

# TRENDY TIMES

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JANUARY 12, 2010 VOLUME 1 NUMBER 15

## Cannon Mountain Is A Veterans Monument

As many of you know, one of the purposes of Gathering of Eagles is to protect War and Veteran Memorials, and that does not mean just The Wall in Washington, though it was our first major event.

Cannon Mountain is known for its ski area, and the fact that it is a State Operated Facility. The State of NH is in a financial crisis, and they are searching for ways to make money, so it is the plan of some to lease Cannon Mountain Ski area to a private corporation so that it will not be a state financial burden, but a lease income source.

However, few know the history of Cannon Mountain, or its tie to Veterans, and it is because of this Dedication to Veterans that I find it necessary to enlist your help and voice outrage over the leasing of any part of a State Park that was dedicated to Veterans to a private company.

At the base of the mountain, on a bronze plaque beside Profile Lake in the Franconia Notch State Park you will read the following words:

STATE OF  
NEW HAMPSHIRE  
FRANCONIA NOTCH  
FOREST RESERVATION  
AND MEMORIAL PARK  
Acquired With Funds  
Appropriated By The  
Legislature Of 1925 and  
The Donations of Fifteen  
Thousand Contributors  
Secured Through  
The Society for Protection  
of New Hampshire Forests  
DEDICATED AS  
A MEMORIAL  
TO THE MEN AND  
WOMEN OF  
NEW HAMPSHIRE WHO  
SERVED THE NATION IN  
TIMES OF WAR  
September 1928

During the dedication ceremony the Honorable Huntley N. Spaulding, Governor of New Hampshire said, "It is good to know that henceforth, we have forever these assets of the State within the State's ownership

and control, to be conserved and administered for the sole benefit of the people of New Hampshire and their visitors and guests from beyond our state borders. In the name and behalf of the State of New Hampshire I unveil this tablet in token of public ownership of Franconia Notch and its dedication as a living, yet eternal monument to the memory of those from New Hampshire who have served this State and the Nation in the wars in which our country has been engaged".

More recently a granite plaque has been dedicated at the base of the Cannon Mt Aerial Tramway. This plaque honors the ultimate sacrifice of Sergeant David "D.J." Stelmat, a former employee of Cannon Mt. who gave his life in an IED explosion in Baghdad, Iraq. For this ceremony, a Governor's Proclamation exclaimed, "Now therefore, I, John H. Lynch, Governor of the State of New Hampshire, do hereby proclaim the

Cannon Mt. Ski Area Tramline Trail renamed D.J.'s Tramline Trail in honor of the service bravery and sacrifice of Sgt. David "DJ" Stelmat."

The attempts to lease Cannon Mountain to private interests continue to come from a segment of the legislature. These attempts are a gross violation of the intent of the legislation for this Memorial Park. They are nothing more than a desecration of a monument to those who have served. We would really appreciate any assistance your group could provide to remind our legislators about the intent of the Memorial Park. The best response would be to have your members contact the NH House Finance Committee. Their contact information can be found at this link:

[www.gencourt.state.nh.us/house/committees/committee/details.aspx?code=H34](http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/house/committees/committee/details.aspx?code=H34)

House Bill 1664, which contains language to lease Cannon Mt, is scheduled for a public hearing on January 19th at 1 pm.

Source: Friends of Franconia Notch State Park

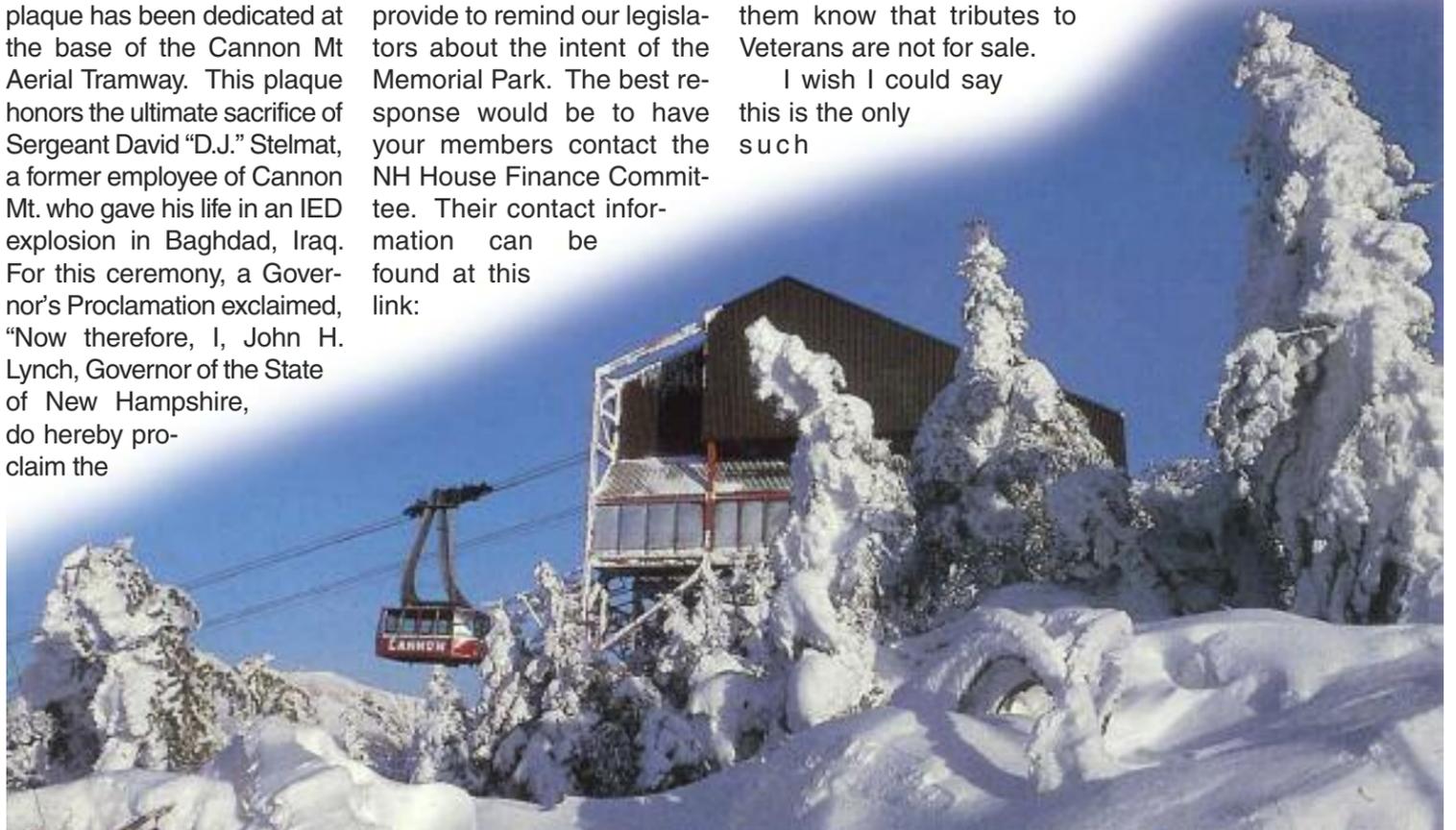
I am asking all of you to contact State Legislators and let them know that we will not accept turning a Veterans Memorial over to any private interest. Please call or write the Governor and all Executive Council members and let them know that tributes to Veterans are not for sale.

I wish I could say this is the only such

assault on a Veterans memorial, but it is not, and it is up to us to make this the example that causes others not to try such things.

And to you Skiers, please Ski Cannon as a tribute to veterans and because of it's place in history.

