

Home Front Newsletter



Commandant's Corner

A sincere "thank you" goes out to all Members, family members, volunteers and staff for making the Wisconsin Veterans Home at Union Grove a great place to live and work! It causes one to stop a moment and reflect on the incredible generosity, kindness, and compassion that is part of the daily experience at our beautiful Home for Veterans.

With Veterans Day and Thanksgiving right around the corner, it's not too early to start reflecting on and honoring all the men and women thru our history who have given up so much to keep our nation free. We pray for those currently "in harm's way," and also for those remaining back home struggling with overwhelming loneliness, fear and anxiety until their loved one returns home safely to their arms.

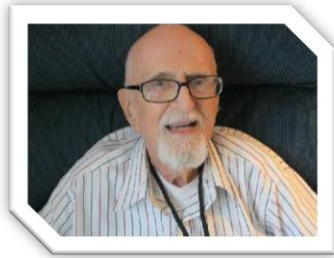
What an incredible blessing from God it is... to be able to honor and serve those that are the foundation of what makes America great! We depend on our Veterans to secure our freedoms, and on God to preserve our nation in peace and prosperity.

Yours in service,

Randy

MEMBER
Spotlight

**Fairchild Hall Member of the Month
Bob Cutter**

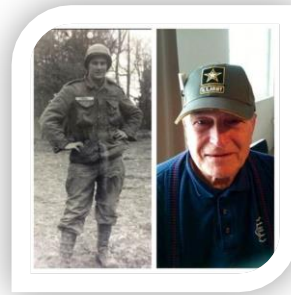


Bob Cutter was born on March 10th, 1920, which makes him 97 years young! He was born in Viroqua, WI but has lived in many locations in both WI and the United States throughout his life. In the fall of 1941 he was 21 and his grades weren't the best while he was attending the University of Wisconsin-Madison. The draft was coming up, so on October 13th, 1941 he enlisted in the Marine Corps for a one-year term as a reservist, and later his one-year turned into four! Bob has written his own story about his time serving in the United States Marine Corps, which unfortunately is too long for this newsletter. However, if you ever have time to stop by and visit him at Fairchild Hall, ask him to tell you or show you his story; it is one worth hearing and reading!

Once the battle was over and the treaty was signed (WWII), the reservists were given the option to come home if they had 85 points. Bob had 87! He came back to the US, finished schooling and graduated from University of Wisconsin on the GI Bill with an undergraduate degree in Accounting and a Master's degree in Business Administration. Then he pursued 31 years in the banking business along with so many other careers such as a Real Estate Specialist, Teacher, US Mail Carrier, PGA Golf Marshall, US Marines Drill SGT, and owning Grampa Bobs Popcorn Company, just to name a few!

With all his adventures and obstacles through life he was happy to have his family by his side. He has 3 children, 9 grandchildren, 6 great grandchildren and even a couple of great-great grandchildren! He was married twice and says "the first time you marry is for love and the second time is for companionship." Bob has endless amounts of stories and wisdom to share and we are so happy he is an active Member of Fairchild Hall! As he would say "I've been lucky enough in life to be at the right place at the right time." Thank you Bob for your service in the United States Marine Corps!

**Boland Hall Member of the Month
Anthony "Tony" Joseph Brace**



Many know him as Tony but his full name is Anthony Joseph Brace. Tony is a true example of someone living life to the fullest. He was born and raised in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania on March 14, 1934. He is one of four siblings. He loves talking about his late mother, Anna, who as a teenager worked at H.J. Heinz Company and then became a homemaker. She was a strong, devoted and caring woman. His father, Frank, a full bred Italian, worked in the Steel Mills. Tony enjoyed when his father would take him and his brothers to baseball games to see the Pittsburgh Pirates play. By the time Tony was out of high school, he was drafted into the United States Army. He got a chance of a lifetime to serve his country when they sent him to Germany. This is something he'll never forget, just ask him!

After his service in the military, Tony started working at Mine Safety Appliances (MSA) as a draftsman. He retired after 35 years. During that time, he met his wife Christine (Chris) of whom he is still married to since 1963 (54 years). They have six children and thirteen grandchildren. He's been a devoted caretaker of his wife when she became sick and bedridden in 1998 at which point they've been inseparable. In 2011, Tony and his wife moved to Wisconsin.

When he's not with Chris he enjoys just about anything, especially going bowling. He's won many trophies for bowling back in his prime and was even on a game show called "Bowling for Dollars" back in Pittsburgh in the 1970's. Another passion of his is singing. He can definitely carry a tune that can put a smile on anyone's face! At his current age of 83, Tony not only has made a lot of friends throughout his life but is mostly known for giving of himself for those who are in need.



