleboro Chapter

MG Black

American Legion Post #323- Granville

**In Loving Memory of Paul Lyman**

Nancy Shulman & Russell Pritting

D. L. & P. A. March

**In Loving Memory of Clyde Sanders**

Lee & Susan Harrington

**In Loving Memory of Judith Somerville**

Jason & Tammy Shields

Roger & Mary Bell

**In Loving Memory of David Schroder**

Ralph & Jacqueline Marino

What happens when a vampire  
goes in the snow?

*Frost-bite!*



\* Joke provided by B. Bardsley \*

**VVH Staff Recognition  
Years of Service**

**ACTIVITIES**

Virginia Harrington — 11 years

Matthew Baker — 5 years

Holly Bahan — 3 years

**ADMINISTRATION**

Joyce Santacross — 17 years

Darlene Eriksen — 14 years

Sharon Sausville — 9 years

Jodie Coon — 5 years

**DIETARY**

Keith Jennings — 12 years

Kim Harrington — 9 years

Stephan Palmer — 5 years

Edward Watson, Jr. — 5 years

**NURSING**

Winnie Rose — 23 years

Lynn Andrews — 21 years

Kimberly Murphy — 5 years

Lori Jerome — 4 years

Jeanine Merkle — 2 years

Tara Powers — 2 years

Kelsey Russell — 1 year



**The one that DIDN'T get away**

**A crane enjoys a "trout dinner" at  
Charron Pond at the VVH**

## 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)

## 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



**Man on a mission:**  
keeping the grounds free of litter and enjoying the outdoors

Boys just wanna have fun





## Howdy Folks,

We will soon be celebrating Veterans Day (11 November 2021). Even though we appreciate our Veterans every day, Veterans Day is a time to remind all Americans of the sacrifices our Service men and women have made during all our wars and skirmishes. We remember the thousands who made the supreme sacrifice, and we support in every way we can those who came back with physical and mental issues. We can never repay our Heroes for their service and the freedoms we enjoy.

### CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

We owe so much to our Hero Spouses, families, and public supporters out there who have shown their support in a vast number of different ways. We notice and appreciate the visits from schools and service organizations who bring goodies and necessities to show their love and appreciation to our residents.

We are fortunate here at the Vermont Veterans Home to have the best staff that could be created. These people show their love and care for our residents each and every day through their dedication and professionalism.

Most of all, we owe God for His presence in our lives. He is very aware of the impact this terrible pandemic is having on all of us. In His time, He will put this behind us. We must believe God is in charge and will see us through this.

Are we praying? Remember, prayer is a powerful and effective tool in getting God to come to our needs. So be grateful we are believers; be thankful that God listens and gives us all our needs. Keep the faith.



Thank you Heroes for your service.

*God Bless, Chaplain Ken*

## Vermont Veterans' Home Service

As a tribute to our Veterans on Veterans Day, we salute the men and women of the Armed Forces currently residing at the Home:

### 4 Women Veterans

2 Air Force  
2 Navy

### Conflict

Korean War & Peacetime  
WW II

### 77 Male Veterans

Air Force 13  
Army 40  
Marines 6  
Navy 18

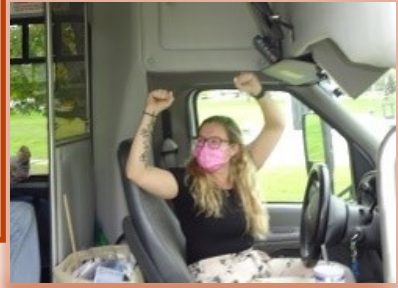
### Conflict

Desert Storm/Shield 1  
Korean War 13  
Peacetime 10  
Persian Gulf 1  
Viet Nam 32  
WW II 11  
Korea & Viet Nam 1  
Peacetime & Gulf 1  
Viet Nam & Gulf 1  
WW II & Korean War 2

We also honor the 18 spouses who endured hardships and conflicts of their own.



Thank you to our staff who drive busses, scoop out pumpkin seeds, travel to butterfly gardens, dish out ice cream, serve donuts, cook up and provide a mean BBQ and, along with many others do so much to make VVH HOME to our residents.



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



Vermont Veterans' Home  
325 North Street  
Bennington, VT 05201

