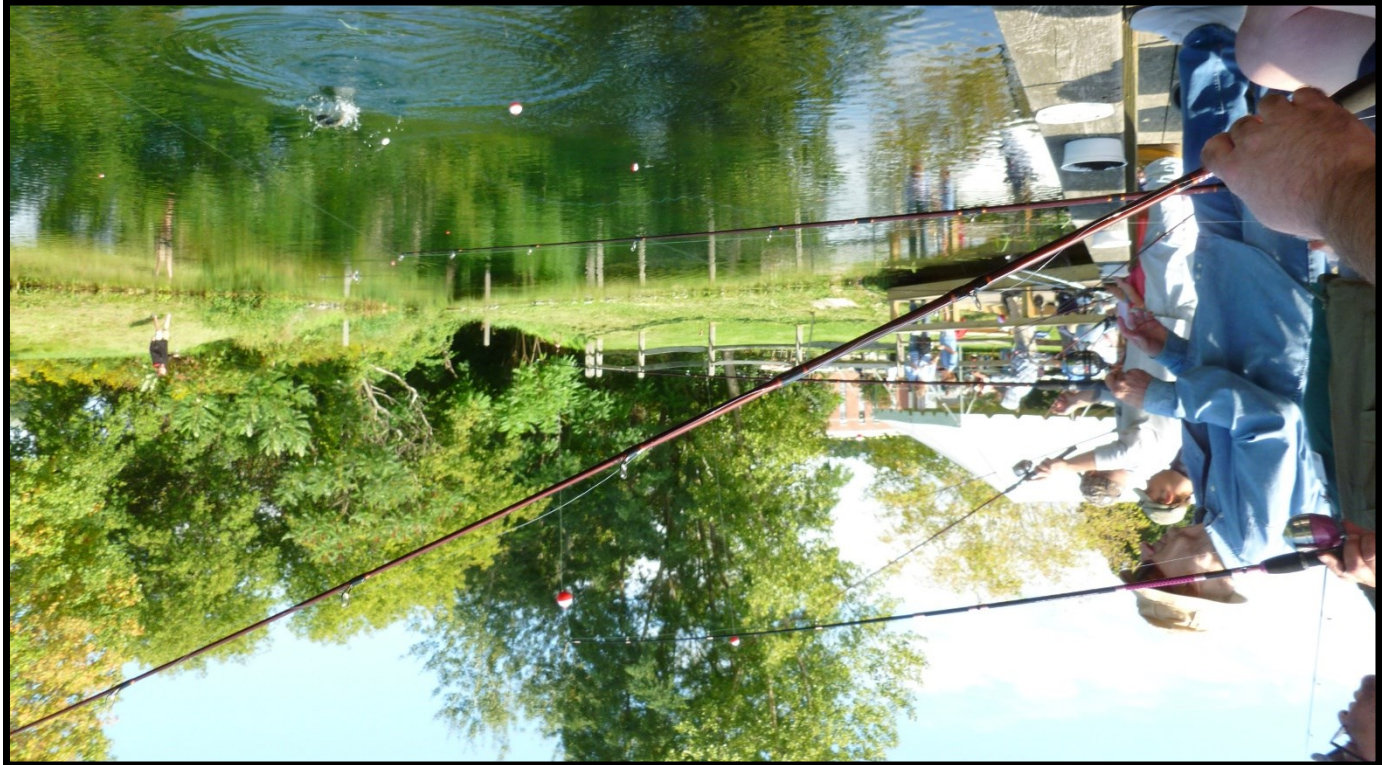




**Vermont Veterans' Home
325 North Street
Bennington, VT 05201**

"FULFILLING THE PROMISE"





VERMONT VETERANS' HOME

VOLUME 8, ISSUE 3

MARCH 2017

The BUZZ WORD



Iona Choquette's family surprised her with a party for her 83rd Birthday.



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:

**Mary Ryan, Executive Assistant
mary.ryan@vermont.gov
802-447-6523**



<http://vvh.vermont.gov>

Administration and Department Directors

Melissa Jackson, CEO/Administrator
447-6533
melissa.jackson@vermont.gov

Col. Al Faxon, COO/Deputy Administrator
447-6544
allan.faxon@vermont.gov

Steven McClafferty, Business Manager
447-2732
Steven.mcclafferty@vermont.gov

Patricia Crossman, Director of Nursing Services
447-6565
Patricia.crossman@vermont.gov

Cindy Rankin, Food Service Director
447-2815
cindy.rankin@vermont.gov

Michele Burgess, Activities Director
447-6520
michele.burgess@vermont.gov

Christina Cosgrove, Social Services Director
447-2792
christina.cosgrove@vermont.gov

Jon Endres, Environmental Services Director
447-6528
jon.endres@vermont.gov

Patti Parker, Housekeeping and Laundry Supervisor
447-2731
patricia.parker@vermont.gov

Jen Morrison, Program Manager of Rehab
447-6548

Karen Divis, Quality Assurance Nurse
447-2888
karen.divis@vermont.gov

Mary Hamilton, MDS
379-5279
mary.hamilton@vermont.gov

Gary Yelle, Admissions Coordinator and
Marketing Director
447-6539
gary.yelle@vermont.gov

Chaplain's Corner...

