

# The Veterans Voice



Newsletter of the New Hampshire Veterans Home

Fall-Winter, 2015-2016

## Commandant's Report

Margaret "Peggy" LaBrecque



The year of 2015 was a historic one for us here at the New Hampshire Veterans Home for many reasons beyond the celebration of our 125th anniversary of operations, which took place on Dec. 3 in a large public ceremony headlined by Gov. Maggie Hassan.

Some important actions were approved in Concord that will keep the Home moving forward in 2016 to serve the needs of the 21st Century's veterans:

After months of negotiations in the Legislature, the bipartisan budget settlement finally approved provided additional funding for the Home to raise our resident census by 25, which should bring our average population to about 225 by the end of 2016. The increase should help to shorten the queue for veterans waiting for an opening on an appropriate unit after their applications have been approved, and move applications more quickly through the lengthy process.

It's taken months to get ready for those new arrivals. We've been working hard on things ranging from housekeeping items like freshening the rooms on Liberty Hall that were vacant to the key issue of hiring sufficient direct-care and support staff to meet the needs of the additional veterans.

We are all ready to ramp things up in 2016.

The year's other good news was the approval of a \$13.5 million item in the state capital budget that eventually will allow us to raise – quite literally – the capacity of the Life Enhancement Dementia Units by 50 beds. State approval of the matching money lets us get the project into the Veterans Administration's national funding queue, starting a process that will take several years. (While NHVH is a state agency,

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Gerry O'Brien, left, and Bill Meaney

## Finding some good company

Korea veterans connect across the years and miles

It all started with the hat.

When Tarr South resident Gerry O'Brien spotted a new guy in the dining room last August sporting a "Korea veteran" ball cap, he was curious, so he went over and struck up a conversation.

As he swapped information with the new resident, Bernard "Bill" Meaney, both of them were surprised by how much they had in common. Sixty-three years ago and

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## Medical records upgrade gets rolling

The phased rollout of our long-awaited Electronic Medical Records system continued throughout the fall, and implementation continues to go well. The first pieces of the system went live on Oct. 1, and additional modules have been gradually brought on line.

Nursing, Recreation, IT, Medical Records and Admissions are now entering and maintaining data in the Point Click Care system. And following integration with the pharmacy systems after the first of the year, even more functions will be trackable electronically, including orders management, medication administration and progress notes.

Work also is continuing under the \$378,000 contract with Wescom Solutions to install the network wiring and Wi-fi access points that will soon put medication records and other vital information at nursing staff's fingertips with laptop computers on traveling medical carts. Once that infrastructure is completed, more pieces including point-of-care and weights and vital signs modules will be usable.

Getting EMR implemented has been a very long haul. But we are now moving forward, thanks to the patience and devotion of the staff, who have been taking training to be better equipped to care for our residents.

# Tournament scores funds for Fogarty scholarships

The Fogarty Family of Laconia, which has endowed a scholarship program for the children and grandchildren of New Hampshire Veterans Home employees in memory of the late Daniel C. “Chuck” Fogarty, sponsored a successful fund-raising golf tournament at the Den Brae golf course in 2015.

Mr. Fogarty, an Army veteran of Vietnam and a widely known insurance agent and financial consultant in the Laconia area, passed away here in 2013. He had a lifelong commitment to education and was known to many as “Coach” for his involvement with local high school sports much of his life.

His widow, Natalie Fogarty, says the program is the family’s way of recognizing NHVH staff “for the skilled and loving care given to New Hampshire Veterans.” Since it was set up in 2014, the program has awarded more than \$2,000 in scholarships a year to individuals with various ties to the Home.

The Lakes Region Scholarship Foundation administers the program. Application materials for 2016 will be available in January, and the deadline for submission will be April 1.



At the tournament, from left, are Lakes Region Scholarship Foundation vice president Michael Nolan, scholarship foundation executive director Joan Cormier, and family members Natalie Fogarty, Molly Joyce and Michael Fogarty.

