

MARCH 2024

## March into Spring at HVH

Spring is in the air as our residents have enjoyed a variety of activities to celebrate the spring holidays and welcome the warmer weather and longer days. From St. Patrick's Day parties with musical entertainment and Karaoke, a special Easter meal, and a visit from the VFW Auxiliary Pennsylvania Department President and volunteer groups, there has been something for everyone.

Residents and their family members enjoyed a special Easter luncheon on March 20 featuring ham, stuffed chicken breast, and all the fixings from our Dietary department. Student volunteers from the Altoona High School Patriotic Student Alliance and the Northern Bedford High School automotive program came to help serve the meal and visit our residents, and everyone had a wonderful time.

Also for those who observe Easter from a religious perspective, Stations of the Cross services were offered by our Catholic Chaplain Father Bradley Baldwin, in addition to a special Easter Sunday service.

In the world of sports, HVH employees are participating in the third annual March Madness bracket competition, for a chance to win cash prizes donated by our Commandant! See the Sports Corner on page 12 for recent updates on the NCAA Men's Division 1 Basketball Tournament.

Please enjoy highlights from these March activities in this issue of *Front Lines*.

*Happy Spring!*



## HVH Leadership

### Commandant

Christina Dambeck

### Deputy Commandant

Kelly Smith

### Director of Nursing

Desiree Kearney

Have an idea or suggestion for the newsletter?

Contact:

**Emily McDowell**

Volunteer Resources  
Coordinator

**(814) 696-5371**

**emmcdowell@pa.gov**

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## Taps

Every month we honor and remember the HVH residents who have recently departed our ranks.

**Beryl Geddes**

**Donald Love**

**Carl Pottechko**

**Sharon Pugh**

**Rodney Raymond**

**Bruce Woodbury**



*"Day is done, gone the sun,  
From the lake, from the hills, from the sky;  
All is well, safely rest, God is nigh."*



## Welcome Wagon



### New Residents

Hollidaysburg Veterans' Home staff, volunteers, and residents would like to extend a special welcome to new residents who joined us over the

**John Saldana**

**Kenneth Schaffer**

**Frank Denjen**

**Warren Walk**

**Daniel Smith Sr.**

**Robert Gee**

**Roland Barbour**



### New Employees

**Heather Tepsic** - Part time Cook 1

**Nicholas Davis** - Nurse Manager 1

### Welcome to the Team!

New Volunteer: Tanya Pittman

### "Just for Fun" Staff Corner



The winners of the employee St. Patrick's Day costume contest were: 1st Place - Chrissy Dambeck; 2nd Place - Colleen Thomas; 3rd Place - Lynn Yetzko; 4th Place - Cody Prough. Thanks to everyone who participated!



# Happy St. Patrick's Day from HVH!





# Easter Family Meal





## Happy Easter from HVH



Residents enjoyed Easter parties featuring musical entertainment from John Wolfe and Tom Smith, and adorable cupcakes donated by the VFW Auxiliary Dept. of PA.



Residents continue to enjoy the Artist in Residence program every week in Eisenhower and Arnold Halls, under the guidance of local artist Geny Krayushkin. This week, residents made Easter egg paintings .





## Resident Birthdays

HVH would like to wish a very **Happy Birthday** to all of our residents with birthdays in February and March!

### March

Barbara Valenzuela	Anthony Trio
Carolyn Burgard	James Lohr
Charles Bates	Eleanor Macurak
Herman Comerer	Howard
John Saldana	Hergenrother
David Dodson	Rose Servinsky
Kenneth Hughes	Randy Broadt
Arthur Schneider	Joseph Rackish
James Kamoie Jr.	Joseph Kahl
Russell Stiffler	Janet Claar
George Marlett	Robert Turek
Douglas Clapper	Kenneth Fisher
Richard Crane	

### April

William Hoefler	Darryl Sees
Herbert Helsel	Eric Davis
Marsha Phillips	Karen Herman
Delbert Bingaman	Mitchell Gruff
Theodore Citro	Thomas Price
Jane Fields	Shelva Wolfe
Dean Woomer	Daniel Iglesia
Gary Derouchie	Joanne March
Joseph Bender	
James Cramer	



Eisenhower Hall resident and Army veteran Russell Stiffler celebrated his 101st birthday with family members, staff and fellow residents. Happy Birthday, Mr. Stiffler!





