

The

BUZZ

WORD

Volume Issue 10
13
October 2022



National
"MAKE A
HAT DAY"
Creations





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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October



From the Administrator—Melissa Jackson



Happy Fall!!

Personally, Fall is my favorite time of year. I am looking forward to the cooler temperatures and seeing the leaves change. As the weather changes it is time for some fall/winter reminders:

Please take some time to go through your loved one's clothing taking summer items home and ensuring all items left are labeled with their name.

- Please remember that VVH is prohibited, by Fire Code, from having live wreaths or fresh cut trees in the building.
- All lighted decorations must be UL approved.
- Items cannot be hung in a manner that blocks sprinkler heads or prevent the operation of doors and windows.
- Medicare/Medicaid Fraud rules prevent staff from accepting individual gifts from family members, Veterans or Members. A card or food that can be shared by the entire neighborhood or department is permitted.

Currently the status of having family members in the facility for holiday meals remains uncertain. We will continue to assess the COVID situation and decide soon. Monthly family Zoom meetings take place the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 6pm. The Zoom information and recordings of previous meetings can be found on our website.

Finally, I would like to welcome Rebecca Souza to the VVH team. Rebecca joined VVH on September 12th as our new Director of Nursing Services. Her bio is included in this month's Buzz Word.

Melissa

Melissa A. Jackson, MBA, FACHCA

Chief Executive Officer

www.Vvh.vermont.gov

**TO VETERANS, MEMBERS
& FAMILIES**



**If you have scheduled a
medical appointment,
please let our friendly
Scheduler know.**

Contact:
TAMMY SHIELDS
Tammy.shields@vermont.gov
802.447.6542

THANK YOU



Sam, Michele and Melissa display the huge assortment of edible, comfort and entertainment gifts from Cindy's Baking Angels from Bolingbrook, IL

From the Deputy Administrator
Asa Morin



Happy Fall!

The first week of October we are celebrating Dietary Appreciation Week! Dietary has always been a hard-working department; however, over the past year they have truly shown their dedication to provide care to the Veterans and Members. The Dietary Department consists of The Food Service Supervisor, Food Service Coordinator, Cooks, Food Service Workers and Dietitian. Please join me in thanking them for all they do!

On another topic, I am working with the Activities Department on revitalizing our “Music and Memory” Program. Research shows that “personalized music is associated with a reduction in the amount of antipsychotic medication taken by nursing home residents and fewer distressed behaviors (UCDavis Health).” Simply, it brings joy and it helps people reconnect to their past.

What can families do to help? Research shows the best music to reach the soul is favorites from when someone was in their mid-twenties. If you can provide us with a list of the most specific favorites possible for your loved one, we can supply them with a personalized headset.

Please contact me for further information and check out musicandmemory.org !

Asa

Asa Morin, MSW, LICSW, LNHA

Deputy Administrator/COO/CCO (802) 447-6544

asa.morin@vermont.gov

“Music and Memory”

A monetary donation of \$30.00 provides a customized music player to a Veteran or Member. Music re-awakens the soul and brings joy in a way other treatments cannot.



These music favorites – specifically the beloved songs from a person’s formative years – tap deep memories not lost to dementia and can bring listeners back to life, enabling them to feel like themselves again, to converse, socialize, and stay present.

Your donations are gratefully accepted.
THANK YOU

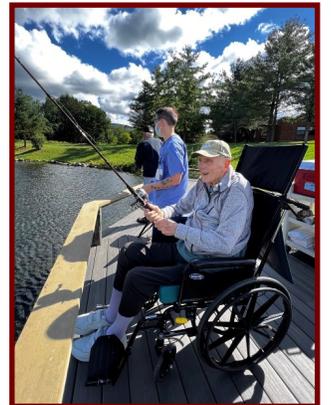


WHOOPIE

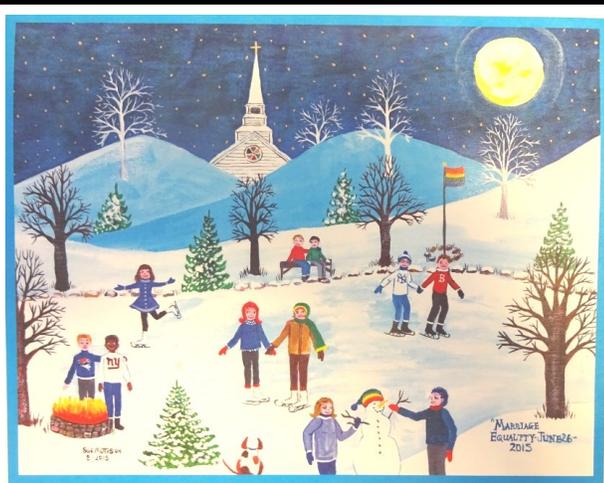
Administration is not always all work and no play. Having some fun, Asa gives a Whoopie Pie to Belinda of Housekeeping



A Great Day for Fishing



Cecelia's Corner



HAPPY 94TH BIRTHDAY, ED!!

Celebrating the milestone birthday with Ed are family members of the band, KEITH (Bonnie, Keith, Diane).

Many Veterans and Members joined in the festivities of the outdoor concert.

Harmonic Duo - Encore Performance

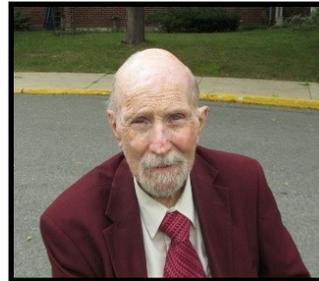
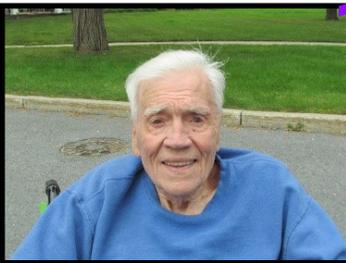


Paul and Herman do it again.

