

To honor all  
who stand up  
and speak out  
for freedom &  
liberty!



# Liberty Express

June 2023

Central Nebraska Veterans' Home, 4510 E. 56th St., Kearney, NE 68847 (308) 865-6000

## Summer Time at CNVH

*-Jessica Modlin, Activity Manager*

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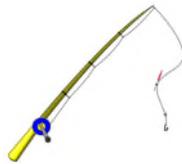
Member Council  
Salute

The month of June means outdoor fun for our members here at the Veterans' Home. We have great outdoor areas around campus to utilize for outdoor activities with our members. The neighborhood patios have raised garden tubs for members to use to plant flowers and vegetables in.



Our lake is another popular area that members enjoy spending time at.

Our lake is stocked with rainbow trout, large mouth bass, bluegill, and catfish. Members that would like to go fishing can contact their Recreation Specialist to see when



the next fishing time is scheduled.

Members that are able to independently fish can contact Recreation staff to check out fishing poles and tackle to fish at their own leisure.



We have many other outdoor fun opportunities for members besides fishing we croquet sets, football toss, ladder toss, bean bag (cornhole) toss,



remote control cars, and kites that can be used for outdoor fun this summer!

Here are just some of the facility activities for the month of June. Please refer to your neighborhood calendar for the remaining facility activities and also activities scheduled in your neighborhoods.

\*Tuesday May 6th at 3:00 Happy Hour and Appetizers-Freedom Hall-SAL and ALA

\*Wednesday June 14th at 2:00 Flag Day Bingo-Freedom Hall-ALA

\*Tuesday May 20th at 2:00 Father's Day Bingo-Freedom Hall-ALA

\*Thursday May 22nd at 2:00 Luau Beach Party w/Bingo and Ice Cream Sundaes-District 6 Auxiliary

\*Friday May 23rd at 2:00 Therapy Llamas with the Stump Family (Eight Winds Ranch)-Patio by Freedom Hall

### 4th of July Celebrations:

\*Tuesday June 27th  
Grilled Burgers at  
noon meal.

Wednesday June 28th  
at 10:00 Patriot Celebration Parade-Circular Drive to each Neighborhood

\*June 29th TBA Pie Social and Ice Cream in each neighborhood.

\*June 30th at 7:00 pm Patriot Party: Bingo, Music, and Snacks-Fireworks at Dusk over the Lake-Kearney Elks



*Location of activities may change depending on if there is a Covid outbreak status in the building. Posters will be posted of any changes.*



GOVERNOR  
**JIM PILLEN**

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS DIRECTOR  
**JOHN HILGERT**

CENTRAL NEBRASKA VETERANS' HOME ADMINISTRATOR  
**DORIN C. VAIPAN**



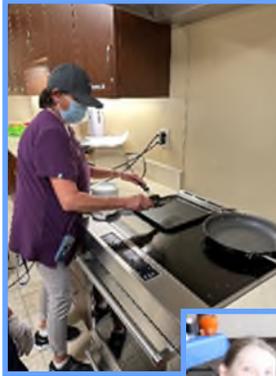
## Message from the Administrator

In this article, I decided to use pictures because, as we all know, “pictures speak a thousand words”! In May, we had three major events take place:

1. Our Dietary staff found a way to implement “Eggs made-to-order” for our members each Wednesday. Please see pictures to the right of a dietary crew setting this up. Congratulations to you all!
2. In celebration of Nursing Home Week, the Leadership staff grilled hamburgers for the members and teammates. That was so much fun!
3. The Memorial Day Observance was a special day where I had the honor to be the Master of Ceremonies. During this day of solemn remembering of those who gave their supreme sacrifice for our freedom, we were honored with the presence of the Posting of the Colors & 21 Gun Salute by Kearney VFW Post 759 & American Legion Post 52, as well as Retired Chief Petty Officer Jim Lutz as our keynote speaker.

If at any time you have any questions for me, feel free to contact me by email or by phone. Thank you!

Dorin C. Vaipan  
CNVH Administrator



## Member Council Employee of the Month DeDe Reidy of Food Services

DeDe has been with us since November 2021 and is the Supervisor in the production area. When hired, she said she was drawn to work here because of her veteran father’s experience. She loves working for the members and has a can-do attitude with a smile and a laugh. She is nurturing and is understanding and a team player! She loves to cook for her family and garden and is a friend to all. We are truly lucky to have DeDe as a teammate at CNVH!

## ***Member of the Month:*** ***Ralph Granere***



Ralph was selected as the “Member of the Month” by the CNVH Member Council. Ralph lived at the Grand Island Veterans Home and then moved to CNVH. He has been with us for about 10 years. Ralph was born and raised in Grand Island, Nebraska. Ralph was the youngest of four children. He has one son and one daughter.

Ralph was in the United States Air Force. While in the service, his job was an airplane mechanic. Ralph worked on G130 and C124 aircrafts. He was stationed in Alabama and in Japan.

Ralph worked at gas stations and tire stores in the production area. He also ran a router at the Fender Music Company. Ralph enjoys listening to music and playing bingo. He also enjoys chatting about the history of Grand Island. Ralph enjoys going out to the lake to fish, going to the Foxhole and looking for Sandhill Cranes.

When asked what the best thing about living at CNVH was he stated “Getting to spend one to one time with the staff reminiscing about the past”.

Congratulations, Ralph on being selected “Member of the Month”!

