



VERMONT VETERANS' HOME

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 12

DECEMBER 2016

The BUZZ WORD



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

Please contact:

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

(802) 447-6510

Email: Barbara.Fitzgerald@vermont.gov

*Honoring
Those Who Have
Served*

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

**** We will not be accepting books or magazines at this time. THANK YOU to all who have donated to our Veterans at VVH.**



VFW with Melissa & Al.



Al & Melissa with Al Becker,
USS Bennington CVS-20 P.A.C.



Denise Eddy, Orvis representative
with Greg, Kelly and Melissa.



Wounded Warriors Christmas tree



Audrey and Richard with the Ukelele Club



Bennington Chamber of
Commerce with Ginny

DONATIONS

Chaplain's Corner...



Howdy Folks!

The excitement of the season is over. All the advertising, commercialism and hype of the Christmas and New Year's holidays has come to an abrupt end. I could not help but notice throughout the entire time, there was little acknowledgement or recognition of what Christmas is all about. So many people, even Christians, avoided the term "Merry Christmas" but expressed Happy Holiday and the emphasis seemed to be on finding the right gifts and arranging a New Year's Eve party or deciding what our New Year's resolutions will be.

Let us not forget that God was and is the reason for the season and His gift was one of salvation to all who would accept it. How quick we are to forget God's existence and presence in our lives and return to "doing it our own way." Let us remember God's blessings of 2016. Sure, there were a lot of sad times and difficulties to cope with but God was always there to lift us up and give us peace.

Soon that wonderful Vermont maple syrup will be running and the fifth season (mud) will arrive followed by a beautiful spring full of colors. I just can't wait.

Prayers to everyone for a peaceful and joyful 2016.

Please remember our troops in your prayers.

God Bless -
Chaplain Ken Coonradt



Santa Claus came to town with the VFW and visited at the Home



Boy Scout Troop 353 Making pretty ornaments



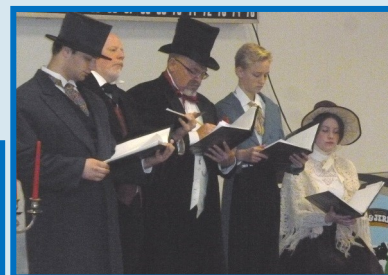
Carolers from Molly Stark Elementary School



Christmas Singers

A Time to Share

VAE helps make ornaments with residents



A Christmas Carol performed by Shakespeare on Main Street



VERMONT VETERANS' HOME

Fulfilling the Promise

**325 North Street
Bennington, VT 05201**

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 insuring 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 New Year!

I hope each of you had a wonderful holiday season. VVH received many visitors and donations during the holidays and we are thankful for the continuing support of the various community groups that visited or donated.

2017 is starting out to be a busy year. The biggest change that will be taking place is how we deliver food to our Veterans and Members. Over the course of the next few weeks we will be moving away from the current tray service to more of a family style dining. If you have visited recently you have seen construction taking place in many of our dining rooms. We are in the process of building country kitchens. Once these are complete the main kitchen will be gutted and updated. During this remodeling phase our dietary staff will be preparing food in a mobile kitchen unit set up outside of the facility. Food will be delivered to each of the dining rooms then plated and served to our Veterans and Members. With this new process, there are bound to be bumps in the road; we would appreciate your feedback and input on how to make the process better.

Construction is underway for the Gibney Pavilion by our trout pond and should be completed soon. We are looking forward to putting this area to great use in the warmer months.

“Budget Season,” as we affectionately refer to it, has started. We will be visiting the State House and providing budget testimony to various legislative committees in the coming weeks. Each year we have had to defend why the State needs a Veterans’ Home; I feel we do a very good job answering this question but we need your help. Please reach out to your local Legislator and tell them why VVH is important and needed. You can find your local Legislator at the following link:

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/>

Melissa A. Jackson, BSW, LNHA
CEO



**Alan Gibney
Memorial Pavilion
Groundbreaking
Ceremony**

L-R:
Melissa Jackson, CEO,
Salley & Robert Gibney,
and Frederick Loy,
Friends of the VVH



Left: Salley and Robert Gibney, Al Faxon, COO, Mr. Holden, Mr. Mook and Mr. Loy from the Friends of the Vermont Veterans’ Home

Right: Salley Gibney, ready to get the project started.



Donations

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

Rose & Bill Wolfe
 Mary Pacheco
 Virginia Leon
 Ken & Elaine Coonradt
 Maureen Sprague and Family
 Carol Perkins
 Joyce Charbonneau
 Peg Whalen
 Jesse Torregrossa
 Steve & Laura Herve
 Dora Holny
 Wilbert Hardy III
 Donald Keelan
 Phyllis Roberts
 Roger Preuss, Equinox Valley Nursery
 Ann Story Chapter DAR VT-1001
 Bennington Ukele Club
 Bennington Rotary
 Bennington Elks #
 Blue Spruce Grange #574
 Brattleboro Chapter D.A.R.
 Children of Readsboro, Auxiliary to Post 996
 Children of Sandgate Church
 Eastern Star of Arlington, VT
 Girl Scouts of Northeastern New York
 Olins Cards for Veterans & Seniors
 Orvis
 Shakespeare on Main Street
 So. VT Womans Christian Temperance Union
 The Pharmacy
 Vermont School for Girls
 Windham Wanderers #1
 Wounded Warriors
 Am. Legion Auxiliary, Craller Landon Unit #60
 Cambridge American Legion Auxiliary #634
 America Legion Riders
 American Legion Women's Auxiliary Unit 90