Howie Howe  
RC Coordinator,  
NH Help on the Homefront  
NH Coordinator,  
Gathering of Eagles



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# Ashes Found in Trash Led to Proper Burial

From the St. Petersburg Times - January 05, 2010

The two teenagers got to the cemetery first. He wore his dark green dress uniform from the National Guard. She wore a long black dress. They stood on the edge of the road, across from rows of matching military headstones, waiting for the funeral of the man they had never met. Mike Colt, 19, and his girlfriend, Carol Sturgell, 18, had driven more than an hour from their Tampa homes last month to be at Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell. They weren't really sure why they had come. They just knew they had to be here. "It's kind of sad, huh?" asked Sturgell, scanning the sea of white gravestones. Colt nodded. "Yeah, but it feels kind of important." At 12:20 p.m., a Tampa police car pulled up, then a white Lincoln Town

Car. Another police cruiser followed. Two officers stepped out.

"Thank you for being here," Colt said, shaking both of their hands. "No, thank you," said Officer Dan College. "If it weren't for you guys, none of us would be here."

More than a month ago, on the last Saturday of November, the young couple was hanging out at Sturgell's house when her brother rode up on his bike, all excited. He had found two fishing poles in this huge pile of trash. Come check it out, he said. So they did. At the edge of the trash mound, sticking out from beneath a box, Sturgell spied a worn green folder. She pulled it out, brushed off the dust. Across the top, bold letters said, "Department of De-

fense." Inside, she found retirement papers from the U.S. Army; a citation for a Purple Heart issued in 1945; and a certificate for a Bronze Star medal "for heroism in ground combat in the vicinity of Normandy, France ... June 1944." In the center of the certificate there was a name: Delbert E. Hahn.

Why would anyone throw that away? Sturgell asked. And who is that guy? Colt wanted to know. Must be old, a World War II vet. Looks like he served at D-Day! That night, they took the paperwork back to Sturgell's house and searched Delbert E. Hahn on the computer. Nothing. They talked about who he might have been, the life he might have led. The next morning, they went back to the trash heap and searched for more clues. They rummaged through boxes, overturned furniture, picked through piles of the past. Colt moved a ratty couch - and something fell out. A metal vase, or box, some kind of rectangular container about a foot tall. On the base was the name: Delbert E. Hahn. "It's him," Colt told his girlfriend. "This must be him, in his urn." Sturgell screamed. She didn't want to touch it. It was kind of freaky, she said, discovering the remains of some dead guy. "He shouldn't be here," Colt said. "No one should be thrown away like that, just left in a parking lot." The dead man wasn't alone. Under the couch, the couple found two more sets of remains: a cylinder-style con-

tainer with Barbara Hahn printed on the bottom and another urn, which had no name. Tampa police Cpl. Edward Croissant had just reported for the night shift that Sunday when his officers showed him the urns. This kid and his girlfriend had found them and brought them to the station. Then an officer told Croissant about the Purple Heart. The Bronze Star and the Normandy invasion. And Croissant became irate. He had served eight years in the Navy. He's in the Coast Guard Reserve. "I had three uncles in World War II. That was the greatest generation. If it wasn't for those men, we would have nothing," he said. "That man saw combat. And someone just dumped him there? He deserves a better ending." Police called the Department of Veterans Affairs and learned Hahn had died in 1983, at the age of 62, -and was a highly decorated war hero. The staff sergeant had served in the infantry and been honored with five Bronze Stars and two Purple Hearts. Barbara Hahn, they learned, was the soldier's wife.

So how did their remains end up in that mound of garbage? Where was the rest of their family, or friends, anyone who would want their ashes? And who was in that third urn? Neighbors filled in some of the story: Barbara Hahn had been a widow forever, they told police. For years, her mother had lived with her. Her mother's name was Barbara, too. The elder Barbara had lived to be more

than 100. They thought she died around 2000. That third urn, neighbors told police, must be her.

The younger Barbara, the soldier's wife, got sick in 2003. A couple came to care for her, and she wound up willing them her mobile home. When she died, the couple moved in, took out a mortgage, then didn't make payments. The bank foreclosed on the trailer late last year. In November, officials sent a maintenance company to clear it out. The workers must have just dumped everything behind the vacant building on Busch Boulevard, neighbors told police. Including the remains of three people.

Just before 1 p.m. Dec. 16, the two teenagers led the car line through Florida National Cemetery. Police followed, then the funeral director who had the urns. Outside a wooden gazebo, two rows of National Guardsmen stood at attention. The funeral director handed the first soldier a flag, the next one the cylinder with Barbara Hahn's remains, the third one the brass urn with Delbert Hahn. (Barbara's mother's remains are still in the evidence room of the police station. Since she wasn't a veteran or married to one, she wasn't entitled to be buried in the military cemetery.) "Let us open the gates of the Lord," said a military chaplain, who led the procession of strangers into the gazebo. "Let us remember," said the chaplain, "none of us lives only unto himself." The teenagers sat on the front bench. Three officials from Veterans Affairs sat behind them. They had spent weeks searching for the Hahns' relatives, any distant kin or friend, someone who might want their ashes - or at least want to come to their burial. They couldn't find anyone. Even the couple whom Barbara Hahn had willed her home to didn't show. By the time the chaplain lifted his head from the Lord's Prayer, a long line of men had wrapped around the gazebo. Wearing blue denim shirts and work boots, they clasped their caps in their hands and bowed their heads. Dozens of groundskeepers from the cemetery had left their Christmas party to come pay respects to the man who, in death, had been so disrespected. A bugler played taps. The riflemen fired three shots. And 56 people watched the honor guard fold a flag over the urns of the man and woman they never knew.

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# Lafayette School to Host Irish Harpist



FRANCONIA — Irish harper Regina Delaney will lead a community celebration of music, song, dance, stories and poetry in the style of a traditional Irish ceilidh on Thursday, January 14 at 6 p.m. at Lafayette Elementary School, 149 Main Street, Franconia. Students, parents, and community members are invited to bring their own songs, dances or stories to share during this social evening of song and dance.

Regina plays traditional Irish music on the harp and sings in Irish and English in the sean nos style (ornamented and unaccompanied) and also accompanies herself on the harp. Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann awarded her a scholarship to study the harp in Ireland as part of their Living Traditions Award. Regina also performs hard and soft shoe step dancing, ceili and set dancing. Regina performs and teaches in schools and community sites throughout the state.

Regina will be accompanied by two harp students, Donna Cerny and Deb Ronquist. Donna began harp lessons in retirement as a 'senior citizen' three years ago. Prior to retirement, she taught elementary school for 33 years. As a member of The New England Irish Harp Orchestra, founded by Regina, she's enjoyed learning Celtic music and performing with the group in various settings.

Debby fell in love with the harp after visiting Ireland in 2004. For her birthday, her husband gave her harp les-

sons with Regina and rented her a harp. The following April the New England Irish Harp Orchestra was formed and shortly after that she decided to study with the Music

for Healing and Transition Program.

The community celebration is presented by the Arts Alliance of Northern New Hampshire's Arts and Health for Seniors series, which brings artists to nursing homes, senior centers and other sites around the region, with partial funding from the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts. The suggested donation is \$5 per person; \$10 for families. The Arts Alliance will also be collecting items for the local food pantry, and anyone who would like to make a donation of a non-perishable item is welcome to bring it to the ceilidh.

For additional information, contact Eileen at 837-2275 or Eileen@aannh.org. For information about the Arts Alliance of Northern New Hampshire, a regional network for arts, culture, and heritage, call 323-7302, email info@aannh.org, or visit www.aannh.org.