## Commandant's Corner

Hello all,

It was wonderful being able to see everyone enjoying the Easter Meal; lots of happy faces and delicious food! I would like to thank all of the staff and family/friends of residents that were able to make this possible, along with all of the wonderful volunteers that graciously donated their time in order to lend us all a hand.

Construction is continuing to move forward at a steady pace. We are meeting with leadership to move forward with the next steps of planning the transitional phase after the building is completed, and we are very eager to see how everything is going to look after we have all the details mapped out. Looking at all of the things that are right around the corner is incredibly exciting and will need a lot of diligent care and attention; rest assured that we have all of the right people and attitudes involved to make this a great transition!

I want to take this time to introduce a new member of our nursing administration. Welcome to our new Assistant Director of Nursing, Nick Davis. Nick has a lot of great ideas that he has already been bringing to facility discussions and planning, and we are happy to have him aboard. I would also like to announce that a current staff member, Dylan Nelson, will be moving from his position as DON Clerk to Commandant Clerk. Dylan is currently working to cover the three Clerk positions at the front offices and I have no doubt that he will be a great asset in his new position moving forward. We are glad to have them as part of our team. Please feel free to stop by their offices and introduce yourself.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to call or stop by my office. I can be reached at (814)696-5356 or via email [cdambeck@pa.gov](mailto:cdambeck@pa.gov).

Best regards,

*Chrissy*





## Resident Council

Greetings from Arnold Hall:

March 1st we had an art program, Gospel video and Stations of the Cross. March 2nd was Dr. Seuss Day. We celebrated with a story. March 3rd was National Anthem Day. March 11 was Johnny Appleseed Day. We celebrated with Bingo and a story. Some other activities included Protestant service, cards, Men's Blue Caps group, and Horseracing. March 17th we celebrate St. Patrick's Day with karaoke and trivia. March 18th was Awkward Moments Day. We had Scottish Rites Bingo and awkward moments storytelling. March 19th was the First Day of Spring/Let's Laugh Day which we celebrated with Tell Jokes and Funny Animal Videos.

March 20th was the Easter Family Meal and concert videos.

March 24th was Palm Sunday. We had a Hymn Sing & Catholic Mass. March 25th was Special Bingo sponsored by Disabled American Veterans (DAV) and an art program.

March 29th is Vietnam War Veterans Day. We celebrated with a Rodney Painter concert. March 30th we have an art program and Easter movie.

Time for a Joke!

*Passengers on a jetliner were relaxing in their seats for a long flight. The voice over the loudspeaker had just announced that the aircraft had reached its cruising altitude and the passengers were free to unfasten their seatbelts and move about the cabin. Then the voice continued ...*

*Ladies and gentlemen, we are proud to announce that you are flying on the maiden voyage of one of our brand new fully automated jetliners. These new jetliners are the pride of our fleet and have no need for a pilot, co-pilot and navigator. All human error has been eliminated. You needn't be alarmed, as everything is completely controlled by our computer. We're so excited about the world's first fully automated aircraft, and hope you are, too. So just sit back and relax and remember, nothing can go wrong ... nothing can go wrong ... nothing can go wrong ... nothing can go wrong."*

Wishing a Happy & Blessed Easter to all!

***John Sewinsky***

President, Resident Council, Arnold Hall

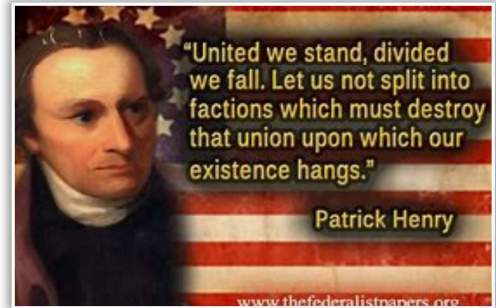




## This Month in History

Brought to you by Historyplace.com and History.com

**March 23, 1775** - Patrick Henry ignited the American Revolution with a speech before the Virginia convention in Richmond, stating, "I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty, or give me death!"



