

## *It's Never Too Late for Fun at the New Hampshire Veterans Home*

TILTON, NH - It's never too late for residents to learn something new at the New Hampshire Veterans Home (NHVH). With financial support from the NHVH Resident Benefit Fund as well as the Skrungloo Farm Inc. Grant Program, the Veterans Home has purchased "It's Never 2 Late, (IN2L)" a customized, state-of-the-art computer system which introduces older adults to the world of computer technology, giving them the opportunity to experience and learn new life skills that enhance the quality of their lives.

Although 85% of NHVH residents use wheelchairs or walkers, they are now virtually flying airplanes, driving race cars, riding a bicycle, traveling across the country, learning about "This Day in History," and much more through IN2L's picture-based, touch screen platform that enables almost anyone to use a personal computer, even those with dementia. In addition to providing mind-stimulating games that also improve eye-hand coordination, IN2L allows residents to explore the Internet, send and receive e-mail, and share digital photos. The technology for IN2L was developed by a Colorado-based company founded in 1999 that specializes in connecting older adults and their caregivers to the benefits of computers and the internet.

During a recent session with IN2L, NHVH residents explored some of IN2L's programs. John Taffner "flew" a Piper Cub airplane, taking off and landing at the Newport, Vermont airport where he had flown before coming to live at the Veterans Home. Dave Clark "drove" a Porsche race car using IN2L's "Need for Speed" game. Dave Whitney "visited" Arizona and is going back next time to explore the Hoover Dam and other sites in the southwest. Charlie Safford "flew" a DC 3 aircraft out of Foggia Airport, which is southeast of Rome, Italy. Charlie had flown in and out of Foggia during World War II.

Barry Conway, NHVH Commandant, says "'It's Never 2 Late' is a great program. It gets people excited and engaged. It opens new worlds and it's fun. It's another tool we can use in Therapeutic Recreation to improve the quality of life for our residents. We are grateful to our donors and to the Skrungloo Farm, Inc. Grant Program for their

continuing support for innovative programs at the New Hampshire Veterans Home."

Skrungloo Farm, Inc. is a private foundation established in 1986 in order to provide direct aid, assistance and/or services, to the residents of, in order of priority: Sandwich, Center Harbor, Moultonboro, Carroll County, Belknap County, and then the entire State of New Hampshire.

The New Hampshire Veterans Home was established in Tilton in 1890 as the Soldier's Home for Civil War Veterans. The mission of NHVH is to provide high quality, professional long-term care services to the Granite State's elderly and disabled veterans. NHVH is the only long-term care facility in the Granite State that is dedicated exclusively to veterans.



*Using IN2L, Charlie Safford flies a DC 3 aircraft out of Foggia Airport, which is southeast of Rome, Italy.*