## HEATHER POOR FAMILY Benefit Supper & Raffle Announced

It seems there is always a family a need. It seems that way because there always is, and probably always will be those in need. In fact almost all of us could at one point or another in our life say that we were in need. Maybe not in need of money, or food or some of those other basic needs. But maybe in need of something much more important and possibly less able to be defined.

Unfortunately, this story is not about one of those families or an individual. This article is instead about a family who is in real need of love and support.

Heather (Bigelow) Poor was hospitalized on December 21st at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center. She is still there continuing her battle with gallbladder cancer. Heather's husband and children are spending as much time as possible at her side.

In an attempt to make the financial burden of such an event a bit less imposing, a group of concerned friends and neighbors are organizing a supper and raffle.

There will be a spaghetti supper held on Saturday, Jan-

uary 30th at the Haverhill Co-operative Middle School. The volunteers will begin serving at 5:30 PM with a menu that includes spaghetti, garlic bread, salads and beverages. There will also be plenty of homemade desserts on hand, so save a bit of room. Serving will begin at 5:30 PM and takeouts will also be available. The donation for the meal will be \$7.00 for adults, \$6.00 for seniors, children 12 and under will be just \$4.00 and those two and under are free.

Following the supper raffle drawings will be held. Raffle prizes are still being gathered and will be on display during the supper.

If you would like to purchase raffle tickets or if you have questions about the event you may contact Stacey Cass at 603-764-9618 or Angela Clifford at 603-787-6826. Raffle tickets may also be available at some local businesses.

A special fund "The Poor Family Benefit Fund" has been established at the Woodsville Guaranty Savings Bank. If you would like to donate to this fund please contact those listed above or the bank.

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# Federal Conservation Assistance Available to New Hampshire Farmers and Forest Landowners

DURHAM, NH (December 11, 2009) – Agriculture or forest landowners in New Hampshire interested in protecting, conserving, or restoring the natural resources on their property through technical or financial assistance, or a conservation easement, should contact their local USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) office to begin the conservation planning process. Applications for Farm Bill programs may be submitted at any time year-round; however, there are certain cut-off ranking dates. If you miss a ranking cut-off date, your application will be retained and reviewed for the next cut-off date.

“NRCS conservation programs help farmers and forest landowners promote environmental quality on farm and forest land, address water quality and quantity challenges, and protect valuable wetland ecosystems, agricultural lands, and wildlife habitat,” said Rick Ellsmore, NRCS Acting State Conservationist for New Hampshire. “NRCS conservation professionals will discuss with you your

conservation objectives, help you identify resource concerns, and suggest options and alternatives for treatment. We will also identify conservation programs that may provide you with financial assistance for the implementation of certain conservation practices.”

Examples of eligible lands in New Hampshire include privately owned:

- Agricultural land
- Grasslands
- Non-industrial forest lands
- Freshwater wetlands and salt marshes
- Coastal habitats, and rivers and streams

Emphasis areas in New Hampshire are:

- Livestock and grazing issues
- Cropland – including orchards, specialty crops and greenhouse operations
- Forestry
- Organic Agriculture List of organic practices\*
- Fish and Wildlife Habitat – including native pollinator habitat
- Air Quality List of air quality practices\*
- Energy

The 2008 Farm Bill provides additional payments for land owners who qualify as beginning farmers, limited resource producers, or who are “socially disadvantaged” because they belong to racial or ethnic groups that have historically been subjected to prejudice. Such landowners can receive up to 90 percent of the costs associated with planning and implementing conservation measures and up to 30 percent of expected costs may be provided in advance.

## Stewardship Programs

Next ranking cut-off date is January 14, 2010:

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) – provides financial and technical assistance to eligible producers to conserve and enhance soil, water, air, and related natural resources on their land. Eligible lands include cropland, grassland, prairie land, improved pastureland, rangeland, non-industrial private forest lands, agricultural land under the jurisdiction of an Indian tribe, and other private agricultural land (including cropped woodland, marshes, and agricultural land used for the production of livestock) on which resource concerns related to agricultural production could be addressed.

CSP encourages land stewards to improve their conservation performance by installing and adopting additional activities, and improving, maintaining, and managing existing activities on agricultural land and non-

industrial private forest land.

CSP offers participants two possible types of payments:

1. Annual payment for installing and adopting additional activities, and improving, maintaining, and managing existing activities
2. Supplemental payment for the adoption of resource-conserving crop rotations.

## Financial Assistance Programs

Next ranking cut-off date is January 22, 2010:

Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) – This program provides assistance to landowners who want to improve fish and wildlife habitat or restore natural ecosystems on their land. NRCS provides compensation for part of the cost of establishing and maintaining conservation practices that are necessary for enhancing and improving wildlife habitat and restoring natural ecosystems. A list of practices\* is available on the NRCS NH website.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) – Through EQIP, farmers may receive financial and technical help with structural and management conservation practices on agricultural and forest land. EQIP in New Hampshire offers financial assistance to help off-set the costs of eligible conservation practices. Payments may also be made to encourage a farmer to adopt land management practices, such as

nutrient management, manure management, integrated pest management, or wildlife habitat management. Lists of practices\* are available on the NRCS NH website for general, organic, and air quality.

Some new offerings include:

1. Seasonal high tunnel systems for crops – to extend the growing season and improve soil, plant and water quality (also available under AMA).

2. Pan pre-heaters and reverse osmosis systems – to improve air quality improvement and conserve energy for maple growers.

3. Deer fencing and bird netting as pest management strategies where there has been documented crop damage (also available under AMA).

4. Four new Conservation Activity Plans: Energy, Fish and Wildlife, Transition to Organic Production and Integrated Pest Management.

Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA) – This financial assistance program helps farmers adopt conservation practices and investment strategies that will reduce or mitigate risks to their agricultural enterprises. A list of practices\* is available on the NRCS NH website.

## Easement Programs

Next ranking cut-off date is February 1, 2010:

Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) – This easement program provides funding to purchase conservation easements and complete wetland restorations; offering the opportunity for landowners to voluntarily protect, restore and enhance wetlands on their property. To be eligible, the landowner must have owned the land for at least seven years prior

Continued on Page 5

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We are eager to have more young people involved so we can provide extra-curricular activities for the town's teens! Call 603-747-2257 for more information.



Hear ye, hear ye!

## Family Game Night and Potluck Supper

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## Federal Conservation Assistance

Continued from Page 4

to enrolling the land in the program, with some exceptions. Additionally, the land must demonstrate resource concerns (such as degraded wetland functions and values) that are restorable and will enhance wildlife benefits.

The program offers landowners two options: permanent easements and restoration cost-share agreements of a minimum 10-year duration. For permanent easements, the USDA pays 100 percent of the easement and the costs of restoring the wetland. For a 10 year restoration cost-share agreement to re-establish degraded or lost wetland habitat, the USDA pays 75 percent of the cost of the restoration activity. This 10-year agreement does not place an easement on the

property. The landowner provides the restoration site without reimbursement.

Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP) – The Farm and Ranch Land Protection Program (FRPP) provides matching funds to purchase conservation easements to keep productive farm and ranch land in agricultural uses. USDA provides funds to State, Tribal, or local governments and non-governmental organizations (eligible entities) to acquire conservation easements from landowners. USDA provides up to 50 percent of the appraised fair market value of the conservation easement. The eligible entities must provide at least half of the appraised fair market value of the conservation easement.