## ***In Memoriam***

**Kenneth Maret**

**William “Dutch” Thuman**

**Joel Fie**

**Roger Albers**



# Outing to Heartland Museum of

## Military Vehicles

*The members enjoyed an outing to the Heartland Museum of Military Vehicles and reminiscing about their time in the service.*



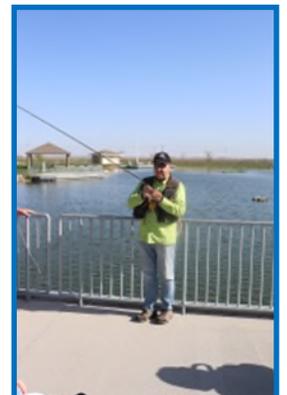
## Quilting

*Members are enjoying the activity with Wilma and helping with making a quilt for a Veteran to receive a "Quilt of Valor".*



*Time spent out at the lake learning about fly fishing from one of our volunteers was thoroughly enjoyed.*

## Fly Fishing





# National Veterans Awareness Riders!

*The National Veterans Awareness Organization began in 2005 as a not-for-profit organization dedicated to honoring all veterans.*



*Their Mission: is to remember, honor and support veterans and those currently serving in all branches of the military.*



*The Ride: is a 13 day event each May in which the riders ride from Auburn, California to Washington, DC. Each day they visit Veterans Homes and Hospitals to let the vets know they are not forgotten!*





## White Table Display

This display was placed on exhibit in the Hearth Room for the week leading up to Memorial Day and through the holiday, to pay tribute to those who have given the ultimate sacrifice to our Nation for our freedom. Please take a moment and read below the meaning for each item that is



**The table is small**, symbolizing the frailty of one prisoner, alone against his or her suppressors, and to show our everlasting concern for our armed forces personnel still missing. It is also reserved in honor of our fallen comrades.

**The tablecloth is white**, symbolizing the purity of their motives when answering the call to duty.

**The single rose in the vase**, reminds of the lost or missing service members.

**The red ribbon on the vase** represents the blood of those that have died in service to our country and also our continued determination to account for our missing.

**A slice of lemon on the plate** reminds us of the bitter fate of those captured and missing in a foreign land or of the bitter news a family receives when a loved one has been killed in action.

**The salt sprinkled on the plate** reminds of the countless fallen tears of families who grieve the loss of their loved one Killed in Action or who's loved one has been declared Missing in Action.

**The Bible** represents faith in a higher power and the pledge to our country, founded as one nation under God.

**The glass is inverted** to symbolize their inability to share this evening's toast.

**The black napkin** stands for the emptiness these warriors have left in the hearts of their families and friends.

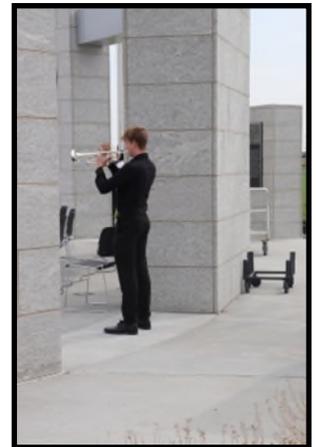
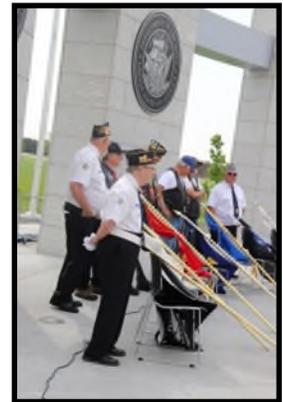
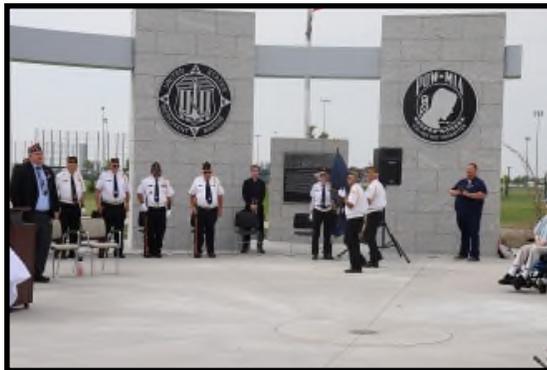
**The candle** is reminiscent of the light of hope, which lives in our hearts. It illuminates the path of the fallen soldier on his way to report to the Final Roll Call under the Supreme Commander. It also illuminates the way home for those that are missing.

**The chair** is empty to symbolize their absence and the empty place it has left in our hearts.

**The American Flag** reminds us that they have paid the supreme sacrifice to ensure our freedom.

# Memorial Day Observances . . . To Honor & Remember

The Memorial Day Ceremony was held out at the Central Nebraska Veterans' Memorial on our grounds. The weather was beautiful! The Master of Ceremonies was Dorin Vaipan, Administrator, The Posting of Colors and 21 Gun Salute was Kearney V.F.W. Post 759 and American Legion Post 52 Color Guard. Our guest speaker was Retired Chief Petty Officer Jim Lutz. We had special music provided by Jackie Haley and Brent Roemmich. The Invocation and Last Call was provided by Chaplain Michael Koenig.



## POPPY DAY



The American Legion Auxiliary provided poppies for the members and staff! American Legion Auxiliary CNVH Rep, Kathy Fisher was here and American Legion Rep, Edith Deuel for Department of Nebraska was here for Poppy Day!

**CNVH Member Council Honors:**

**Ralph Granere**

**Member of the Month**



**CNVH Member Council Honors:**

**DeDe Reidy**

**Employee of the Month**



Mail To:

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