



THE NVH OBSERVER

NORFOLK VETERANS HOME

From The Desk of Josh Stafursky NVH Administrator

Greetings,

**GOVERNOR:
JIM PILLEN**

**NEBRASKA
DEPT. OF VETERANS'
AFFAIRS DIRECTOR:
JOHN HILGERT**

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As we head into 2026 at the Norfolk Veterans' Home, I hope everyone was able to enjoy some meaningful time around the holidays with friends and family. It is such an important time of the year for so many people and a great way to end a wonderful 2025. With the new year upon us, I'd like to take a moment to look back at a few achievements we experienced during the year.

In March, we completed a successful unannounced annual USVA survey. In addition, we took part in an unannounced DHHS five-year survey, which was also a success. These events challenge our team to demonstrate the excellent care we provide, and it was "mission accomplished" in both instances. These unannounced surveys are often stressful for the team but provide an opportunity to show off what we do. I want to take the time to say THANK YOU to the team here at NVH for the successes this year, as well as to the members and families who participate in these surveys and speak so highly of the home. Of course, our team is already focusing on the next annual USVA survey, which typically occurs every year in March.

Members at NVH experienced another year packed with exciting activities – too many to mention all here. Members (and staff) thoroughly enjoyed a visit from "Elvis," an incredible Fourth of July fireworks show, lots of great opportunities to enjoy wonderful food provided by the volunteers who so graciously donate their time and resources both inside the facility and outside, trips to the casino, and so much more!

We look forward to another great year in 2026.

As always, please feel free to reach out to me or any other member of the NVH team at any time if you have questions, concerns, or ideas you would like to share with us. By working together toward a common goal, we can make 2026 a great year at NVH!

Sincerely,

Josh Stafursky, Administrator

STATE OF NEBRASKA VISION:
GROW NEBRASKA

STATE OF NEBRASKA – MISSION:
CREATE OPPORTUNITY THROUGH MORE
EFFECTIVE, MORE
EFFICIENT,
AND CUSTOMER FOCUSED
STATE GOVERNMENT

HOME HAPPENINGS



In early December, members traveled to Mary's Café in Plainview, Nebraska, where they enjoyed a delicious home-cooked meal. Afterward, the group headed to SantaLand located in Bruce Park in Creighton, Nebraska, to take in the festive Christmas lights. The drive-through lighted display featured a variety of holiday-themed scenes and more than one million sparkling lights.



Unit E members decorated Christmas ornaments, adding a festive touch to the unit Christmas tree.

Merry Christmas!



HOME HAPPENINGS CONTINUED

Throughout the month of December, our Veterans were treated to wonderful entertainment from a variety of groups, including the Columbus Legionnaires Chorus, Music with Mike and Gracefully Giving Back, Music with Mark Link presented by the Merrymakers, and a couple special kids' piano recitals.



Interested in Volunteer Opportunities at NVH?

Contact Mary at (402) 370-3102

Email: mary.swensen@nebraska.gov

HOME HAPPENINGS



Multiple parties were held throughout the month of December including the AM Vets and Yanks Who Gave which was sponsored by the Nebraska American Legion Families.



HOME HAPPENINGS CONTINUED

Thank You: So many people and organizations generously provided gifts, cards, gift baskets, flowers, blankets, snacks, decorations, and monetary donations to show their support of our members over the holiday season. We appreciate that these caring individuals and groups communicated their love and support of those who reside at Norfolk Veterans' Home during the holiday season. We are blessed beyond measure!

National Activity Professionals Week:

Is January 26th—30th, 2026. This week is created to give honor and recognition to those dedicated individuals who contribute so significantly to the quality of life to those they serve. Their creativity and energy make life much more enjoyable to those who reside here at the Veterans' Home. We want to extend our appreciation and gratitude to the staff of the Activities Department here at the Veterans' Home. When you see these ladies during this special week, say "Thanks" to (pictured left to right) Jasmine Machacek, Mary Swensen, Stephanie Eckert, DeAnn Stodola, Michelle Schommer, and MaKayla Ottis.



Below: NVH staff got in the holiday spirit by wearing their favorite Christmas sweaters and members enjoyed judging them.



First place and "bragging rights" went to Makayla Ottis whose sweater resembled a Christmas wreath, second place went to Elaine Wessendorf who was dressed as an elf and third place went to Lizzy Ruitenberg who was also dressed as an elf. Congratulations ladies and thank you to everyone who participated. We are looking forward to doing this again next year.

As 2025 comes to an end, we give thanks to all who have made a positive difference this past year—members, staff, volunteers, families, and community! We look forward to this new year with you!



In Remembrance of Those Members Who Have Passed.

No person was ever honored for what they received. Honor has been the reward for what they gave. ~Calvin Coolidge

Ronald Kienow
U.S. Army Veteran

Vernon Hepker
U.S. Army Veteran



CHRISTMAS CRAFTS



Pod D members Delores P. and Nan O. created fun Christmas decorations to display in their rooms.



SALUTE OUR NEW MEMBERS

NORFOLK VETERANS HOME WELCOMES YOU

Lynn S.

U.S. Air Force Veteran

Dustin D.

U.S. National Guard Veteran

Roger S.

U.S. Air Force Veteran

Norfolk Veterans Home Gift Cards

Available in any amount from
\$1 to \$25

May be used to purchase any item sold in the Canteen including meal tickets

Available for staff & members
convenience

Meal tickets can be purchased in the canteen or NVH Accounting Window and are now \$5.00 per ticket. *note these meal tickets expire 30 days after date of purchase.

NEW NVH EMPLOYEES



Taylor Sieber
Staff Care Tech II



Yasmin Beltran
Staff Care Tech II



Dan Winkler
Maintenance Specialist I

WELCOME

Please welcome the following new staff to the Norfolk Veterans' Home.

WELCOME



NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS
EOE/AA/ADA

Norfolk Veterans Home
600 E. Benjamin Ave.
Norfolk, NE 68701
Phone: (402) 370-3330



Norfolk Veterans Home

Bits & Pieces

CENSUS
139

Special Occasion
Reservations:
Call Activities @ (402) 370-
3110

*Happy
New Year
2026*

Norfolk Veterans' Home Observer is published monthly
for the members, families, staff and other interested parties.

**THE NORFOLK VETERANS HOME IS A STATE-OPERATED
FACILITY PROVIDING LONG TERM CARE FOR ELIGIBLE
NEBRASKA VETERANS, THEIR SPOUSES AND GOLD STAR
PARENTS.**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION REGARDING
ADMISSION, PLEASE CONTACT YOUR
LOCAL COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER OR
DODIE FINKHAUS @ (402)370-3109**