Howdy Folks,



On the 18th of February, members of American Legion Posts 13 (Bennington) and 69 (Arlington) observed the Four Chaplains Interfaith Memorial in the Chapel at the Vermont Veterans' Home. In attendance was leading candidate for National Commander for the American Legion, Denise Rohan from Wisconsin.

Denise will be the first woman to lead the American Legion starting in August 2017. You could not help feeling the love that was shown among all the folks that participated in and attended the event. It reminded me of Bible verse John 13:34 where Jesus said "a new commandment I give you, that you love one another".

Like the Four Chaplains who were of the Catholic, Jewish and Protestant faiths, many different faiths were represented here as well as people from many walks of life and backgrounds. Yet everyone was united in their love for each other and their love for God and Country. There was a unity that transcends and makes us one in loyalty to our Country, our fellow man and to our God.

Special thanks to Mary Ryan, Gary Yelle, Steve McClafferty, Fred Dunn and Cindy Rankin for helping me set up for this Memorial.

Say a prayer for our Troops serving around the world.

God Bless,
Chaplain Ken Coonradt



Four Chaplains Ceremony February 18, 2017

Chaplain Ken Coonradt and
Dee Colety



Lighting Ceremony with Don
Tatro, Dave Woodard, Nancy
Tschorn and Steve Greenslet.



Steve Luke from Post 13
playing taps



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: mary.ryan@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.**

The Greater Bennington Womans Bowling Association donating a check to the Activities Department.



Left to right

Al Faxon,
Evelyn
Rabideau,
Linda Cassano,
Phyllis Cornell
and Melissa
Jackson



From the Administrator...
Melissa Jackson

What is that old saying we learned in school about March, "March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb." The weather thus far is helping March live up to that statement. Despite the cold and freezing days, progress continues on the Allan Gibney Memorial Pavilion and the structure should be up very shortly. Look for a dedication on the pavilion in early spring.

The kitchen renovation is under way. Comments from our Veterans and Members indicate they like the new country kitchens. We continue to work out issues as they arise but the implementation of this part of the project was nearly flawless. The main kitchen has been completely gutted. Watch our Facebook page for pictures of this project.

Senator Bernie Sanders will be visiting on March 17th. He will have a tour of the facility and meet with the Veterans and Members. Senator Sanders has always been a great supporter of the Home and we look forward to his visit.

We continue to work on getting the word out on what a great place VVH is. Coming soon to a Vermont Comcast station near you will be a VVH commercial. Please let us know if you see the commercial and any feedback you may have.

Al and I recently attended the National Association of State Veterans' Homes winter conference in Washington, DC. This conference provided a wealth of educational information, an opportunity to meet and share ideas with fellow State Veterans' Homes and time to visit our Congressional Delegation.

As the weather gets warmer more and more of our Veterans and Members will be outside enjoying the grounds. Please be mindful of our speed limit and the speed bumps will be returning soon to provide an additional reminder to slow down.

Take Care,
Melissa



Thank you to Maj David Zsido U.S. Army (Ret) for donating the plaque pictured here USMC Ace Pilot Joe Foss...Medal of Honor Recipient.

Pictured are Col Faxon & Maj Zsido



Joe Foss - A Proud American Hero

April 17, 1915-January 1, 2003

Recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor presented by President Roosevelt in 1943 for outstanding heroism above and beyond the call of duty during the Battle of Guadalcanal. Joe Foss retired as Brigadier General of the U.S. Air Force, was elected 20th Governor of South Dakota, and became the first commissioner of the American Football League. He proudly served as the president of the National Rifle Association from 1988-1990.

F4F Wildcat flown by leading USMC "Ace" Pilot, Joe Foss during WWII.
Bullet and Casing fired from Joe Foss's 1911 Colt Pistol.
Made exclusively for the Friends of NRA.

March Activity Events

Las Vegas Night



**March
19th**



Patriot Hall at 1:30

Music with Sheila Scott

**March 21st in Patriot
Hall at 2PM**



One Man Band

**March 30th in Patriot
Hall at 1:30PM**



*From Deputy Administrator...
Colonel Al Faxon*



I would like to thank the staff for your superb effort this winter. First, to those of you who made it into work during inclement weather it is greatly appreciated by your workmates and our Veterans! Housekeeping maintained an impeccably clean building despite the salt and dirt tracked in, tremendous meals during construction transition, superb infection control, laundry never stops, and outstanding snow and ice removal. Everyone, thank you.