### March 28, 1979 -

Near Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, the Three Mile Island nuclear power plant accident occurred in which uranium in the reactor core overheated due to the failure of a cooling valve. A pressure relief valve then stuck causing the water level to plummet, threatening a catastrophic nuclear meltdown. The accident resulted in

the release of radioactive steam into the atmosphere, and created a storm of controversy over the necessity and safety of nuclear power plants.

**March 30, 1981** - Newly elected President Ronald Reagan was shot in the chest while walking toward his limousine in Washington, D.C., following a speech inside a hotel. The president was then rushed into surgery to remove a 22-caliber bullet from his left lung. "I should have ducked," Reagan joked. Three others were also hit including Reagan's Press Secretary, James Brady, who was shot in the forehead but survived. The president soon recovered from the surgery and returned to his duties.



**National Vietnam War Veterans Day** is observed every year on March 29 and is a way to thank and honor our nation's Vietnam veterans and their families for their service and sacrifice. There are 5 objectives with Vietnam Commemoration and the other four are:

- ◆ Highlight the service of our Armed Forces and support organizations during the war.
- ◆ Pay tribute to wartime contributions at home by American citizens.
- ◆ Highlight technology, science and medical advances made during the war.
- ◆ Recognize contributions by our Allies.





# Resident Life

Residents enjoyed lots of visitors this month, including the current Pennsylvania state president for the VFW Auxiliary - Mary Jean Mastridge, student groups, and our VFW Auxiliary reps who host monthly Red Hats and Blue Caps activity groups.





# Sports Corner



## No. 4 Alabama upsets No. 1 North Carolina

Another upset in Los Angeles is complete.

Alabama is headed to the Elite Eight for the second time in team history after it took down No. 1 seed North Carolina 89-87.

North Carolina increased its lead late in the first half, but Alabama controlled the second half en route to the victory. The Crimson Tide outscored the Tar Heels 43-33 in the final 20 minutes as the top seed struggled to shoot the ball. In the second half, North Carolina was 10-for-39 from the field and 2-for-15 from 3-point land.

The star for Alabama was Grant Nelson, who scored 19 of his game-high 24 points in the second half. He scored at critical points with his own 7-0 run late in the game; a massive three-point play in the final minute gave the Crimson Tide the lead for good and he hit his free throws at the end to preserve the lead to send the nation's top scoring offense on to the next round.



It's Alabama's first trip to the Elite Eight since 2004 and it will play Clemson on Saturday, with the winner making its first trip to the Final Four. — Jordan Mendoza

Article Source: March Madness scores: Sweet 16 highlights, NCAA bracket info ([usatoday.com](http://usatoday.com))

Here are the results of Thursday's Sweet 16 matchups:

- (6) **Clemson** 77, (2) Arizona 72
- (1) **UConn** 82, (5) San Diego State 52
- (4) **Alabama** 89, (1) North Carolina 87
- (3) **Illinois** 72, (2) Iowa State 69

### **Sweet 16 Schedule for Friday, March 29:**

- (2) Marquette vs. (11) NC State | 7:09 p.m. | CBS
- (1) Purdue vs. (5) Gonzaga | 7:39 p.m. | TBS/truTV
- (1) Houston vs. (4) Duke | 9:39 p.m. | CBS
- (2) Tennessee vs. (3) Creighton | 10:09 p.m. | TBS/truTV



## Happy Social Work Month

The Social Services Department at HVH proudly celebrates all five of its current social workers for National Social Work Month! As long-term care social workers, we work hard to ensure the highest level of psychosocial wellbeing as possible for our residents. We help our residents and families communicate their wants and needs. Social workers have a variety of roles from clinical work with assessments and care plans, to helping meet basic needs such as coordinating the provision of seasonally appropriate clothing for residents, to meeting social needs such as helping residents coordinate outings with their family, etc. Whatever it is, we are here to help. Here's to our social workers!

