



Veterans Day Ceremony



The Central Nebraska Veterans' Home came together this Veterans Day for a heartfelt ceremony honoring the courage, dedication, and sacrifice of the men and women who have served our nation. Members, staff, families, and volunteers gathered in Freedom Hall for a morning filled with reflection, gratitude, and pride.

The program opened with the posting of the colors by Kearney V.F.W Post 759 and American Legion Post 52 Color Guard, followed by the Star-Spangled Banner sung by Dave Kreutzer our Social Services Director. Our guest speaker, Retired Sergeant First Class Kory Krahling, shared a message of appreciation, recognizing not only the service of our veterans but also the lasting impact their stories have on future generations.



Following our guest speaker, Dorin Vaipan our Administrator here at CNVH and Master of Ceremonies shared the Governor's Proclamation. After the proclamation we had special music provided by Kris Hughbanks, our Director of Nursing, who played *America the Beautiful*. At the end of the ceremony, we had rendering of *Taps* performed by Aarron Sybrant and the retirement of the colors.

The Central Nebraska Veterans' Home is proud to honor its veterans not only on Veterans Day, but throughout the year. The ceremony on Veterans Day serves as a powerful reminder that their service will never be forgotten, and their legacy continues to inspire us each day!





By Dorin C. Vaipan,
CNVH Administrator

Message From the Administrator

During the month of November, Central Nebraska Veterans' Home (CNVH) had several events celebrating the Veterans. On November 8th, the community of Kearney organized a parade honoring the existing veterans from the Kearney area as well as those that passed away. Our CNVH bus, carrying a group of veterans from our facility, was in the parade. More than that, one of our World War II veterans was asked to serve as the parade's Grand Marshal. What an honor!

Another major event for the month was Veterans Day on November 11th! This is a very special day for us all and not only for the veterans. On that day, CNVH was honored to organize a celebratory event in Freedom Hall, having a special guest speaker, Retired Sergeant First Class Kory Krahling, US Army. He served, among others, in the 82nd Airborne Division and he deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and in humanitarian missions in support of Hurricane Katrina. He also served as a Reconnaissance Specialist in the 525th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade, being deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. In my role of Master of Ceremonies, I read Governor Pillen's Proclamation for this special day while all flags were flown at the Veterans' Memorial in honor of those that answered America's call to service and sacrifice!



As expected, another celebration in November was the Thanksgiving holiday. The members enjoyed the traditional Thanksgiving dishes, with lots of turkey and pies but most importantly, with a sense of constant gratitude to our members for the sacrifice they made for this great country and our freedom!



In a previous article, I mentioned creating what we call The Remembrance Tome. In it we keep the lists of those passing away since CNVH was opened in 1919. Every year, during the Memorial Day service, the names of those members that passed away in the previous 12 months, are read aloud together with the military branch they served in. At

the time of reading, a red poppy with the member's name is placed in The Remembrance Wreath. After the service, the list of names is placed in The Remembrance Tome, which is stored year-round in the chapel, on a stand specially created for that in our Woodshop. Eternal memory to them!



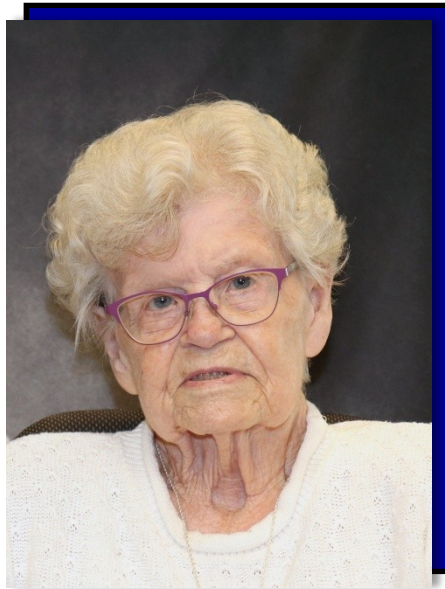
If you have questions, feel free to contact me at your earliest convenience. Thank you!

Dorin C. Vaipan, CNVH Administrator

Member Council: Member of the Month - FREDA HAWKINS

For our Member of the Month, we are recognizing Freda Hawkins this December. Freda has been at Central Nebraska Veterans' Home since April of 2023.