## Roll Call

### ADMISSIONS

Lionel Houle	7/7/2015
Lorenzo Perry	7/14/2015
Robert Williamson	7/21/2015
Guy Brisson	7/22/2015
Robert Levesque	7/28/2015
Peter Duffy	7/29/2015
Bernard Meaney	8/4/2015
Robert Smith	8/5/2015
Roy Shoults	8/11/2015
James Smith	8/12/2015
Robert Sargent	8/18/2015
William Pineo	8/19/2015
Joseph Butler	8/25/2015
Roland Weydemann	9/1/2015
James Macriganis	9/8/2015
Ronald Bilodeau	9/9/2015
Elmer Killam	9/15/2015
Frederick Britton	9/16/2015
Philip Audett	9/29/2015
Howard Greening	9/30/2015
Michael Elliott	10/6/2015
John Black	10/20/2015
Richard Cahill	10/21/2015
Ludolph Webber	11/3/2015
Harold McCormack	11/4/2015
Raymond Stauble	11/10/2015
William Wilbur	11/17/2015
Frank Quimby	11/18/2015
James Marchi	11/24/2015
Donald Willikens	12/1/2015
Willard Oja	12/2/2015
Norman Dion	12/9/2015
Cheever Newhall	12/15/2015
Armand Dupere	12/16/2015



### FINAL SALUTES

Vincent Mulligan	7/16/2015	Kent Locke	9/14/2015
William Miller Jr.	7/18/2015	Roland Bolduc	9/17/2015
Philip McCarthy	7/22/2015	Bertram Judson	9/18/2015
Raymond Doucette	7/24/2015	Evangeline Tappin	10/10/2015
Carlton Milliken Jr.	7/26/2015	Peter Ringer	10/25/2015
Tharsile Lessard	7/31/2015	Donald McCloskey	10/25/2015
Robert Kendall	8/01/2015	Shirley Gore	11/05/2015
Edward Slamar	8/05/2015	Warner Desmarais	11/14/2015
John Balles	8/25/2015	Stanley Carlson	11/18/2015
Myron Kalisz	8/29/2015	Michael Brady	11/27/2015
Daisy Howe	9/7/2015		



Portraits on chairs at the 125th anniversary event recalled the nine previous commandants of the Veterans Home.

## Commandant

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the VA provides 65 percent of the funding for our capital projects through the State Home Construction Program.)

The LEDU units opened in 2004. The building was designed from the outset to allow for the eventual addition of a third floor, but there will be many engineering challenges to be solved before it becomes reality. We will press forward, since we see growth in the demand for dementia care.

And our long-awaited Electronic Medical Records system finally became reality in 2015, with portions going live on Oct. 1. The system, common throughout the health-care industry, should eventually replace most of the current paper-based documentation of patient care and activities. For now, work continues on installation of wi-fi services that will let laptop computers on medication carts communicate with a central database to track patient activities and medications. The changes will boost efficiency and help safeguard residents from medication errors.

In 125 years, the New Hampshire Veterans Home has come a long way from the Victorian brick mansion on the hill that's become our symbol to today's 225,000-square-foot complex. But for as long as New Hampshire's brave men and women step up to serve their country, there will always be further to go to fulfill our mission of providing high-quality, professional long-term care to New Hampshire's elderly and disabled veterans, with compassion, respect and dignity.

*Peggy LaBreegue*



Gov. Maggie Hassan delivers keynote remarks during the New Hampshire Veterans Home's 125th Anniversary celebration on Dec. 3 in the Town Hall.

## Korea veterans connect across the years

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half a world away, the two Army veterans served in the same company at the same time, but in different platoons, so their paths never crossed until they met at NHVH.

Starting in mid-1952, the two served in E Company, 35<sup>th</sup> Regiment, 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, at Heartbreak Ridge, a rugged strip of hills a few miles north of the 38<sup>th</sup> parallel in North Korea that was taken by American and French forces after a bloody month-long battle

in 1951. Their mission was to hold the position, which had been captured at a high cost — more than 3,700 American and French casualties.

Both of them saw action in the sporadic battles with communist forces along the line of contact until the Korean armistice was signed in 1953. But they never met in Korea.

Meaney left the Army in 1953. O'Brien stayed in until 1956. Both returned stateside, married and raised families, and ended up here at NHVH that fateful day.



## *New Hampshire Veterans Home*

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### **Upcoming Resident Events**

**January 9, 2:30 p.m.:**

American Legion Auxiliary  
Post-Holiday Party with Sylvan  
Roots



**February 9, 2:30 p.m.:**

Mardi Gras

**February 14, 2:30 p.m.:**

Valentines Day party



**March 17, 2:30 p.m.:**

St. Patrick's Day party with Bernie Dougherty

**March 19, 1 p.m.**

Easter Egg Hunt