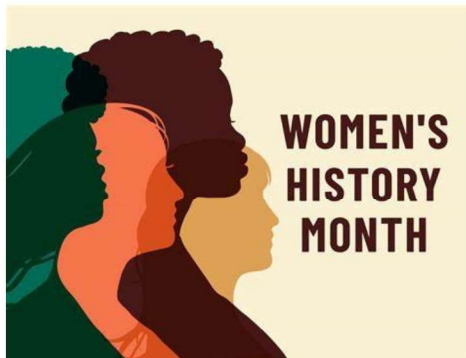


Sheena Mickel, LSW - Social Services Director  
 Cassandra Adams, LSW - EH Social Worker  
 Tommy Fedesco, LSW - EH Social Worker  
 Olivia Yantis, LSW - AH Social Worker  
 Erica Coppersmith, LSW - Contract Social Worker



### Women's History Month

National Women's History Month honors the successes and sacrifices of U.S. women. It dates to March 8, 1857, when hundreds of women from New York City garment and textile factories rallied to protest harsh working conditions. In 1909, New York City



became the site of the nation's first Women's Day celebration, a year after 15,000 women there marched to demand shorter working hours, better pay, an end to child labor and the right to vote. More than seven decades later in 1981, Congress set aside the second week of March as National Women's History Week. Six years later, Congress expanded the week to a month. As we celebrate Women's History Month, we reflect upon the advances women have made, including increased earnings, educational attainment and job opportunities.



# Employee Recognition

**Caught You Caring** is an exceptional service program to recognize staff members that exceed expectations. HVH employees and residents who wish to nominate an outstanding employee complete a "Caught You Caring" postcard for that employee. The employees' names are entered into a prize drawing at the end of the month.

These HVH employees were nominated for "Caught You Caring" in the month of February 2024:

Shane Temple	Mary Baker
Becky Zearfoss	Scott Warfield
Elisha Ritchey	Heather Drass
Leanne Zedack	Tracy Worthy
Lizbeth Talko	Kevin Kerr
Michelle Dick	Jesse Baker
Joe Patterson	Lyle Lawson
Melissa Pinizzotto	Adam Kline
Michelle Parrish	

The winner for the January drawing was **Kevin Kerr!**  
Congratulations!

*Any HVH staff member or resident can nominate a staff member for this recognition. Please send your nominations each month to Chrissy Dambeck.*

**Caught You *Caring!***





# Retirements

***HVH would like to congratulate the employees who recently retired. Thank you for your service to the veterans and veteran spouses of HVH. You will all be missed!***

## **Eileen Smith, CNA**

Eileen was hired as a Nurse Aide in November of 2006, and will retire in April with over 17 years of service to HVH, working most recently on Ground West. Thank you, Eileen, for your service to our residents!



## **Rodney Watson, Housekeeping**

Rodney was hired as Custodial Worker 1 in April of 2000, and was promoted to Custodial Worker 2 in January of 2021. Rodney has worked in every building and is well known for his strong work ethic and willingness to go above and beyond. Rodney retires in April with over 24 years of service at HVH. Thank you Rodney for your service!