Building	Where To	Date/Time	Volunteers/Needed
Boland Hall-1st Floor	Walmart Lunch Outing	Thurs., Nov. 16th 1:00pm	2-3
		Fri., Nov. 17th 10:30am	2-3
Boland Hall – 2nd Floor	Walmart Lunch Outing	Mon., Nov. 13th 9:30am	2-3
		Wed., Nov. 29th 10:45am	2-3
Boland Hall-3rd Floor	Walmart Lunch Outing	Wed., Nov. 1st 1:15pm	2-3
		Tues., Nov. 14th 10:30am	2-3
Fairchild Hall	Walmart Lunch Outing Walmart	Mon., Nov. 6th 1:00pm	2-3
		Wed., Nov. 8th 10:30am	2-3
		Mon. Nov. 27th 1:00pm	2-3
Gates	Walmart Lunch Outing	Mon., Nov. 20th 1:00pm	2-3
		Tues., Nov. 28th 11:00am	2-3
BH & GH	Eat-Out-In Ladies Shopping	Tues., Nov. 7th noon-MPR	2-3
		Wed., Nov 15th 1:00pm	3-4

Welcome New Members:

Jack Amborn-VFW Bingo Fairchild Hall
 Gene VanWie- VFW Bingo Fairchild Hall
 Charlie Baumeister-Assist with Catholic Mass

QAPI:

What's new with QAPI? (Quality Assurance Performance Improvement)

What's new?? A book outlining the Performance Improvement Plan for various departments that they are working on in the building and their updates on progress is now available, please take the time to review; it is located near the elevators in Boland Hall.

A big project we will be working on is Customer Service between staff members and various other vendors. Currently we are in the data collecting stage and hopefully we will implement new programs.

We encourage you to become involved with the program. If there is a particular concern or area in need of improvement, please either let someone in management know or fill out a slip by the suggestion box at the front desk.

We will continue to work and identify problematic areas so that we can provide better standards of living for the Members. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to ask.

Thanks for your assistance,
Laura Bruce
Deputy Commandant

VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH:

Volunteer of the Month Bernie Kurylo



Bernie was invited to volunteer for our Members through the American Legion Auxiliary. She has been a loyal Scrabble volunteer since approximately 2010. Marilyn and Bob Larson were some of her first Scrabble players. You can find Bernie every Tuesday, in Gates Hall, with her Scrabble game and large dictionary, keeping minds sharp and smiles bright.

When Bernie was asked about her hobbies, she stated, "This is it", referring to volunteering. In addition to spending time with our Members, she offers her time to the American Legion Auxiliary, and the Lions. She is very active in providing welcome gifts to our new Members, which include an afghan, writing paper, pens, and socks. To date, 264 afghans have been provided to new Members. Bernie also is part of the Red Hatters, where her group serves pumpkin pies during the holiday season.

Bernie stated that the reason she chose to volunteer at the Veteran's Home was because the veterans are precious.

Thank you Bernie for your loyal and consistent time offered to our Members. You keep them active and smiling.



Volunteers Needed....

Volunteer Opportunities – If you are interested in the following volunteer opportunities, please contact the Activity and Volunteer Director, Terri Presser at 262-878-6725 or email at Teresa.Presser@dva.wisconsin.gov

- ❖ **Primary Need**-Volunteer to escort Members to/from barber appointments.
- ❖ Provide a movie night on 3rd floor Boland Hall.
- ❖ We are in need of a volunteer to assist Members with simple computer tasks on a one-to-one basis.
- ❖ Maintain organization of the Fairchild Hall library.
- ❖ Assist with Leather Shop projects on Wednesdays from 1:00-3:00pm.
- ❖ Play Mexican Dominoes with Members.
- ❖ Provide one-to-one assistance on outside walks with Members.
- ❖ Assist activity staff with Member outings.
- ❖ Assist activity staff with shopping outings.
- ❖ Escort Members to Happy Hour on Fridays at 2:00pm.
- ❖ Escort Members to bingo on Tuesdays at 2:00pm.
- ❖ Switch out seasonal bulletin boards.
- ❖ Assist with writing Member's stories for their Memories in the Making art projects.
- ❖ Facilitate Happy Hour in FH.
- ❖ Pass Member monthly activity calendars in Gates Hall.
- ❖ Play Monopoly, poker, or UNO with 2nd floor Members.
- ❖ Water plants during gardening season.

Thank You – The Union Grove Veterans Home Volunteer Department would like to thank everyone for your contributions. As a reminder, contributions are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law. Please contact your accountant or tax professional for advice if needed.

Veteran Honor Wall – “Remember Those Who Gave All”. All funds generated by the sales of tiles at Union Grove will be used to continue support for the Member Veterans with various special events. Contact Terri Presser at (262)878-6725 if you wish to purchase a tile or for additional information.

Newsletter – If you wish to receive this and any future newsletters via email, please let Michelle Adamek know at Michelle.Adamek@dva.wisconsin.gov so that she may place you on the email mailing list for newsletters only.

Dates To
Remember
2017

11/28 – Support Group at 10:00am in the Chapel

12/26 - Support Group at 10:00am in the Chapel

12/16 – Annual Christmas Party