To qualify, the land must have fifty percent prime, unique, or important farmland soils; have a historic or archeological resource; or have land that supports the policy of a State or local farm and ranch land protection program. The land must

also: be part of a pending offer from a State, tribe, or local farmland protection program; be privately owned; have a conservation plan; be large enough to sustain agricultural production; be accessible to markets for what the land produces; have adequate infrastructure and agricultural support services; and have surrounding parcels of land that can support long-term sustainable agricultural production.

NRCS has offices in Concord, Conway, Epping, Lancaster, Milford, Walpole, and Woodsville, which work with local conservation districts and other partners to serve farmers and landowners throughout the state.

Contact your local office for more information. General program information is available on the NRCS New Hampshire website at [www.nh.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.nh.nrcs.usda.gov).

\*Practice lists are for fiscal year 2009 and will be updated shortly for fiscal year 2010 on the NH NRCS website with some changes.

# Calendar of Events

## WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13

**ANNUAL MEETING - COHASE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**  
5:30 PM  
Horse Meadow Senior Center, North Haverhill

**MONTHLY MEETING - ROSS-WOOD POST #20 AMERICAN LEGION**  
6:00 PM  
American Legion Home, Woodsville

## THURSDAY, JANUARY 14

**WOODSVILLE ARMORY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
7:00 PM  
Haverhill Municipal Building

## FRIDAY, JANUARY 15

**BRADFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY STORY HOUR WINNIE THE POOH**  
10:00 AM  
Bradford Public Library, Bradord

**NORTH COUNTRY CHORUS MADRIGAL DINNER ROBIN HOOD REMEMBERED**  
6:30 PM  
Monroe Town Hall

## SATURDAY, JANUARY 16

**CHICKEN & BISCUIT DINNER**  
5:30 PM - 7:00 PM  
United Congregational Church, Orford

**NORTH COUNTRY CHORUS MADRIGAL DINNER ROBIN HOOD REMEMBERED**  
6:30 PM  
Monroe Town Hall

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 17

**NORTH COUNTRY CHORUS MADRIGAL DINNER ROBIN HOOD REMEMBERED**  
4:30 PM  
Monroe Town Hall

## MONDAY, JANUARY 18

**HAVERHILL SELECTBOARD MEETING**  
6:00 PM  
Morrill Municipal Building, North Haverhill

**"FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY" FINANCIAL COURSE**  
7:00 PM  
Danville Congregational Church, Danville

## THURSDAY, JANUARY 21

**BE HEALTHY - YOGA, REIKI & MASSAGE**  
6:00 PM  
Bradford Public Library, Bradford

## FRIDAY, JANUARY 22

**BRADFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY STORY HOUR BILINGUAL SPANISH / ENGLISH UN GATO Y UN PERO / I WENT WALKING**  
10:00 AM  
Bradford Public Library, Bradord

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## WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27

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5:00 PM - 7:00 PM  
St. Luke's Parish Hall, Central Street, Woodsville

**WOODSVILLE/WELLS RIVER 4TH OF JULY COMMITTEE MEETING**  
7:00 PM  
Woodsville Emergency Services Building

## SATURDAY, JANUARY 30

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# Antlers - Part #1

By David Falkenham, Extension Educator, Forestry and Wildlife Resources



however, it is slightly more complicated than that. A male deer must aggressively defend his territory and his rights to mate from all other male deer in a given area. To do this a deer uses his antlers as weapons to fight and drive off other males. These battles are often simple shoving matches that assert dominance between older deer and younger deer. The sheer size of the mature deer and his antlers easily discourage younger deer from competing with him. However, when two fully mature deer or when a mature deer and a younger deer with an attitude cross paths during the mating season a real drop down, drag out brawl often takes place. These larger battles can last several minutes, consume up to half an acre of land and can leave one or both deer seriously injured, sometimes even resulting in death. Where these battles take place it is common to find torn up leaves and dirt, broken branches and saplings, chunks of hair and spots of blood left from the tussle.

True antlers, (as

apposed to horns which are permanent bony growths on cattle, sheep, and goats), are living tissue that grows new and are shed off each year. In the spring, new antler growth starts on male deer. Each antler grows from an attachment point on the skull called a pedicle, which all male deer are born with. As the antlers grow through the summer they are covered with a furry skin called velvet which serves to supply blood and nutrients to the quickly growing antlers. Late in the summer, near the end of August, the growth is complete and blood flow to the antlers is cut off by a knobby ring that forms at the base of the antler where it attaches to the pedicle. The antlers, which are now dead bone tissue, calcify and harden off. The velvet is shed in a couple of hours and the deer is now fully armed and ready to defend his turf.

After the mating season deer have no use for antlers, in fact antlers would be a calorie deficit during the long winter months. For this reason the antlers are shed and dropped during the early

winter, only to begin the process again in April. The time frame for shedding antlers is unpredictable and depends on many factors. I have seen moose with antlers as late as February, and this fall I found a massive moose antler in Coos County that was dropped in early November.

Antlers are one of the fastest growing forms of mammal tissue in the animal kingdom. During mid-summer the antlers on a mature deer can grow at a rate of two inches per day! White tailed deer antlers can be impressive, but moose, the largest member of the deer family, take impressive to another level. Moose, like all deer, grow their antlers from start to finish in approximately 4-5 months. When they are fully grown a set of moose antlers on a mature bull can span over six feet and weigh 50 pounds or more. This rate of growth is highly demanding on a moose's body and they must consume high levels of minerals to keep up with the growth. How do they do this?

Recently some colleagues and I were discussing the collection of deer and moose antlers that was growing in my office. Actually this collection is taking on a life of its own. I was explaining to them the life cycle of deer antlers when I realized that this was information that others might want to know about.

Antlers are the complex and bony structure that protrudes from the heads of

most male deer. In North America the most common members of the deer family include white tailed deer, moose, mule deer, elk, caribou and reindeer. The only female deer that grow antlers are reindeer. When I mention deer I am referring to all species in the deer family.

Antlers function as the tools of love and war. It is true that females of the deer family are attracted to males with the largest antlers;

## New Hampshire Student Intern Program Reception

Concord, NH, the NH Student Intern Program Reception sponsored by Councilor Ray Burton's office was held with Governor John Lynch stopping by to bring state greetings to this program which has been in Councilor Ray Burton's office since his first term in 1977 with 137 College students participating. Plymouth State

University (PSU) Executive Director of University Relations Steve Barba spoke of the value of interning at various offices in the NH State Capitol City and how it opens many opportunities for the future of all students in NH.

Photo l-r Councilor Ray Burton, Gov. Lynch, Ben Kane, Conway, Plymouth State '05 Case Technician at NH Employment Security, Peter Laufenberg, Thornton PSU '07 Business Outreach Director for Plymouth State University, Stefanie Webb of Freedom, '10 PSU Student Body President, Mark Sanborn, Nashua UNH '97 Owner of Gate City Consulting, Chris Moore, former aide to the Council office, Peter Marcoullier, Candia, NH UNH' 10, and current intern Nick Zaricki, Goffstown, NH UNH at Manchester 'UNH' 13.

