



LIBERTY EXPRESS



November 2025

Halloween Bingo Party and Treats

On Halloween, members spent the afternoon in Freedom Hall playing bingo and enjoying some themed treats. The activity was especially eventful when all the staff that had dressed up in costumes stopped by Freedom Hall to show off their outfits. It definitely added some light-hearted moments and a lot of humor to the Bingo.



To make the afternoon a little more interesting, once the bingo caller announced N31, any further bingos earned double the bingo prize. The members were very excited about this opportunity!

Adding to the celebration were delicious cupcakes decorated in fall colors and a delicious punch! This activity was sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary. It was a great afternoon of spirited Halloween celebration!

Pumpkin Decorating

The members that live in the Foxtrot neighborhood participated in a pumpkin decorating contest, which involved getting into some artistic Halloween fun. They did a great job demonstrating their creativity with the available supplies, making each of their entries truly unique.

After much deliberation, members and staff voted on the winning pumpkins. Team Spooks, the top winning team from Foxtrot Home 3, decorated four pumpkins for the contest. Team Spooks members included Joy, Betty, and Margie. Great job to all the participants of this fun event!



Message From the Administrator



By Dorin C. Vaipan,
CNVH Administrator

As you enter Central Nebraska Veterans' Home (CNVH) through Juliet's main door, don't forget to raise your eyes to the ceiling above the reception area. You will notice that now we have six flags displayed, due to the addition of the Space Force flag. As a trivia fact, Nebraska has 13 veterans that were recently honorably discharged from the Space Force.

Another positive aspect is that the employee turnover at CNVH is constantly improving. In Long Term Care in United States, the average turnover is 54%, meaning that more than half of the employees from a nursing home leave employment within the same year. At CNVH, the turnover in 2024 was 40%, which is significantly lower than the national average while the 2025 year-to-date turnover is only 24%. Well done CNVH team!

Excellence in Leadership Award

Every October, Governor Jim Pillen holds a very important annual ceremony at the Governor's Residence in Lincoln, NE: the 2025 Excellence in Leadership Award, which, for CNVH, was awarded to Carrie Urwiller!

Carrie was born in the Los Angeles area where she lived for about 27 years. She started her working career as an office secretary at the same school she graduated from. One year later, Carrie was hired by Caltech to work at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena as an administrative assistant and later she became an Office Staff Manager. Eight years later, Carrie and her family relocated to Nebraska, returning to her father's homestead. Carrie was hired back in 2006 as an Administrative Technician at the Grand Island Veterans' Home, which was relocated in Kearney, NE in January 2019. During her 19 years with NDVA, Carrie worked directly with 10 Administrators, became the supervisor of the receptionists, served as a timekeeper for Administration and she is the operator of the C-Cure Security System for the entire facility.



Carrie demonstrates a passion and commitment to fostering a supportive environment in the workplace as well as excellent customer service. She truly goes above and beyond every single day as she works harder to ease others' burdens. There is no task too big or too small that she is not willing to assist. Her gentle spirit, soft-spoken approach, and collaborative spirit make her the ideal dedicated leader in her unique position. As a timekeeper, she helps orient new timekeepers to the guidelines for accurate timekeeping, and she continues to be their backup. Carrie helps navigate any challenges in the workplace as she understands this is an integral approach to resolution. She is a dedicated leader to the reception staff and fills in to help accommodate their schedules. Carrie works diligently to ensure others are recognized for their positive contribution during the All-Teammates Meetings and the facility newsletter – The Liberty Express. While she serves our Veterans every day, she also serves our visitors and staff. One of her guiding principles is “to be kind” while promoting a culture of dignity and respect. Congratulations, Carrie! Well deserved!

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 - Eddie Faber

For October, this month we have Eddie Faber as our Member Council Member of the Month. Eddie has been at the home since March of this year.

Eddie was born and raised in Hastings, Nebraska. He is the second oldest of four children. Eddie was married to Nancy for fifty years before her passing. They had six children together.

Eddie served in the Korean War and was a Corporal. He was stationed in Fort Raleigh, Kansas, many places in Korea, and did some time in Japan.



