

Local Legion And Auxiliary Act Against Closing Of Veterans Hospitals

The Andover Legion and Auxiliary sent the following letters and received one answer in response.

2 February 1965
Congressman Charles E. Goodell
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:
In November of 1962 The Veterans Administration decided to reduce the average daily member load at the Bath Domiciliary by about 300 effective June 1965 and asked for additional cutbacks after that date. However through the response of the many veterans and the backing of Congressmen, this cutback was stemmed at 300.

Now about 2 years later we are faced with a total cutback and elimination of a \$20,000,000 investment which is doing the job. The Bath VA Center is the only domiciliary in the entire Northeastern United States. It serves a ten state area which approximately 9,000,000 are veterans. It is the stated purpose of the Congress of the United States to provide for the care of aged Veterans.

Not only would the proposed closing of the Bath VA Hospital completely crush the economic foundation of that community, but it would deprive the domiciliary patients of the critically needed therapy provided by their proximity to family, friends and home.

If there is to be a cutback in government spending it should not be made at the expense of Veterans dependent on these facilities.

We of the American Legion are asking for all possible assistance to revert this decision to close the Bath VA Hospital by 30 June 1965.

Sincerely,
Ralph O. Burgett
Post Commander

The following letter was also sent to Senator Javits and Senator Kennedy.

Hon. Charles E. Goodell,
Rep. 38th Congressional District,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Goodell:
Lynch-Burgett Unit, No. 397, American Legion Auxiliary protests the closing of the Veterans Administration at Bath, New York as being needless, wasteful, heartless and without justification.

It will mean only a small saving to the Nation, but will cause much hardship to the aged, sick, blind and homeless Veterans.

Many Veterans will be taken far away from their families, and if they return to their homes will be welfare charges.

Any influence you may be able to use to keep this Institution in operation will be greatly appreciated.

Very truly yours,
Lynch-Burgett Unit, No. 397
American Legion Auxiliary

January 29, 1965
Mrs. Lois Wheaton, President
Lynch-Burgett Unit, No. 397
Andover, New York

Dear Mrs. Wheaton:
Thank you for your recent communication concerning the closing of the Veterans Administration Hospital at Bath, New York.

I know the hospital has provided vital and badly needed medical services to our veterans and, in addition, has been a constructive source of employment in the area. I have demanded of the VA Administrator, William J. Driver, his justification for the closing of this important facility and intend to ask the Comptroller General of the United States to evaluate the claimed economies.

I have also presented my views to the Veterans Affairs Subcommittee of the Senate Labor and Public Welfare Committee, of which I am ranking minority member, to express my opposition to the proposed closing. A copy of my testimony before the Subcommittee is enclosed for your information.

Be assured I shall continue my efforts in behalf of the hospital at Bath.

With best wishes,
Sincerely,
Jacob K. Javits, U. S. S.

Graduates At Top Of Class

Karl Richard Wittie, OMSA, successfully completed 17 weeks of Opticians A School at NTC-SSC, Great Lakes, Ill., graduating with distinction, having a 90 average in the entire course.

Seaman Apprentice Wittie had the honor of being top man in his class.

After finishing this course, Seaman Wittie was given a 14-day leave and is to report to his new base at Newport, Rhode Island, where he will be assigned to USS Yosemite A.D. 19.

His new address is:
Karl Richard Wittie, O.S.M.A.
U.S.S. Yosemite A.D. 19
c/o Fleet P. O.
New York City, New York

New Arrivals

Mr. and Mrs. Francis C. Manroe of Bath are the parents of a son, born Monday, February 1, 1965. Mr. and Mrs. Charles Manroe are the paternal grandparents.

Dr. and Mrs. Stanley J. Holden, former residents of Andover, are the parents of a daughter, Jane Elizabeth, born Thursday, January 28 1,965 at Wilkes-Barre, Penna.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Miller of Rochester are the parents of a daughter, Jannell Vivette, born Monday, February 1, 1965. Mr. and Mrs. Carl Will of Rochester are the maternal grandparents and Mr. and Mrs. Hugo Honegger are the maternal great grandparents.

Scout News

The regular February meeting of the Troop Committee of Troop 42 will be held this Monday, February 8th at the American Legion Home at 8 p. m.

Altar Society To Meet At The Home Of Mrs. Burns

The Altar Society Valentine Tureen supper will be held at the home of Mrs. Mary Burns, Tuesday, February 9th at 6:30. Please note the change of meeting place.

Couples Club To Meet Saturday Evening

Andover Methodist Couples Club will meet at the Church at 6:30 p. m., Saturday, February 6th. Bring a dish to pass and own table service.

Whitehouse-McClure

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth McClure announce the marriage of their daughter, Mary Ann, to Gordon Paul Whitehouse, son of Mr. and Mrs. Gordon P. Whitehouse of Ashford, Conn., on Wednesday, January 27, 1965.

Miss McClure, who has been attending the University of Hartford and Mr. Whitehouse, a student at the University of Connecticut, were married at the Warrenville Baptist Church during mid-semester vacation by Rev. Paul King.

The couple will reside in Ashford, Conn.

Mrs. Addie Cook Honored 80th Birthday

A surprise dinner party was held at the home of Mrs. Addie Cook by her family in honor of her 80th birthday on Monday, February 2nd.

After a delicious ham dinner, she was presented the traditional birthday cake and gifts. Highlight of the evening was a phone call from her daughter and grandson of Buffalo, who were unable to attend due to road conditions.

Those in attendance were: Mr. and Mrs. Leroy Guilford and son, Lee, Mrs. Kate Guilford of Belfast; Wisner Cook, Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Cook and children, Jane and Larry and Mrs. Grace Herrick of Andover.

William P. Dougherty Named Assistant Principal

William P. Dougherty, son of Mr. and Mrs. Anthony L. Dougherty, has been appointed Assistant Principal of the Thomas A. Edison High School in Elmira Heights, New York. He had been Guidance Counselor for nine years at the same school. During the past summer, he was Co-Principal of the Chemung County Summer School. He has the Bachelor and Masters degrees from Alfred University and did further graduate work at Syracuse University.

He is married to the former Mary McCarthy, former Home-making teacher at Andover Central School. They are the parents of three children.

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