Among the guests were Sen. and Mrs. John Gallus of Berlin, Grafton County Commissioner Mike Cryans of Hanover, Dr. Sylvia Bryan, Executive Director of University Advancement at PSU

State Republican Vice Chair Wayne Macdonald of Derry, State Representatives Larry Rappaport of Colebrook, Bill Remick of Lancaster, DJ Bettencourt of Salem, Tom Buco of Conway, Susan Ford of Easton, Rick Ladd of Haverhill, Jeffrey St Cyr of Alton, Carol Perkins University System Trustee from Plymouth, Concord Mayor Jim Bouley State Commissioners Van McLeod, Cultural Resources, Tara Reardon, Employment Security, George Copadis, Labor, Nick Toumpas, Health and Human Services, Gen Reddell, National Guard, Peter Hildreth Banking Roger Savingy, Insurance, Bill Wrenn, Corrections, former Congressman Bill Zeliff from Washington DC, Chuck Henderson from Senator Shaheen's Office, Ovide Lamontagne, Candidate for US Senate, Neil Levesque from NH Institute for Politics at St. Anselms College, Edward Dupont, Chair University System Board of Trustees.



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# A Son Honors Father Through Charity

By Michele Corcoran Gaskell

The Michael A Corcoran Cancer Research and Scholarship Fund was started in February of 2009 by Adam J. Corcoran. Adam is the son of a Vietnam Veteran, Michael A. Corcoran. Michael served with the 101st Airborne during his 3 tours of duty in the Vietnam War. During his last tour he was severely wounded and returned to the states to recover. He saved many lives this day. He spent most of the next year in the hospital recovering. Michael was decorated with: 3 Purple Hearts; 2 Bronze Stars; Silver Star; Army Commendation Medal; Combat Infantry Badge and the Ethan Allen Award.

While recovering from his wounds, Michael joined the only group of people that seemed to care about what he had gone through in Vietnam, the Disabled American Veterans. Michael Corcoran was the first Vietnam Veteran to serve as the Vermont DAV Commander. He held this position in 1971, '72 and '73.

In 1974, after taking the National Service Officer Course and passing the exam, Michael began working at the Veterans Administration in White River Junction, Vermont. Here he worked to get Veterans the benefits that they earned and deserved from serving their country. Michael worked with Matt Friedman of the VA in White River Junction. Together they worked hard to get the government to recognize Post Traumatic Stress Disorder as a disability.

Adam was 19 when his father passed away in 1994, from a lung cancer caused by

his exposure to Agent Orange. Adam grew up looking up to his father as a hero, not only to him but to those around him. He saw his father giving many a Vietnam Vet a ride somewhere, a job, a place to stay and a meal. But most of all he gave them hope.

Adam Corcoran had wanted to do something to honor his father but didn't know what. That is, he didn't know what to do until February of last year. While searching for ways to make a few extra bucks he came across a company that sells vending machines. Then the idea came to him, buy candy machines and the money could go into a charity for Veterans. Thus Candy For A Cause was born.

Adam purchased 30 machines at first and then made calls. These phone calls were to places in the Upper Valley Region of Vermont and New Hampshire that his father had frequented. Gateway Motors in White River Junction, he always bought his trucks there. The American Legion, where he was a Lifetime Member. The word spread fast and within a week all 30 machines were placed. A quarter a turn and in return you get a few pieces of candy and veterans in the area would get help. The help would come in the form of Scholarships and monies donated to Cancer Research. Adam purchased another 200 machines and has a total of about 150 machines placed from one end of Vermont to the other.

In June, Adam and the Michael A Corcoran Cancer Research and Scholarship

Fund was honored with the American Legion's 2009 Upper Valley Outstanding Service Award. They chose Adam and the organization for the outstanding efforts they are making in the Veteran Community in the Upper Valley. Adam's mission has expanded from just Scholarships and Cancer Research donations, this past Thanksgiving the organization gave two hundred dollars to a Veterans family that was in need. The organization did the same at Christmas.

Through a simple idea of candy machines, Adam has found a way to honor his dad but also follow in his footsteps. Helping his fellow man and thanking them for service to their country. You can help Adam with his mission by your personal donation or having a candy machine placed in your place of

business. Visit the website at [www.michaelacorcoran.org](http://www.michaelacorcoran.org) for more information on the organization and about how you can help.



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January 12, 2010 Volume 1 Number 15

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FRIDAY 01/22/2010	7:00pm	Littleton at WOODSVILLE (BOYS)
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# LETTERS

(and even some real words)

## From The Editor

### Elections Fast Approaching in Vermont and New Hampshire

We are fast approaching mid-January. As explained in the January is... column of last issue there are plenty of events to keep us all busy and warm for these first thirty-one days of the year.

That column did not address all that is happening in January. There are also some important dates later this month that could easily affect the lives of your family as well as your community. And depending on which side of the Connecticut River you live on the process to take advantage of this opportunity varies.

The election of town officers, from Select Board and School Board members, to town clerks, tax collectors, listers and many other positions will take place in March. However, in many towns you must sign up for the opportu-

nity to be placed on the ballot for Town Meeting Day.

In Haverhill (and I believe most other New Hampshire towns) the filing dates are January 20 thru 29. All you need to file is \$1.00 and your proof of residency.

In most Vermont towns you need a filing petition with signatures of at least 1% of the registered voters in that town. That petition must then be turned in by January 25th (at least in Newbury).

In both states, there are towns which do not require preregistration. Elections are held on Town Meeting Day with nominations coming from the floor and voting to immediately follow.

Whatever the case may be, there is always a need for good, honest, hard working people to step up and be part of the process. In other

words, step up and run for an elected position. Become a part of the local government and help make things better for your friends, neighbors and family.

A couple of other notes that need to be considered regarding some of these positions. While many local town clerks and tax collectors are elected, the increasingly complex nature of these vital positions require a person with the right set of skills to handle such tasks. Because of that many of these positions are now either multiple year positions or in some cases are no longer elected, but appointed by the Select Board.

The positions that best fit those who would like to serve, but who do not really have a specific skill set, are the position of Select Board

or School Board Member. That almost sounds like no skills are required, or that anyone can do the job. That is not the intent of this column. It takes a certain type of person and personality to handle the pressures, requirements and responsibilities of being an elected official with possibly a multi-million dollar budget under your supervision.

These facts should be well considered by the person thinking of running for that open seat or contesting for a seat with an incumbant. These same issues also should be considered by the voters who walk into the polling place or sit in a chair at Town Meeting. Is this person capable and ready to do the job, the entire job, properly and with good intentions for the town?

All of this may sound like an effort to persuade some people not to run. It is intended to make sure those who have thought about vying for one of these positions does so with eyes wide open. It is also intended to stir some interest in those who are capable of doing a good job. Without these fine people who do step up, our towns could, and probably would, be out of control.

So there you have it. One more thing to keep you busy and warm during the days of January, and if you are one of those willing to run, warm and busy for many months to come. Good Luck and thank you to all who decide to step forward to take on the challenge. And congratulations to all those who eventually come out as a duly elected official.



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**Thank you for your cooperation.**

## Thank You!

Thank you to my Farm Service Agency Co-workers, the NRCS people, the District people, all the farmers, the retired people from the agencies, those from the State Office, those from the County Offices, friends, and family who helped celebrate my retirement. I was very surprised.

Thanks to all of you who have sent cards, called me on the phone, and stopped by to visit.

I have had twenty-three plus great years working with you and I am going to miss all of you.

I am happy to start a new chapter in my life, but I am sad that I will not see you on a regular basis.

Take care. Be happy.

Sincerely,  
Carol Norcross

# Costly Agent Orange-Heart Disease Link Looms

By Tom Philpott

The cost of war -- on veterans' health and taxpayer wallets -- will loom a little larger in the new year when the Department of Veterans Affairs issues a final rule to claim adjudicators to presume three more diseases of Vietnam veterans, including heart disease, were caused by exposure to Agent Orange.

