

Veterans Help Veterans at NHVH

TILTON, NH - Donna Lamprey, Housekeeping Supervisor at the New Hampshire Veterans Home (NHVH), is dedicated not only to the veterans who live at the Veterans Home in Tilton, but also to supporting current members of the armed forces who are serving overseas. In her spare time she coordinates the "Veterans Helping Veterans" Program at the Home. Now more than four years old, the Veterans Helping Veterans Program is designed to help improve the quality of life of current servicemen and women while also improving the quality of life of NHVH residents.

"All of our residents have served our country during a time of war," Lamprey explains, "so they understand what our current servicemen and women are experiencing. By helping assemble 'Care' packages, creating homemade greeting cards, and writing letters to service members, our residents continue to have a strong sense of purpose. They know their efforts make a difference because we get wonderful letters back from the service members. We post the letters so everyone can read them, and we give an update regularly at Resident Council Meetings."

This month the Veterans Helping Veterans Program held a Spring Barbeque Theme raffle and raised \$751.00. The raffle prize included all the ingredients for a backyard barbecue: a gas grill with propane gas, a cooler, a barbecue tool set, a gift certificate for meat, a 12-pack of soda, and many other picnic-related items.

The raffle was won by Betty and Moe LaRue, who live in Kittery, Maine. Betty's mother, Harriet Hanson, served in the United States Navy during World War II and has been a member of the NHVH Community since March, 2001. Betty commented, "We love the Veterans Home. It's the best place for Mom—she's getting the care she needs here."

Donna Lamprey and her volunteers will soon be assembling the Veterans Helping Veterans "Care" packages. She says, "We buy items based on the needs of our servicemen and women. For those serving in



Betty and Moe LaRue, of Kittery, Maine, winners of the NH Veterans Home (NHVH) "Veterans Helping Veterans" Spring Barbecue-Theme Raffle, with NHVH Housekeeping Supervisor Donna Lamprey. As they loaded the gas grill into their truck, Moe was overheard saying, "We've got some steaks waiting for it!"

Iraq and Afghanistan, they really appreciate receiving toothpaste, soap, deodorant, insect repellent, sunscreen, lip balm with sunblock, nutritional snacks, and powdered drink mixes."

She also lets all Veterans Home staff know that if any of them has a loved one serving in the military on active duty and would like the Veterans Helping Veterans Program to send them a package, to let her know and she will send something as soon as possible.

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 facility is home to 200 men and women who have served our 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.