Eddie Faber

Once out of the service Eddie worked as a butcher and for the department of roads here in Nebraska. Eddie was active in the American Legion, Catholic Church, and played baseball.

You rarely see Eddie these days without his cowboy hat on and a big smile plastered across his face. Eddie's willingness to try new things keeps him busy, but he prefers times when he can be social and join activities that keep him talking to others.

Congratulations Eddie on being selected as the Member of the Month!

Member Council: Employee of the Month

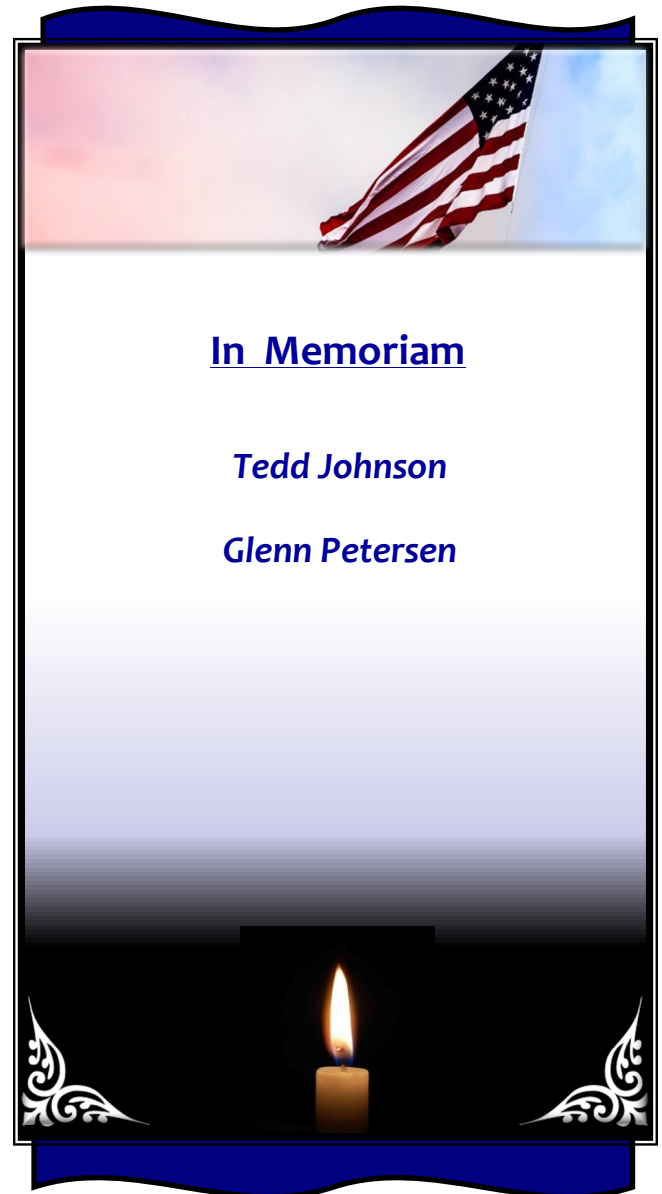
Jeff Kosch in Housekeeping



Jeff Kosch started with the home in August of 2023. He has been with CNVH for 2 years and serves the facility as a float in housekeeping. Jeff is known for his hard work and attention to detail. He consistently goes above and beyond to ensure that the facility is spotless. Jeff is a great asset to the housekeeping team! He works hard and goes out of his way to help anyone and everyone wherever needed. Sometimes you will see Jeff in a Neighborhood cleaning rooms, or sometimes you will see Jeff out in the hallways scrubbing floors. His willingness to be flexible in his role is greatly appreciated. Congratulations to Jeff for being Employee of the Month for November!

Merrymakers Concert with Tom Strohmeyer

In October, we had a new performer come to CNVH. Tom Strohmeyer, also known as “Rockin’ Woody”, rolled into the Central Nebraska Veterans’ Home and he delivered exactly what his nickname promised: familiar tunes and quick laughs. Tom even did a juggling act during his performance. He traveled all the way from Minnesota to perform for us. Tom has been entertaining for the past 20 years, he is able to play the piano, guitar, trumpet, saxophone, and the harmonica. This performance included him playing the piano, guitar, and the saxophone. He played a variety of songs for our members from *God Bless the USA* by Lee Greenwood and a number of Johnny Cash songs for the members. Tom involved the members in the show and had them guess which song it was, who the artist was, or who wrote the songs. The members enjoyed the afternoon of entertainment and reminiscing with music. This activity was sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary.