The rule, expected to be published soon, will make almost any veteran who set foot in Vietnam, and is diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease, B Cell Leukemia or Ischemic Heart Disease (known also as Coronary Artery Disease), eligible for disability compensation and VA medical care. The exception would be if credible evidence surfaces of a non-service cause for the ailment.

Katie Roberts, VA press secretary, said no estimates will be available on numbers of veterans impacted or the potential cost to VA until after the rule change takes effect sometime in 2010. But the National Association for Uniformed Services was told by a VA official that up to 185,000 veterans could become eligible for benefits and the projected cost to VA might reach \$50 billion, said Win Reither, a retired colonel on NAUS' executive board.

NAUS also advised members that VA, to avoid aggravating its claims backlog, intends to "accept letters from family physicians supporting claims for Agent Orange-related conditions." It said thousands of widows whose husbands died of Agent Orange disabilities

also will be eligible for retroactive benefits and VA Dependency and Indemnity Compensation.

"This is huge," said Ronald Abrams, co-director of the National Veterans Legal Services Program. NVLSP has represented veterans in Agent Orange lawsuits for the last 25 years. The non-profit law group publishes the "Veterans Benefits Manual," a 1900-page guide for veterans' advocates to navigate the maze for VA claims, appeals and key court decisions.

Abrams said he can't guess at how many more thousands of veterans previously denied disability claims, or how many thousands more who haven't filed claims yet, will be eligible for benefits. But numbers, particularly of those with heart disease, will be very large, he suggested.

All of the veterans "who have been trying to link their heart condition to a service-connected condition won't have to do it now if they're Vietnam vets," Abrams said. For VA, it will mean "a significant amount of money -- and many, many, many people helped."

The excitement over expansion of benefits for Vietnam veterans, and worry by some within the Obama administration over cost, flows from an announcement last October by VA Secretary Eric K. Shinseki. He said three categories would be added to the list of diseases the VA presumes were caused by Agent Orange. Veterans with the presumptive Agent

Orange ailments can get disability compensation if they can show they made even a brief visit to Vietnam from 1962 to 1975. With a presumptive illness, claim applicants don't have to prove, as other claimants do, a direct association between their medical condition and military service.

Shinseki said he based his decision on work of the Institute of Medicine (IOM) of the National Academies. VA contracts with IOM to gather veterans' health data and investigate links between diseases and toxic herbicide used in Vietnam to destroy vegetation and expose enemy positions.

In a speech last July, Shinseki, former Army chief of staff and a wounded veteran of Vietnam, expressed frustration that "40 years after Agent Orange was last used in Vietnam, this secretary is still adjudicating claims for presumption of service-connected disabilities tied to its toxic effects." VA and the Defense Department should had conducted conclusive studies earlier on presumptive disabilities from Agent Orange, he suggested.

"The scientific method and the failure to advocate for the veteran got in the way of our processes," Shinseki bluntly concluded.

In last October's announcement he said VA "must do better reviews of illnesses that may be connected to service, and we will. Veterans who endure health problems deserve

timely decisions based on solid evidence."

When a disease is added to VA's list of ailments tied to Agent Orange, veterans with the disease can become eligible for retroactive disability payments, back to the date original claims were rejected, if after 1985.

Joe Violante, legislative director for Disabled American Veterans, praised Shinseki's decision. But he said VA faces a "logistical nightmare" in trying to find veterans turned down on earlier on claims. A VA official told Violante, he said, that cost of the search could be part of that nightmare.

Chairman of government affairs for Vietnam Veterans of America until last October was John Miterko. He said he wasn't surprised that Shinseki added ailments to the Agent Orange presumptive list including heart disease.

"If you look at the Vietnam veteran population, the diseases we've contracted and the mortality rate, the only group dying faster rate are the World War II veterans," Miterko said. "We're picking up diseases by our

'60s that we shouldn't be getting until our late '70s, early '80s. So his adding other diseases, heart disease in particular, isn't a surprise."

Both Shinseki and his predecessor, James Peake, former Army surgeon general, had long military careers and served in Vietnam. "That's a hell of a bonus for us," Miterko said. Both of them have shown "much more empathy, much more understanding. They would have seen many of their own peer group suffering from the effects of exposure to Agent Orange."

Miterko doesn't believe anyone can estimate how many veterans will benefit from the new presumptive diseases. VA will continue to process claims individually, he said, and likely won't be accepting Agent Orange as the cause of heart disease for someone "who has smoked for 40 years and is morbidly obese. Common sense is going to have to prevail as well."

To comment, send e-mail to milupdate@aol.com or write to Military Update, P.O. Box 231111, Centreville, VA, 20120-1111

Not all Times are Trendy but there will always be Trendy Times

January 12, 2010 Volume 1 Number 15

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# VERMONT HERO

## Major General Merritt Austin Edson

*By George Clark*

company was an artillery unit, even though the balance of the regiment was then an infantry organization. First Lieutenant Edson (1 July 1918) and his regiment arrived in France on 13 October 1918. The 5th Brigade was too late to get into action against the German army and the officers and men were assigned various "housekeeping" tasks. Following the war he volunteered to serve in the newly created 15th Separate Battalion. Composed of various AEF organizations, it was tasked with maintaining the peace in Schleswig-Holstein during a plebiscite to be held in 1919. Trouble never came, and all members were returned to the United States in December 1919. Almost as his feet touched home soil he was assigned to the Marine Barracks (MB), Philadelphia Navy Yard; that, however, was modified to MB, Quantico, at which post he arrived on the 30th of December.

Upon his return there was a crucial shape-up going on (both the Russell, then the Neville, committees) and Edson had made a decision to terminate his commission and leave the Corps. Higher-ups, however, decided he was too good to lose and

would remain and wrote letters of recommendation for him. Consequently he changed his mind and was assigned duty at Quantico and volunteered to teach math at the newly created Vocational School for enlisted Marines, a favorite of Major General Commandant John A. Lejeune. He also began shooting seriously, which made his future quite secure, since the Corps was heavy on marksmanship and looked kindly on officers and men who were good at it.

Another rather new innovation, aviation, took his fancy and he made efforts to succeed as a flyer. He went to the Naval Air Station at Pensacola, FL on 28 December 1921 and became a designated Naval Aviator on 12 June 1922. He went on expeditionary duty to Guam with Scouting Squadron 1 (VS-1M) on 3 January 1923, remaining there until July 1925. In the meantime, on 4 June 1920 the several committees (Russell/Neville) finalized their differences and he, along with many other officers retained, were made permanent in their ranks. On 28 September he was at the MB, Quantico.

In a course at the US Army's Advanced Flying

School, Kelly Field, TX, in March 1926 he was discovered to have problems with depth perception. That effectively ended any career in aviation. Returning to Quantico, he was assigned to the Company Officers' course. Upon graduation he went sea-going in December 1927 aboard the cruiser Denver as Marine detachment commander. Capt. Edson's (21 December 1927) ship was part of the Special Service Squadron and ruled the waves about Panama and Nicaragua. On 28 June 1928 he was serving aboard the cruiser Rochester, the flagship of the squadron.

