



# LIBERTY EXPRESS



August 2025

## Nation of Patriots' 2025 Patriot Tour

The Patriot Tour stopped at Central Nebraska Veterans' Home in July with the members playing bingo prior to the riders arriving on campus. When the riders got to campus they were greeted by the Kearney Volunteer Fire Department, who had the big American Flag hanging off their bucket truck as the riders pulled around the lake.



Once the riders arrived, they were welcomed into Freedom

Hall by the members with a round of applause. They had a ceremony with the flag transfer and shared a few words. Following the ceremony the riders spent some time visiting with the members before they had to leave and go on to their next stop. The members always enjoy when the riders come!

The Patriot Tour escorts one American Flag through all 50 states. This takes place over 120 days. The goal of the Patriot Tour is to unite Americans beneath the colors of our nation's Flag and to support the men and women who stand up and defend it. As they travel to all the different states different riders join the ride along the way.

Thank you to the Patriot Tour for stopping at the Central Nebraska Veterans' Home!



## Message From the Administrator



By Dorin C. Vaipan,  
CNVH Administrator

The summer continues, but on some days the heat is unbearable, with afternoons of heat index in three digits! A common nickname for the hot July days is the "dog days of summer". This phrase refers to the hottest period

of summer, but other nicknames include descriptives like, "scorcher" or "boiling" or "roasting". Romanians call July "the month of the furnace", and rightfully so!

The month of July started with celebrating Independence Day, with the traditional fireworks that covered the skies above Central Nebraska Veterans' Home (CNVH) for the joy and entertainment of our members and veterans. We are grateful to the Kearney Elks Club who covered the costs as well as to the Kearney Fire Department who were in charge of the fireworks display.

Also, in July, I attended the quarterly Veterans Homes' Team (VHT) meetings along with the other Administrators of the State Veterans' Homes (SVH) from Nebraska and with select teammates of the Central Office. These meetings, along with the State Veterans Homes' Board meeting (VHB), took place at the Western Nebraska Veterans' Home in Scottsbluff, NE on July 21st -24th.

The Board meeting was focused on approving the new applications of Nebraska veterans and non-veterans, who were applying for admission in one of the four SVHs, as well as on reviewing the quarterly operational reports of each of the four SVHs. During this particular VHB meeting, new Board officers were selected: Mr. Greg Holloway, Chairman, Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) Repre-

sentative and Mr. Mike Sheets, Vice-chairman, Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH) Representative.

The VHT meetings focused on updating select policies and procedures that will support the care and safety of our members, on addressing plans for improvements such as a new Nursing Call Light System at CNVH, and on plans to successfully support the operations of the SVHs in the years to come.

Other updates: CNVH has a new State Service Officer, who started on July 21st - Ashley Augustin, a US Army veteran. He will review the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (USVA) benefits that each of our members currently has, and he will address with the authorities, potential USVA enhancement of those benefits that our veterans may qualify for.



Ashley Augustin,  
NDVA State Service Officer

Typically, the month of July abounds on patriotic events, beginning with Independence Day, then followed by the Patriotic Celebration Parade & Old Tractor Club, the Kearney Classic Car Show where over 200 cars rode around CNVH, and not the least, the Korean War Veterans Armistice Day Proclamation. We are very grateful to the Kearney community who have used their time, money and talents to organize such events for our veterans!

If you have questions, feel free to contact me at your earliest convenience. Thank you!

Dorin C. Vaipan, CNVH Administrator

## Member Council: Member of the Month - Joseph Meuret

Joseph Meuret was selected for this month's Member Council Member of the Month. Joseph has been at Central Nebraska Veterans' Home since March of 2025.

He was originally born and raised in Orchard, Nebraska. He is married and has four children. He earned a Bachelor's degree in physical education and a Master's degree in education leadership.

Joseph served in the Army during the Korean War. During that time, he earned a Good Conduct Medal and a Marksman's Award. After his service in the Army Joseph owned his own grain business.



Joseph Meuret

During his down time, there are many things that keep his interest. Among them, he enjoys fishing, basketball, football, the news, Plymouth cars, and taking naps.

Joseph has stayed connected with his community and interests by being involved with his Catholic Church, The American Legion, the Elks, Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), and Fraternal Order of Eagles (FOE). During his time in the home, he has enjoyed how friendly his staff have been.

Congratulations to Joseph for being selected Member of the Month!