Historically, February was a busy month. The following are just a few events tied to our military past in no particular order; 1943 we captured Guadalcanal, Dorchester hit by a torpedo (our **four Chaplain's Chapel**), First Medal of Honor for WW II awarded to 2nd Lt. Nininger for the Battle of Bataan, the Battle for Iwo Jima/Flag Raising, daylight raids over Dresden Germany, 1898 Battleship Maine blown up in Havana, Desert Storm Allied grounds offensive began, The Tet Offensive in Vietnam, The Alamo Col Travis "Victory or Death", Merrill's Marauders begin Burma Campaign, USS Ranger (first aircraft carrier launched), BB-1 USS Indiana (first Battleship launched). These are but a few of the many events that occurred militarily during the month. Some of these, our Veteran's currently living here at the Vermont Veterans' Home participated in....but not the Alamo.

If you are aware of a Veteran or spouse who requires the services our Home, please pass our information along, or have them contact the Admissions Department. We have a great community living and working here at VVH.... We know some of our brothers and sisters may be alone and in-need of our Home. We have a great place for them.....Spread the Word!

S/F
AF

Some Historical Facts for March

The Star Spangled Banner becomes the National Anthem (1931)



Yellowstone becomes the U.S.'s first national park. (1872)

The Constitution of the United States of America goes into effect. (1789)



The U.S. government issues paper money for the first time. (1862)

Donations

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

**Pricilla Thayer
Phil Sherwin
VNA Adult Day program
American Legion Auxiliary Unit 87
Greater Bennington Women Bowling Association
Bob Dawson
Bass Outlet, Alison
Amy Jean Tremblay
Pownal American Legion
Phyllis Roberts
DAV Auxiliary Bennington Chapter #4
VFW District 4
American Legion Post 9
Jeffrey S Holmes Post 84
American Legion Post 49
Bags 4 My Cause
William & Linda Pellerin**

**Helen Jones
The Sheldon Family
Paul & violet Bertholet
Leroy & Jutta Hush
Linda McDevitt
Raebeth Hitchcock
Stephen & Jerilyn Witt
Robert Connolly Jr
Ivan & Nancy Lacross
Nicholson Family
Ann Maurer
John & Carol Thompson
Stanley Barron
Stephen & Michelle Witt
Arlington AL Auxiliary Unit 69**

**MSGT Richard Lemnah
Marlys Lemhan & Gina Nessler**

IN LOVING MEMORY

John Scarey

Claire McDonald Harvey
Suzan & Jeffrey Yucht, M.D.
James & Janet Thibodeau
William Jr. and Faye Hardy
Dennis & Marcelaine McCarthy
William & Mary Dailey
Birgit Talbot
James & Lodie Colvin
Robert & Florence Nolan
John JR & Margaret Galvin
Keith & Linda Vandale
Elaine & Thomas Babcock
David & Dorothy Elwell
Robert E. Cummings, Jr
Sonny's Blue Benn Diner, Inc.
James & Julianne Roy
Leone Dusablon
Nancie Coonz
Ann, Jeffrey & Daniel White
Arla Sampsell
Norshaft Lions Club Inc.
James & Susan Altland
Leonard & Lynn Gottardi
Kathy Kenyon
Shaftsbury Elementary School.

Mary Green

Edward & Jayne Grikstas

Dr. Richard Fabricius

Janet Fabricius

thank
you!

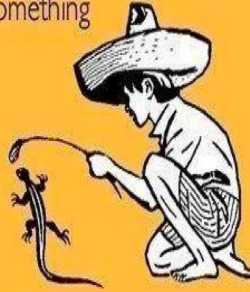
Funny March Observances

Daily
National puppy day 23



Weekly
Procrastination week

There are no limits to what you can accomplish when you are supposed to be doing something else.



Monthly
Coffee Therapy Month



The Motion Man



Kitchen construction...demolition time



The old—Tearing out all the old appliances and fixtures, flooring, ceiling and walls. Should be finished by the end of February.



The new — Wiring, plumbing, HVAC and Sprinklers. New partitions will also be going up as well starting around the first week of March.



Country Kitchens on the wings



The new kitchen that serves Cardinal and Brandon is up and running. Nick, Edna, Steve and Dylan are setting up for lunch.

Keith setting up for lunch in the new country kitchen that serves American Way and North Village.



Finally the country kitchen in Patriot Hall getting all set up for lunch by Boogie and David while resident Clarke Washburn looks at what's for lunch.



To **ALL** the kitchen staff who are making this transition for a new upgraded kitchen work as smoothly as possible while providing excellent service to the Veterans and Members.