At this time, Nicaragua was in a constant state of upset with what the Marines called "bandits," and Marines were doing their best to flatten the foe. Edson was selected, at his own urging, to create a river patrol to block any guerrilla adventures in eastern Nicaragua. The Coco River ran from the western mountains to the east coast and was an excellent highway for travelers in Nicaragua, east to west or vice versa. During many boat trips, Edson and his men used the waterway

*Continued on Page 11*



Edson, Major General Merritt Austin was born on 25 April 1897, in Rutland, VT, and raised in nearby Chester. He attended the University of Vermont from 1915 to 1916 and, as a member of the National Guard, was called to active duty on the Mexican border. Upon his return, he attended classes through the spring of 1917. When war was declared he applied for and was commissioned a temporary second lieutenant of Marines on 15 September 1917. His first posting was at the Parris Island Marine Officer's School. In 1918 he was assigned to the newly formed 130th Company (later changed to "B" Company) of the 11th Marines as part of the 5th Marine Brigade. His

January 12, 2010 Volume 1 Number 15

Not all Times are Trendy but there will always be Trendy Times

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## Vermont Hero

Continued from Page 10

to interfere with "General" Augusto Sandino's depredations and the lessons learned became the bible for jungle-type warfare. Edson wrote a series of articles for the Marine Corps Gazette about his experiences and was awarded a Navy Cross for his services during those river patrols.

He returned to the US in August 1929 and on 3 September assumed duties at the MB, Philadelphia Navy Yard. Once again he took up shooting in earnest and continued to participate in various trials in which he was a substantial member. On 15 June 1931 he transferred to the Depot of Supplies, also based at Philadelphia. Major Edson (9 February 1936) was jumped over numerous officers with seniority and was assigned duty at Headquarters Marine Corps (HQMC) on 30 April 1936. Soon after he was assigned to attend the Senior course at Marine Corps Schools, Quantico.

Upon graduation his next tour of duty was with the 4th Marines at Shanghai, at which post he arrived on 19 June 1937. He was assigned as plans and training officer.

The regimental commander was his old friend and battalion commander in France, Col. Charles F.B. Price. He experienced the turmoil of 1937 when the Japanese Navy and Army invaded China and fought the Chinese forces in Shanghai. He was also there when the Japanese sank the Panay, a period when the US and Japan came very close to war. He and his family left China in May 1939 and he arrived at HQMC in June that year. His first assignment was to write a new Small Wars Manual. He also went back to shooting.

Lt. Col. Edson (1 April 1940) received a visitor, Capt. Victor Krulak, an aide to Brigadier General Holland McT. Smith, the new commanding general of the 1stMarDiv, on 27 May 1941. Smith (under pressure from President Franklin D. Roosevelt, who was under pressure from Prime Minister Winston Churchill) wanted him to form the 1st Raider Battalion out of the 1st Battalion, 5th Marines. This was to be an American "commando" unit. Edson accepted, then formed, trained and commanded the battalion from 7 June 1941 to September 1942 on Guadalcanal. He earned the Medal of Honor for his leadership of the de-

fense of the Henderson airfield on the night of 13-14 September 1942. He was also awarded a second Navy Cross for his successes on Tulagi (the first earned by his work in Nicaragua).

Col. Edson (21 May 1942), again retroactively, was promoted to full colonel and on 1 December 1943 pushed ahead of officers with seniority when he became a brigadier general. He was transferred to the 2dMarDiv as assistant division commander to Major General Julian Smith and fought with it at Tarawa. Smith hurt himself and was replaced by MG Thomas E. Watson, which displeased Edson and prompted him to request a transfer; he didn't like Watson. He was selected as the new chief of staff in Hawaii and the person to be between Holland Smith and Admiral Chester Nimitz in planning for the Okinawa invasion. It was a position that required the tact that Smith, nor Nimitz, had in abundance.

He was one of the first senior Marine officers to return after the war and landed in Washington just as the senior officers of the US Army were trying to force amalgamation of the Corps with the Army. It was, or rather appeared to be, an easy job, since the president,

Harry Truman didn't like Marines. Although Edson jumped in feet first, he quickly realized that he was probably not going to be promoted and decided that he would retire and be able to speak his mind in any collisions between the two services and Congress. He retired as major general on 1 August 1947 and soon after was selected to appear before the Congress where he was well received.

His awards were numerous and included, besides the Medal of Honor and two Navy Crosses, the Silver Star and two Legions of Merit with Gold Star. General Edson also earned numerous campaign medals including those from Nicaragua and China, Victory medals from both World War I and World War II, various World War II campaign medals with six bronze stars, and the Distinguished Service Order from Great

Britain, for his part in the re-taking of the Tarawa atoll.

After retiring, he held several Vermont state positions. Most importantly he was the first Commissioner of the State Police, creating that new body of police along military lines. His final role was that as Executive Director of the National Rifle Association and his part as Navy representative on the Defense Advisory Committee on Prisoner of War Problems.

He died at home in Vermont on 14 August 1955 of (self-inflicted?) carbon monoxide poisoning. Major General Edson was a tough but truly a splendid Marine and has been greatly missed. I'm sure those Vermonters who knew of him must feel much the same as do Marines.

This has been altered and reproduced from my book Marine Generals of World War Two.

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**Saturday January 16, 2010 10:00 a.m.**

Bradford Community Center, Route 25 South, Bradford, VT

Our first sale of 2010 combines two St. Johnsbury, VT Estates, a Newbury, VT Estate, and accessories & small collections from several area homes.

**Furniture:** 6-board blanket box in old red pnt; early tall chest w/6 graduated drws & bracket base (dmg to crown midg); oak butterprint sideboard w/asymmetrical mirrored gallery; oak split pedestal table w/leaves; Victorian walnut 6drw tall chest; 7 drw Empire tall chest w/1/2columns (some veneer dmg); sm French Prov-style demi-lune server; early dovetailed cupboard top w/2 drs; sm 2 dr wall cupboard; drop leaf table; sm writing desk; table-top desks; dbl cannonball rope bed; sm shoe-foot drying rack; sm box stove; trunks; wooden wheelbarrow w/unusual iron wheel; & more! **Custom Furniture:** Chippendale drop leaf dining tbl w/2 leaves; set 6 like-new QA-style dining chrs; rnd pedestal tbl w/pink marble top; & more **Accessories:** wooden drum (16"d) w/handpainted eagle & "Reg U.S. Infantry" on banner; unusual staking gopher trap Pat 1878; ovoid jug mkd Julius Norton, Bennington, VT; 1.5gal stoneware pitcher; lg emb yellowware bowl; soup tureen w/mari-style decoration (probably English); scalloped Leeds-type platter; Meakin "Messina" flo blu platter; pitcher & bowl sets; old bottles; sterling Cartier bud vase; silver plate inc Reed & Barton basket, castor set, & F Porter footed sauce & more; set fruit knives; souv spoons; vintage kitchenware; farm primitives & woodenware; forged ice tongs w/long handles; snow shoes; cobbler's tools & lasts; chicken crate; baskets; Seth Thomas #120 8-day mantle clock; table lamp w/Hublely Camp Line paper label & mica shade; sm metal & slag gl lamp w/schooner logo; Fairbanks postal scale; sterling thimble w/cupids & garland; Damascus treadle sewing machine; modern Singer 5050; spinning wheel; early hanging hetchel; 22" table-top loom; grp Victorian tops & few whites; few vintage hats; fancy Victorian quilt w/embroidered appliqué; sleigh blanket; newer Oriental rugs & more **Jewelry:** 14k yg diamond & seed pearl pendant/watch pin w/Kremetz mark; 14k "breadloaf" charm; 14k wg pendant; unmkd coiled snake brooch; other gold jewelry; cameo w/2 maidens; Victorian, sterling, & costume jewelry; Waltham lady's pendant watch; & more! **Ephemera/Etc:** Wonderful collection glass projector slides (many tinted) mostly early car racing including grp 8 Daytona FL w/ Lambert's Stutz Black Hawk (&wreck) & Campbell's Blue Bird, grp 50+ motorcross racing inc Vanderbilt Cup, 30+ steamship crew & passengers, & more; Chas Beseler #496 glass slide projector; fine hand-decorated booklet w/miniature illustrations; scrap books; fancy Valentines & trade cards; sm stamp collection; 1911 Allen M. Fletcher letter exploring candidacy for VT Governor; 2 volume History Sanbornton, NH (1882); Hiram Woodruff's The Trotting Horse of America (1868); unused Fun At The Fair Money scrip booklet; & more! **Paintings, Prints, & Frames:** wonderful O/C sgnd GA Hays w/"Cattle[sic] on Road GA Hays" on verso; Hudson River School O/C sgnd Hubermausen (?sp) 1874 (img ~35x22"); panoramic photo Lake Morey; tinted photo Thronging Hills sgnd Sawyer; deep walnut frames; other paintings, prints, & frames. **Toys/Children's Items:** collection 6 steam engines inc all CI Vacu-Rotor(?) w/5.25" wheel, 3 cast and/or tin Weeden, & more; tiny (5.5") WenMac Outboard motor; lg (31x35")folky homemade wooden biplane; few paper dolls; Efanbee compo doll; child's rocker; Radio Special wagon; jack skis & sleds; & more! **Roy Rogers Collection:** usalite Signal Siren Flashlight MIB; RR watch; Johann Faber colored pencil set #3109; kerchiefs; holsters & cap guns; harmonica; Grape Nuts RR Sheriff pin back; china bank & more! **Special Interest:** fire fighter collectibles: extinguishers inc sev copper & brass, 2 Phoenix canister-type, glass "grenades" w/wall mounts, & more; set 4 Diamond T hubcaps (8"d); variety brass & other nozzles; emb leather fire hat; other newer fire hats; 2 vintage Beacon-Ray red emergency lights; toys inc 50's child's Texaco Fire Chief hat; battery litho/tin Fire Dept No 12 car; Buddy L? fire truck chassis; & more! Small collection oiling cans of all descriptions & sizes inc long neck railroad (no mark), Socony, Ford, Maytag oil & more!