## Member Council: Employee of the Month Kaylin Talbert in Transportation



Kaylin has been selected as this month's Member Council Employee of the Month. She has recently joined the Transportation department and has shown herself to be a real go getter! She has a positive attitude and loves to be busy.

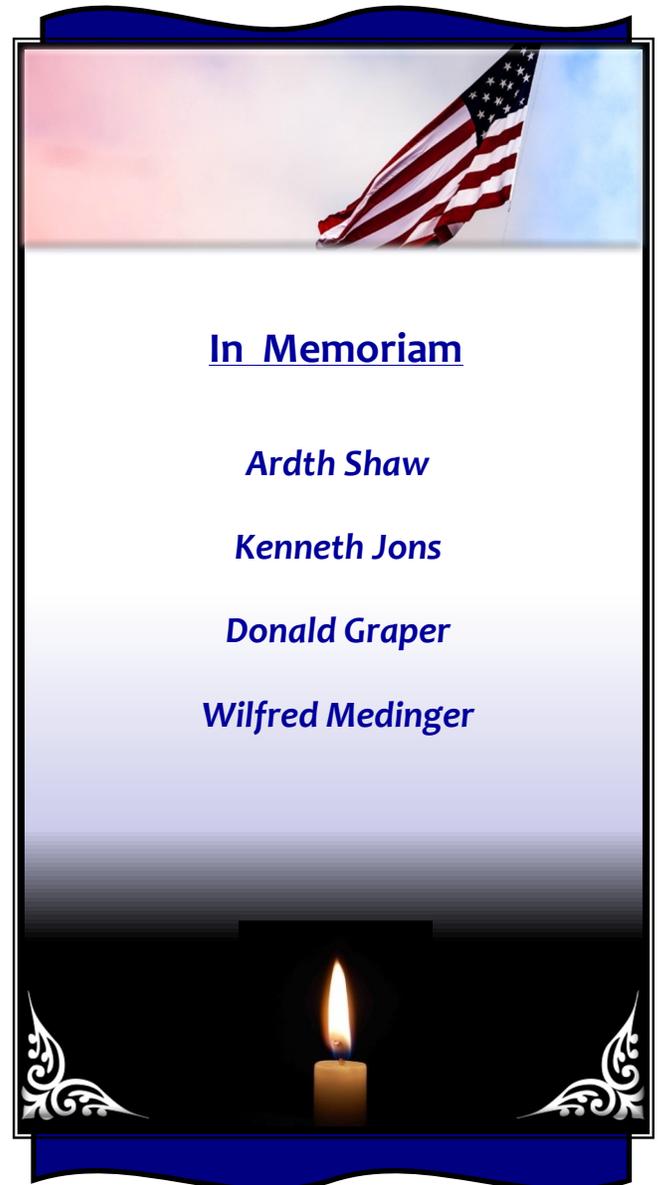
When not driving members, she is picking up extra shifts to help in the homes. Kaylin is planning on going to nursing school to further her education. Thank you, Kaylin for all you do for our members.

## Merrymakers Concert - Billy Troy

In July, members enjoyed an afternoon concert with Billy Troy. Billy comes from a family that loves music. His father, Josh Graves, was a Bluegrass Hall of Famer, and his father was a regular performer at The Grand Ole Opry. Billy also sang at The Grand Ole Opry when he was little.

Billy is a successful Nashville songwriter and producer himself, and he received several Grammy nominations. He has performed many concerts in Canada and Switzerland. Billy shared with the members that one of his favorite summer memories was when his family would go spend time at Johnny Cash's house.

When Billy was 12 years old, he was hired to sing in a commercial for the game Rook, and he got to sing with June Cash for this commercial. Billy talked about how June Cash would talk to him all the time at the Grand Ole Opry. Following Billy's time in Nashville he became the Entertainer Director for the Ameristar in Council Bluffs and then started performing for Merrymakers.



During Billy's performance for the members, (photo left) he performed songs by Johnny Cash, Kenny Rogers, Willy Nelson, and Roger Miller just to name a few. The songs that he performed were all songs that sparked a memory for the members making it an enjoyable afternoon concert.

This concert was sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary.

## Bingo With Girl Scout Reagan

The members enjoyed an afternoon playing bingo with Girl Scout Reagan. The activity included Reagan passing out Girl Scout cookies to the members. Reagan has been bringing donated girl scout cookies to the members for the past five years. When she first started her donations, it was the time of Covid, and she was not able to come into the facility. The last couple of years the Member Council President accepted the cookies for the facility.