American Legion Auxiliary, St. Albans
 American Legion Post #49
 American Legion Auxiliary, Dept. of VT, Inc
 DAV Auxiliary, Bennington Chapter #4
 Pownal American Legion
 Sons of the American Legion
 USS Bennington CVS-20, P.A.C.T.
 Stephen Leach, Past. VT VFW State Commander
 VFW Post #6471
 VFW District #4
 Department VT. VFW Headquarters
 VFW Auxiliary Dept. of Vermont
 VFW Bennington County Post 1332
 VFW Post 1332 Color Guard and Auxiliary

In Memory of Betty Bolognani

Lois Hodge
 Judy Trow
 Sue & Theodore Irle
 Margaret Slagel
 Marlene Grushoff
 Annelise Carew
 James & Nancy Bushika
 Southeastern VT Community Action, Inc.
 Am Legion Aux. Nelson E. Pickwell Unit #15

Robert Kennedy Sr.

Frank & Jean Cody
 James Colvin
 James & Julianne Roy
 W.T. martin Plumbing & Heating, Inc

Robert Svitak, Sr

Angela & William Svitak
 Michel & Peggy Burke
 John & Norma McShane



Henry Cleveland and John Waite, Sons of the American Legion with Al and Melissa



Al, Steve & Laura Heave, Michele Burgess, Dora Holny and Michelle Hunt



*From Deputy Administrator...
Colonel Al Faxon*



Fellow residents of Bennington and the surrounding area, we at the Vermont Veterans' Home want to thank you for participating in this year's National Wreaths Across America Day at the Vermont Veterans' Home. Each December on National Wreaths Across America Day, the mission to Remember, Honor and Teach is carried out by coordinating wreath-laying ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery, as well as over 1,100 additional locations in all 50 U.S. states, at sea, and abroad.

This year the day was cold, windy, and snowing, yet as hardy Vermonters you attended and participated in honoring those who had served our great nation. Observing all who were present lay a wreath, call out the Veterans name, and salute each time was a memory I shall never forget.

This was our largest turnout in memory, and we are extremely grateful for you setting aside time on your busy holiday schedule to join us.

You came not to "decorate graves", but to commemorate their sacrifice and dedication to these United States and to the cause of Freedom.

A profound Thanks to all who attended!

S/F
AF



**Wreaths
Across
America**

American Legion Riders





"Decorations of
Blue on a Green
Christmas tree"
"Elvis"

Tree Lighting



Wishing
All
Happy
Holidays!!

Neil & Al

Thank you from the Board of Trustees



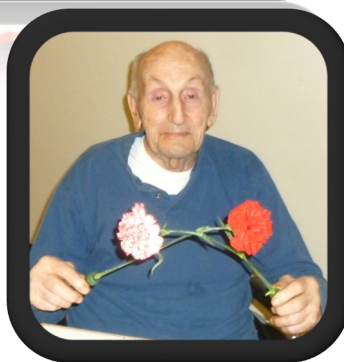
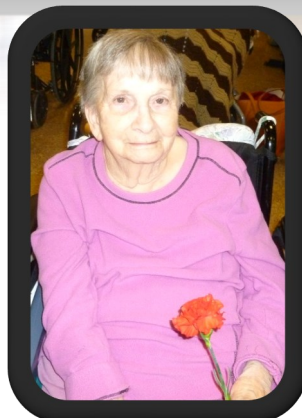
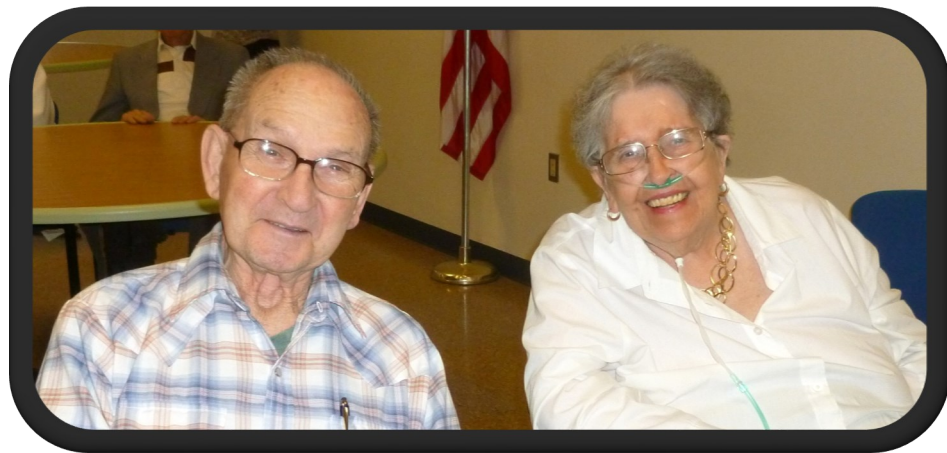
Challenge Coin Going Above and Beyond



L-R Barbara Fitzgerald, Receptionist; Tammy Lorette, Data and Supply and Delores Burdick, CHL



The Board of Trustees for the Vermont Veterans' Home instituted the Challenge Coin Recognition Program to award observed effort above and beyond the norm towards our Veterans, Members, or Home. Individuals such as the ladies on the left are the reason we have this award program.



VFW Christmas Party

A good time was had by all.