NOTE: In event of severe weather, auctioneer reserves right to delay sale one hour.

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DIRECTIONS: From Interstate 91 North & South use Exit 16 for Bradford, VT. From exit ramps, go 1 mile on Rt. 25 South straight through the traffic light at the junction with Rt. 5 and past Farmway to auction site on the left.

Watch for auction signs -- parking and entrance are at rear of building.

Next Auction: Saturday, February 20

# A Small Businesswoman's View On Supporting Local Businesses

By Janice Scruton

I have been a supporter of local businesses long before "shop locally" became the trendy buzzword. When I was growing up, my father was a self employed contractor/carpenter. My Dad purchased all his building supplies from a local hardware and lumber store. Local individuals who hired him to build and/or remodel their homes were the folks who made it possible for my parents to put food on our table and clothes on our backs. My parents in turn chose a local Dentist and Doctor, who in turn spent their earnings at a small grocery store. This grocery store prided themselves on carrying produce and other products from local farms. And just about everyone in town bought their cars from the closest auto dealership. Like the children's song verse about "the wheels on the bus go round and round", the money also went round and round.

Buying locally is not a new concept; fifty years ago it was pretty much all that was available. Shopping Malls in this neck of the woods didn't really get underway until the 1960's. There weren't as many mail order companies, back then

they were mostly called catalog companies like Sears & Roebuck and Montgomery Wards. There were no online companies, 1988 was the first year that commercial entities were allowed to use the "www" (World Wide Web or the World Wide Wait as I often call it) according to the online source of Wikipedia Encyclopedia.

Living "locally" was not a bad thing back then. It created the foundations needed for strong and vital communities. People took pride in what their towns offered and they wanted to see their towns thrive. For better or worse, it is a different world today. We are daily faced with choices as to where we can eat and where to go to get the best deal. And often our choices take us to stores, services and companies where the majority of the business profits are not shared with our communities.

I'm not saying that I, like others don't like to save money every chance I get. It's exciting to find the bargain of the year. I recently spent an entire day visiting outlet stores outside this area. I had a wonderful time, but most of my purchases were

for things that I wouldn't be able to find within 20 miles of home. I want to support local businesses. I enjoy travelling through towns and villages and seeing the large selections of locally owned businesses (retail, services, and restaurants) that line the streets and make up their downtown areas. I spent many years feeling torn between searching for the lowest price or supporting my neighbors. I've come up with this plan that seems to work well for me. Without hesitation, I am willing to pay up to 10% more to support an independent, locally owned business. It's worth it to me to spend a little extra and see the storefronts that line our main streets remain filled. And depending on what I'm looking for and how many hoops I'll have to jump through or how far I'm going

to have to travel to get it, sometimes even 20 or 30% higher is worth paying and can ultimately end up being a better deal when you factor in things like getting something serviced. It's a proven fact that a larger percentage of the money that is spent at a locally owned business stays within the community.

I recently heard about The 3/50 Project ([www.the350project.net](http://www.the350project.net)), started in 2009 which is encouraging people to pick 3 local businesses to support each month and to spend \$50.00 total at those 3 businesses. I signed up and became an individual supporter of this concept as well as signing up my business to follow this plan.

And I'm not the only one joining the bandwagon of the "buy local" campaigns. There is a very active "Local First Alliance" group which is

sponsored by Vital Communities, based in White River Jct., VT. The "Local First Alliance" campaign was started by and is part of the Business Alliance for Local Living Economies ([www.livingeconomies.org](http://www.livingeconomies.org)), started in 2001. And yet another champion group is the American Independent Business Alliance ([www.AMIBA.net](http://www.AMIBA.net)) which got its start in 1997. One of their slogans is "Put your money where your house is".

Want to make a difference? Before you spend your next dollar, take a moment and think about where that dollar is going to go. Before you know it, you could be thinking about where every dollar of yours is going. All it takes is one person at a time making a small difference to create change. Let's all work together to keep our communities prospering.

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Think about which three independently owned stores you'd miss most if they were gone. Stop in and say hello. Pick up a little something that will make someone smile. Your contribution is what keeps those businesses around.

50

If just half the employed U.S. population spent \$50 each month in independently owned stores, their purchases would generate \$42,629,700,000 in revenue.\* Imagine the positive impact if 3/4 of employed Americans did that.

68

For every \$100 spent in independently owned stores, \$68 of it returns to the community through taxes, payroll, and other expenditures. If you spend that in a national chain, only \$43 stays here. Spend it online and *nothing comes home.*

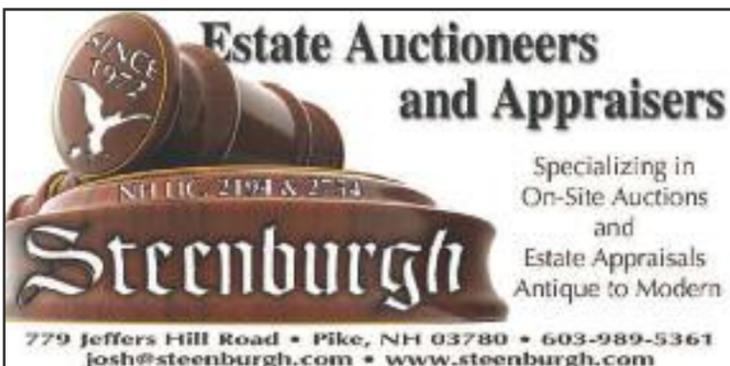
1

The number of people it takes to start the trend...*you.*

*Pick 3. Spend 50. Save your local economy.*

*For more information, visit [the350project.net](http://the350project.net)*

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