Meet the Leadership - Jessica Modlin

By Ralph Healey, Editor

Jessica Modlin is the Manager of Recreation and Volunteer Services here at CNVH. She oversees five activity specialists, one volunteer coordinator, and the supervisor of the Craft Department.

Jessica was born in Gothenburg, NE and was raised in Miller, NE. During her life she has lived in Hastings, Clay Center, and Kearney, all in Nebraska. Jessica graduated from CCC with an associate's degree in human services, and from Hays, Kansas with a Bachelor's Degree in Health Studies with an emphasis in Gerontology.

Jessica and her husband have one child of their own and they took in two children



*Jessica Modlin, Manager
Recreation & Volunteer
Services*

through foster care that they ended up adopting. Jessica has 22 years of experience working in long-term care facilities, she worked at Good Samaritan Society in Hastings and here in Kearney and then moved over to the Veterans' Home and has been with us for eight years now.

In her down time Jessica enjoys reading, crafts, crocheting, camping, attending church, and spending time with her family. Jessica's favorite things are Dr. Pepper and Daisy flow-

ers. Jessica feels her greatest accomplishment is raising a successful adult son and the recent adoption of her two younger children. Jessica's favorite part of working at the home is working with the members and her activity team.

Apple Pie and Ice Cream Social

On an October afternoon the members were treated to warm smiles, friendly conversations, and delicious apple pie and ice cream. Who doesn't like good old fashion warm apple pie and ice cream? The event was generously sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary. A choice between traditional apple pie or caramel apple pie was presented. Along with the pie they also could have a bowl of ice cream, or they could add their ice cream to the top of their pie and make it pie à la mode.

The members enjoyed visiting with each other, sharing memories of having apple pie, autumn traditions, and past celebrations. The members all enjoyed the Apple Pie and Ice Cream Social and thanked our volunteers and staff as they left the Social that afternoon.



Bringing Generations Together: Family Suite Preschool Halloween Fun

Laughter, smiles, and a bit of spooky fun filled Freedom Hall in October for a special Trick 'R Treating and Halloween games with the Family Suite Preschool who brought out their young people.

The young students arrived dressed in their festive costumes, princesses, superheroes, dinosaurs, cowboys, and more. They were ready to share the holiday with the members here at CNVH.

The kids had their treat bags and made their way through Freedom Hall playing Halloween games and getting treats from the members. The members were delighted to see the creativity and excitement the children brought with them. This was a great opportunity for the kids to practice their Trick 'R Treating skills prior to Halloween.



Events like this highlight the special bond between generations. For the members, this event brought huge smiles to their faces as seeing the children celebrate and play brings back fond memories of their own families. For preschoolers, it offers a chance to learn kindness, patience, and the importance of community.

This activity was sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary.

CNVH Staff and Families Bring Halloween Cheer to the Members



The halls of Central Nebraska Veterans' Home were filled with laughter, excitement, and the rustle of candy bags as staff and their families brought their children in for a special Trick 'R Treating event.

The celebration created a heartwarming evening where the members, families, and staff came together to share the spirit of Halloween. Children arrived dressed in their costumes and each costume brought smiles and delight to the members. As the children made their way from neighborhood to neighborhood, the members greeted them with candy, high-fives, and joyful conversation.

The event offered something special for everyone. For the members, it was a chance to experience the energy and excitement of children celebrat-

ing the holiday. For the staff members, it provided a meaningful way to connect their families with community inside of CNVH. For the children, it was a fun and memorable Trick 'R Treating experience filled with kindness and new relationships.

It was truly a "treat" for all involved, and the smiles at the facilities told the whole story. The conversations that members had in the following days after the event did as well.



Check us out on the web!

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

Special Points of Interest Next Month:

- Veterans Day Celebrations
- Holiday Show by James Hintz
- Merrymakers Concert with Othy “Modern Kowboy

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