According to Herman, they love to play music and entertain because

"That's our thang."







The Vermont Veterans' Home is pleased to announce Rebecca Souza, DNP, APRN, ANP-BC, ACHPN has been selected as the Director of Nursing Services! Rebecca is responsible for overseeing all aspects of clinical services which include Nursing, Behavioral Services, Therapy Services, and Dietitian Services.

Rebecca shared, "I was born and raised in Newport, Rhode Island and began my nursing career as a certified nurse's aide. I completed my associates degree from Saint Joseph's School of Nursing in North Providence, Rhode Island, and then completed my bachelor's degree at Rhode Island College. I then joined the U.S. Army Reserves and completed eight years, resigning my commission at the rank of Captain. While serving in the USAR, I began my master's degree at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth and completed my advanced practice certification in adult health. I have spent most of my nursing career in the community setting with a special focus on caring for those with serious illness and at the end of life. I further attended Salve Regina University to attain my terminal Doctorate degree and my research focus was assessing and improving nursing teamwork in the end-of-life setting.

I also enjoy teaching and have taught a graduate level course on serious and terminal illness at the University of Massachusetts in Worcester. In addition, I am a certified yoga instructor and teach Yin yoga, a practice of holding postures for time while integrating meditation. I am married and have three dogs: 14yo Duncan a Lhasa-poo, 12yo Dolce a chocolate lab, and 1yo Tucker a standard poodle-training to be a professional therapy dog. I enjoy cycling and snowboarding as well as any activity that gets me outdoors through any of the New England seasons."

We are excited to add her experience and expertise to the VVH team!

THANK YOU, BENNINGTON ELKS GRANDPARENT'S DAY FISHING DERBY



The VVH thanks the Elks Club for donating their time and providing a wonderful picnic for our families. Special thank you to Tony who helped bring the event back to life and to all the VVH staff who always give their time and best to the Veterans and Members.

Howdy Folks,

While the intent was to write more on religions, the death of Queen Elizabeth II kind of nudged all other religious subjects to the back burner.

Queen Elizabeth II was awfully close to a perfect Christian. Even as a Monarch and the head of the Church of England, she treated commoners the same as world leaders. In times of woe or other crises, she refused to take sides but urged the opposing elements to work things out for the good of the family, the nation and the world. Her faith was stronger than the institution and her confidence in the people of the United Kingdom was remarkable.

It would do our leaders proud to lead by her example: to remember to treat others as we want to be treated. Through her prayers and actions she made decisions which promoted negotiations and reconciliation.

We need to pray that King Charles III will employ the same approaches and methods that his mom used. Further, that God will cause him and his leaders to always look to Him in all situations.

We can all exhibit the same Christian traits as Queen Elizabeth, we need only to realize the Holy Spirit lives within us and we can ask His help at any time.

May Queen Elizabeth II rest in peace.

Please pray for our troops around the world.

God bless,

Chaplain Ken

Chaplain's Corner



Candy

Costume

Treat

Spooky

October

Ghost

Cat

Black

Halloween

Trick

Night

Pumpkin

Fun

Witch

Orange

Boo



How many times can you
find the word "boo?"



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



Phyllis & Rhonda Roberts

Steve Leach

Cindy's Baking Angels—Illinois

Post 13 American Legion Riders

Joy Neal

Masonic Service Assn. Of N. America

Bombas Socks

David Farquharson

Cleo Vanderground

Rhonda Morse

Colleen Dence

VEW Post 13

Hilda Parks

Mr. & Mrs. William Capon

Jennie Weber

In Memory of Arthur Charron

Claire Roden

In Memory of Julia Fox

Mt. Lebanon Chapter #89 O.E.S.

Mt. Lebanon Lodge #46

In Memory of Thomas Graham

Steve and Lora Minton

Gordon Searles, Jr.

Gordon Searles III

**VVH Staff Recognition
Years of Service**

ADMINISTRATION

Mary Ryan — 4 years

**CLEANING/HOUSEKEEPING/
LAUNDRY**

Paul Beddie — 9 years

Randall Bates — 2 years

DIETARY

David Muir — 3 years

MAINTENANCE

Jamie Percey — 33 years

Frank Bossong — 8 years

Mark Jaeger — 5 years

NURSING

Becky Wilkinson — 11 years

Linda Shultz — 9 years

Laurie Dix — 5 years

Cynthia Murray — 5 years

Kylie Hoyt — 3 years

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Christina Cosgrove — 24 years



Check out
all the
donations

Pretty, cool



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

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.

Bingo Prizes
Costume Jewelry
Two pocket front
wheelchair/walker bags
Neck Pillows

Fidget Blankets
Crafts



Your donations are gratefully accepted.
THANK YOU

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".

Due to COVID-19, we are still 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 in the memo area of the check 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:

Memory Music Player

Veteran's Mobility Trail

Monetary donations toward
a paved walkway around
the perimeter of the VVH

1. What do you call a witch that goes to the beach?
2. What is a skeleton's favorite instrument?
3. Why didn't the ghost dance at the party?



- Answers:
1. A Sand-Witch
 2. A Trom-bone
 3. He had no body to dance with.

NATIONAL HEALTHCARE FOOD SERVICE WEEK OCTOBER 2-8



**We
SALUTE
You**



VVH thanks our Dietary Team

*They COOK,
they SERVE
and
they CARE*

for our Veterans and Members while making a tough job, serving over 2000 meals every week, look easy and fun.

Thank you to all the Dietary Staff—those that are pictured and those that are not pictured.

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

Vermont Veterans' Home
325 North Street
Bennington, VT 05201

