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Commandant

New Hampshire Veterans Home

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December 4, 2020

Dear Residents and Families –

As I write this letter, we are now 24 days into fighting the war on the COVID-19 pandemic. The assistance of Governor Sununu and his staff, officials throughout the State, Manchester VA and VISN 1 (VA New England Healthcare System) have made it possible to have temporary staff join our fight. We also appreciate a visit from the VISN 1 infectious disease specialist who provided recommendations for additional measures to take to reduce transmission. These measures include making areas more sterile by removing items with a porous surface, like books and puzzles. We continue to heed all possible recommendations to stop this outbreak.

As you know, COVID-19 is highly contagious. The vast majority of our residents are elderly and may have medical conditions putting them at a very high risk of devastating effects of the virus. Because of these facts and despite our safety measures, as of today, we sadly report that 21 of our veterans have passed. Our thoughts and sincere sympathies are with their loved ones.

Forty-one residents are currently fighting the disease and thankfully, ten veterans have recovered. Currently, 35 staff have active COVID-19 cases and 32 have recovered.

We are thoroughly examining every item that may transmit the virus. To stop the spread of any possible germs, we must ask that you not deliver or mail any items to the NH Veterans Home. We understand this is especially difficult as the holidays approach, however, it is an important part of infection control. Please note that items of communication, such as a cell phone, remain vital to stay connected; these will be sanitized and delivered.

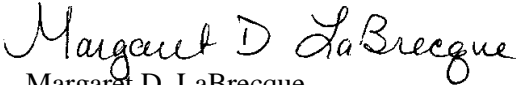
Open communication with you is important to us. In addition to letters, social media, and phone calls, another way to connect is using a group video call online. This would facilitate a conversation amongst numerous people at the same time, for all to benefit from the conversation of questions and answers. For families who prefer, phone calls are also a way to participate in the same online conversation. Our initial thought is to conduct these conversations weekly during the COVID-19 outbreak, possibly on Wednesday afternoons or Thursday mornings via Zoom. If this would be of interest to you, please call or email our Public Information Officer, Sarah Stanley, at (603) 527-4425, sarah.stanley@nhvh.nh.gov. Please note that these conversations would not include information about any one veteran, but would focus on information about the pandemic, our outbreak, and the NH Veterans Home in general.

We thank our NHVH staff for their dedication and hard work as we remain focused on living our mission of providing the best quality of life for NH Veterans with dignity, honor and respect.

We remain open to your questions; please let us know by calling (603) 527-4400. If you would like more information on COVID-19 in NH, visit www.nh.gov/covid19. For the latest CDC information, visit www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/.

Be safe!

Sincerely,


Margaret D. LaBrecque
Commandant