This year we had her come and help with bingo and this gave her the opportunity to meet more members. Every year she writes a letter to the members about why she does this and about her scouting activities. This year she donated cookies to the Grand Island CLC and then here at the Veterans' Home. She was able to give 312 donation boxes. This year she sold over 3,000 boxes of cookies and took 2nd place for the most cookies sold in the state of Nebraska.



## County Craft Fair Results

Another Buffalo County Fair is in the history books with the Craft Department. This year we had twenty-four members submit entries into the fair for 2025. Of those entries four of them are wood projects, and the remaining twenty under the ceramics category. This resulted in the members earning seven 2nd Place ribbons, sixteen 1st Place ribbons, and one Best in Show winner for the home.

This year's best in show winner under Ceramics was from Margie Cumpston (photos right). She created a ceramic cookie jar that looks like a house made from a stump. The jar features lots of little forest creatures and details hidden all over the project.

Now going forward the members who placed 1st or above will now have their projects go to the Nebraska State Fair in August. Those works of art will then be rejudged against the pieces that won county fairs all over the state and then displayed in the arts building for the duration of the State Fair.

Congratulations to all our winners!



## Independence Day Celebrations

Here at the Central Nebraska Veterans' Home, we don't just celebrate Independence Day on the 4th of July. We have activities all week to celebrate. This year the members had the opportunity to participate in some Independence Day Celebrations which kicked off with our Patriot Party Celebration at the end of June (featured in the July Liberty Express).

On Wednesday July 2nd, members gathered outside in the morning for our annual Patriot Celebration Parade.

The members enjoyed seeing all the entries. The All-Nebraska Tractor Club was part of the parade, and the Activities Department received a donation from them for programming for the members. In the afternoon, we rounded out the day with a Banana Split Social that was sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary. The members enjoyed having a banana split on a hot summer day and enjoy visiting with all their friends in Freedom Hall.

On Friday July 4th, the members enjoyed playing 4th of July bingo and getting some Independence Day prizes. It was a great week celebrating our nation's birthday!



## Meet the Leadership - Lynn de los Angeles

By Ralph Healey, Editor

Lynn is the Central Nebraska Veterans' Home's Assistant Director of Nursing. She has been with the home for 13 years and in that time, she has also been a Charge Nurse, House RN, Interim Admissions Coordinator, Interim Assistant Director of Nursing, Medication Aide and a Floor Aide. One of Lynn's favorite parts of working at the home is the ability to be flexible and pitch in wherever she is needed because she is skilled at adapting to stressful situations.

Lynn was born and raised in Spalding, NE where her father still resides. She has been married for 33 years and has seven grandchildren

and one Capuchin Monkey (photo right, courtesy of Lynn). Lynn has a bachelor's degree in health care management. She has worked



Lynn de los Angeles,  
Assistant Director of Nursing

in the ICU, Kearney Regional Medical Center, and for her husband's outpatient practice before, during, and around her time with CNVH.

Lynn has really enjoyed the continuity of care that patients get here at CNVH with the family interactions and the ability to be involved in all aspects of the members time here. In her free time Lynn enjoys baking and mowing the yard.

## Kearney Cruise Night Parade



By Jessica Modlin,  
Activities Director

The 38<sup>th</sup> annual Kearney Cruise Night Parade was a great success! On Wednesday July 16<sup>th</sup> the classic cars cruised around Central Nebraska Veterans' Home putting on a fantastic display of approximately 250 vehi-



cles for the members to enjoy. The members were able to partake in the parade right out front of their own neighborhoods.

The parade went around the circular drive and drove up in each neighborhood's driveway so that members had a prime viewing spot. Members enjoyed waving at the cars, telling them to burn out, rev their engines, and honk their horns.

**"Members enjoyed waving at the cars, telling them to burn out, rev their engines and honk their horns."**

The members enjoyed seeing these classic cars and reminiscing about the various cars that they may have driven in their lifetime. There were many family members that came out to join us for the parade with their loved ones. This is an activity the members look forward to every year!



Check us out on the web!

<https://veterans.nebraska.gov/cnvh>

Special Points of Interest Next Month:

- *Merrymakers Concert with Othy Lindell*
- *Kool-Aid Bingo and Kool Stand*

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