



### The Royal Star & Garter Homes' Resident Celebrates 103<sup>rd</sup> Birthday

11 August 2017 - Residents, family, staff and volunteers at The Royal Star & Garter Home in Surbiton joined together to celebrate much-loved resident Violet's 103<sup>rd</sup> birthday.

The Home, which cares for disabled veterans and their spouses, made sure it was a party to remember with giant balloons, a spectacular cake and music. Violet, known affectionately as Vi, was thrilled to receive a personal birthday message from 'Forces Sweetheart' Dame Vera Lynn.

Vi grew up in Putney and married her husband William, known to her as Ben, in 1938 after meeting him at a dance. The couple went on to have two children together, Colin and Bruce. Ben served in the Army and was sent to France where he was involved in the D-Day landings of 1944. Ben's body was discovered on 19 June 1944, two weeks after the D-Day landings' and was buried at Tilly-sur-Seulles.



*Vi with the spectacular cake, handmade by the Home's chef, Les*



*Four generations of one family, together to celebrate Vi's 103<sup>rd</sup> birthday*

After Ben died, Vi worked hard, maintaining many jobs to support her sons, including working for Marks & Spencer. Vi recalls her time working for the company with great affection and the Surbiton store still keep in touch with Vi to this day.

Vi's son, Colin, made a heartfelt speech at the celebrations and praised the Charity for helping Vi retain her well-being, "My mother's good health is thanks to the great care she receives at The Royal Star & Garter Homes. What better place could she be?"



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**The Royal Star  
& Garter Homes**  
Caring for the nation's military family since 1916

Activities Co-ordinator, Carla, who organised the party in honour of Vi, remarked: *“Vi is a remarkable woman and is loved by everyone. She radiates warmth and she is such a character – always charming, always very witty. Vi is always the first to get involved with activities in the Home and loves a good party. Everyone at The Royal Star & Garter Homes wishes her a wonderful 103<sup>rd</sup> birthday.”*



*Vi and Ben*

### **Ends**

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#### **About The Royal Star & Garter Homes:**

**The Charity provides award-winning care for veterans and their partners who live with disability or dementia.**

The Royal Star & Garter Homes is a charity founded in 1916 to care for the severely injured young men returning from the battlegrounds of the First World War. Today we provide specialist care to the whole military family in our friendly, state-of-the-art Homes. Disabled ex-Servicemen and women, and their spouses, can all benefit from our pioneering approach to nursing, dementia and therapeutic care.

We are in the process of building new Homes around the country to provide specialist nursing care for disabled ex-Service people in the best modern surroundings, including dementia care facilities to address this growing need. The Charity has award-winning Homes in Solihull, West Midlands, and Surbiton, Surrey, which also enables the Charity to offer interim care for young disabled Service personnel. Following the successes of the first two Homes, a third Home in High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, is being built, with a planned opening in 2018.

We are proud to have enjoyed Royal patronage since our foundation, including that of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II from 1953 to the present day.

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The Charity celebrated its centenary in 2016: providing specialist care for disabled veterans since 1916.

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