

NH Veterans Home Receives US Flag Flown in Iraq

TILTON, NH - The New Hampshire Veterans Home (NHVH) recently received a special US flag from Captain Karin Eagan, USMC, daughter of NHVH Dietitian, Mary Ann Wareing, RDL. Captain Eagan is a pilot with the world famous 'purple foxes' CH-46 US Marine Corps. At the Commandant's update, Captain Eagan presented NHVH Commandant Barry Conway with a US flag flown in a helicopter piloted by her to the Iraqi cities of Al Taqaddum, Fallujah, Baghdad, and Ramadi.

The presentation was made as a thank-you for the boxes of goodies she received while she was deployed in Iraq from NHVH residents and staff through the Home's "Veterans Helping Veterans" Program. The flag was accompanied by a certificate from Captain Eagan which states, "This flag was flown by Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 364 while conducting a combat mission in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom 08.1 on 11 August 2008. Flown in honor of New Hampshire Veterans Home."

According to NHVH's Donna Lamprey, Housekeeping Supervisor, who coordinates the "Veterans Helping Veterans" project at the Home, "Capt. Eagan said she wanted everyone to know how grateful her crew was to receive the goodie packages; it is always nice to get things from home. It made them feel very special and to show their appreciation, she wanted to give her flag to the Veterans Home.

"Veterans Helping Veterans is a very worthwhile program that holds raffles and raises money to buy personal needs, goodies, and pays to ship the items to the troops serving during this active conflict," explains Lamprey. "It gives NHVH veterans the opportunity to express their gratitude for all that the troops continue to do for our great country. As veterans they know first-hand how the troops feel and what they are going through. One resident said if he wasn't disabled he would go over there and help, so the soldiers could possibly come home sooner."

Captain Eagan's very proud mom, Mary Ann Wareing, reports that her daughter is now stationed at Camp Pendleton, California. "She'll probably be there till her next assignment," says Wareing. "When she was overseas, the packages from 'Veterans Helping Veterans' were a reminder that people at home care about you. It was very much appreciated."

The New Hampshire Veterans Home was established in Tilton in 1890 as the Soldier's Home for Civil War Veterans. One of just four New Hampshire nursing homes to win the 2007 Quality of Life Award from the NH Department of Health & Human Services, the modern facility is home to 200 men and women who have served their country and fellow New Hampshire citizens. The mission of NHVH is to provide high quality, professional long-term care services to the Granite State's elderly and disabled veterans. NHVH is the only long-term care facility in the Granite State that is dedicated exclusively to veterans.

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Captain Karin Eagan, USMC, (left) presents a US Flag, Flown in Iraq, to NHVH Commandant Barry E. Conway.