# Mac Hall Happenings

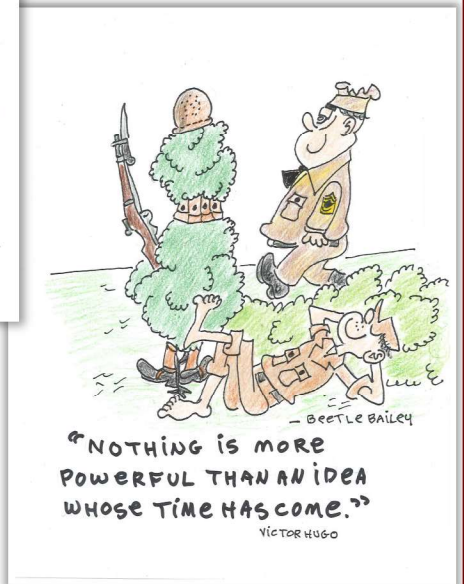
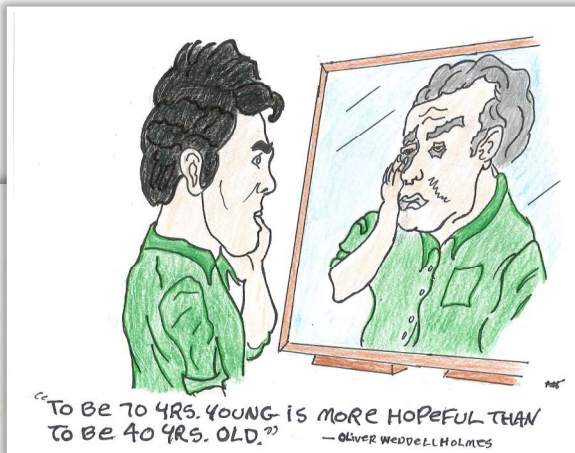
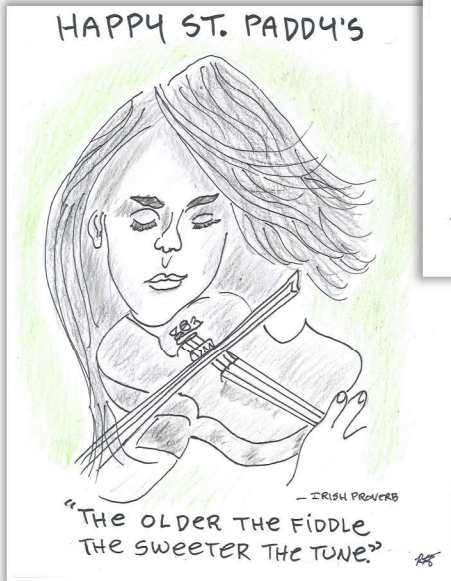
At MacArthur Hall this month, residents enjoyed the Easter family meal and Easter goody bags put together by members of Combat Veterans Ch. 22-4. The ladies also enjoyed relaxing facials offered by Nola Thompson, an HVH volunteer with the VFW Auxiliary.



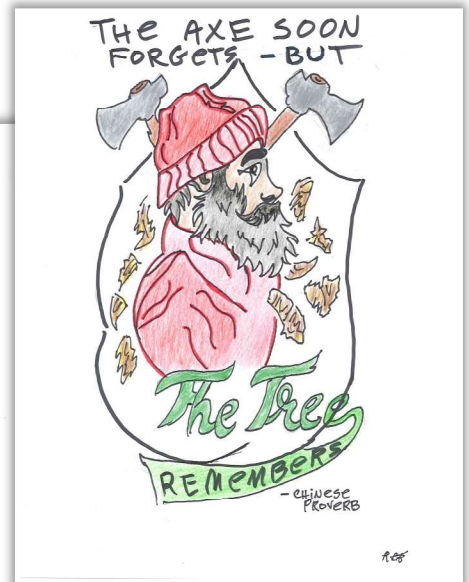
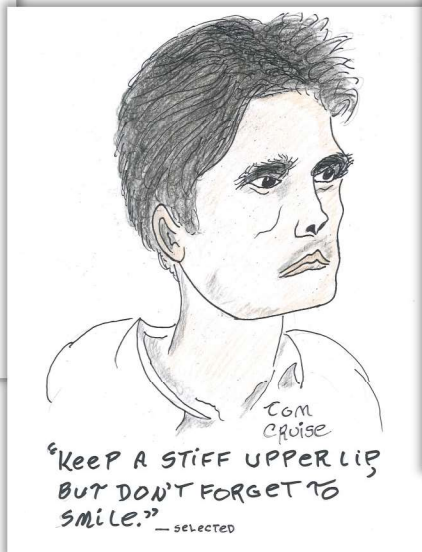
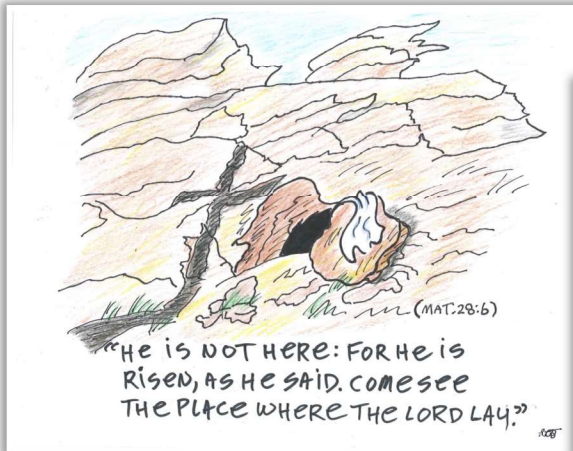


# Mac Hall Musings: March 2024 Edition

Please enjoy these clever drawings and quotes that are displayed throughout the halls of MacArthur Hall, courtesy of talented resident artist Mr. Bob Fink. He calls this issue **"Proverbs, Personified"**.



## March: Proverbs, Personified





# Donations



The Hollidaysburg Veterans' Home would like to acknowledge all of the organizations and individuals who donated money or items to the home throughout the month of **February 2024**. Your generosity helps our residents to enjoy life-enriching activities and the comforts of home here at HVH. **Thank you!**

## Individuals

Stephen Metzger  
Mary Beth Kline  
Paula Konzinski  
Edward Sabo  
Julia Benton  
Richard & Claudia Shaw  
Myra Walters  
Donald Steigerwald & Donna Riccio  
Craig Connacher  
Timothy Ronan  
Robin Jackson  
Al Levine  
Barry & Sandy Neal  
Warren & Mary Emeigh  
Samuel & Elizabeth Stewart  
John & Jan Grinder  
Sharon Widney  
Jenni Trombetta  
Donna Beam  
Joseph & Rita Pompa  
Kevin Grazier  
Marlow (Dean) Smolik

## Organizations

American Legion Auxiliary # 174  
Gallitzin  
American Legion Auxiliary # 238  
Cresson  
American Legion Auxiliary # 628  
Lilly  
American Legion Auxiliary # 551  
Summerhill  
American Legion Auxiliary # 573  
Dunlo  
American Legion Auxiliary Post # 516  
Hollidaysburg  
American Legion Auxiliary Unit # 57  
Saltsburg  
Blair County Christian School  
Duncansville  
Bishop Guilfoyle High School  
Altoona  
Cambria County American Legion  
Auxiliary South Fork  
Chambers & James Funeral, Pet &  
Cremation Services Wellsburg, WV  
Curryville Church of the Brethren  
Curryville





## Donations

### Organizations

Daughters of the American Revolution

Bellefonte

Dickson Presbyterian Church

Carlisle

Dollar Tree

Altoona

Huntingdon Cammander # 65

McVeytown

Ladies of the Grand Army of the

Republic Gibsonville, NC

Ladies of the Grand Army of the

Republic Allentown

Levin Furniture

Altoona

Operation: LTM

Sumter, SC

Operation: LTM

Little Valley, NY

Operation: LTM

Shermans Dale

Order of the Eastern Star

Chapter # 28 Beech Creek

Order of the Eastern Star

Bellwood

Scottish Rite Masons

Altoona

Seven Mountains Media

Froggy 98.1 Hollidaysburg

Stevens Program

Altoona

State Correctional Institution

At Huntingdon

TLC Preschool

Altoona

VFW Auxiliary Post # 7377

Cresson

VFW Post # 7524

South Fork

VFW Auxiliary Post # 8333 Breezewood

Warfordsburg

VFW Auxiliary Dept of PA

Claysburg

WAC-VA AWU Keystone Chapter 120

Todd



Questions about donating  
or volunteering?

Contact the Volunteer  
Services Office:

**(814) 696-5371** or

**(814) 696-5276**



## Hollidaysburg Veterans' Home

184 Veterans Boulevard  
Duncansville, PA 16635

Phone: 814-696-5201

Fax: 814-696-5260

E-mail: RA-MVVA-HOMES@pa.gov



# pennsylvania

DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY  
AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

HOLLIDAYSBURG  
VETERANS' HOME

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facebook



You Tube

<https://www.dmva.pa.gov/paveteranshomes/HollidaysburgVeteransHome/Pages/default.aspx>

## Hollidaysburg Veterans' Home

**HVH's Mission:** Ensure the Veterans of the Hollidaysburg Veterans' Home (HVH) receive superior care and support while complying with State & Federal laws and policies for health care and veterans' programs.

### HVH's Goals

- Ensure the Veterans of HVH receive superior care and support.
- Ensure compliance with State & Federal laws and policies for health care and veterans' programs.
- Capture and implement best business practices and innovative concepts for support functions.
- Manage, train, develop and care for employees – foster a team environment.
- Oversee budget process and proper stewardship of funds.
- Strive for excellence.



*"We Care For Our Veterans!"*