Freda was born in Hendley, Nebraska and moved to Alma, Nebraska at five years old. In 5th grade she moved to Kearney NE. She graduated in the 1950's and after graduation she married her husband, Milton who was in the Navy. They had two children together, Linda and Kathey. Freda and Milton raised their children in the Kearney area and were married for 74 years, which Freda considers her greatest accomplishment. The secret to marriage



Freda Hawkins

for her is love, God, patience, and spoiling one another.

Freda was a salesperson for Montgomery Ward for five years and worked at the TV station for twelve years. Freda greatly enjoys spending time gardening, in Crafts, time with her grandchildren and her great grandchildren. Freda was involved in the American Legion, the VFW, and served as a Sunday School Teacher for her church. Freda's favorite part of living in the home has been the friendly, nice, and caring staff and neighbors who always provide a listening ear when she needs to socialize. Congratulations to Freda for being Member of the Month!

Member Council: Employee of the Month

John Dietz in Housekeeping



We are proud to recognize John Dietz as our employee of the month. John Dietz has been with CNVH since July of 2024, serving in the housekeeping department. He serves the facility by working in laundry on the Delta, Echo, and Foxtrot side and often steps in as a float whenever needed. Some of his daily tasks include cleaning in member rooms, terminally cleaning empty rooms, and scrubbing floors. John is known for being dependable, team-oriented, and always willing to go out of his way to help anyone who needs help. His commitment and teamwork make him a tremendous asset to our housekeeping team, and we are grateful for everything he contributes. Congratulations, John, on being December's employee of the month!

Merrymakers Concert - Othy "Modern Kowboy"

CNVH had the honor to welcome Merrymakers performer Othy the Modern Kowboy back to the facility for November. The line up that he brought to the members filled the room with smiles, toe tapping, hand clapping, finger tapping, and dancing in wheelchairs. Members enjoyed the afternoon with Othy as he put on a great performance.

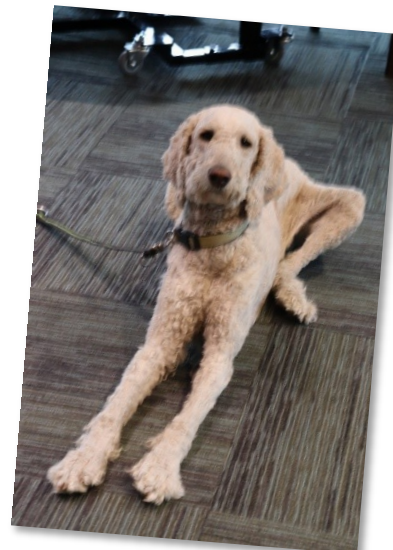
In addition to showcasing his musical talents, Othy brought a special visitor with him - Wallen, his dog. This month Wallen did some tricks for us at the end of the show, and stole the show from Othy.

This activity was sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary.



Shown Left:
Othy "Modern
Kowboy"

Shown Right:
Wallen



Meet the Leadership - Tregg Reiss

By Ralph Healey, Editor

This month we will be learning more about our Building Services Manager Tregg Reiss. Tregg has been with Central Nebraska Veterans' Home (CNVH) for just about four years now. He started at CNVH in housekeeping and helping with laundry services. Later Tregg moved up to House Keeping Lead, before being promoted to his current Building Services Manager role.



*Tregg Reiss
Building Services Manager*

Tregg was born in Lexington, Nebraska but lived in Eustis for his childhood. Tregg is mar-

ried to wife Brittany, and they have two children. He has spent his life living in various parts of Nebraska with a realized goal of wanting to end up in the Kearney area. Tregg worked for Woodhouse for five years prior to working at the home.

During his downtime he enjoys hunting, fishing, and slow pitch softball. He is part of KSR Outdoors which is a hunting and outdoor activities group here in Kearney. Tregg feels the mem-

bers and staff he works with every day are his favorite part of working at CNVH.

Holiday Show with James Hintz

The members ended the month of November by enjoying a Holiday Show with James Hintz. This concert was just what we needed to help everyone get into the holiday spirit as we moved into the Thanksgiving Holiday and into December.

Members gathered in Freedom Hall to tap their toes and sing along to favorites such as "Jingle Bell Rock," and "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer." James also included a few gentle carols, bringing about a sense of warmth and nostalgia. James engaged the audience with stories, humor, and holiday spirit, creating a joyful atmosphere that could be felt throughout the room. Smiles and clapping along added to the fun as members enjoyed the chance to kick off this special time of year.

The holiday season is officially underway at CNVH, and we are grateful to James Hintz for sharing his talent and bringing so much seasonal joy to our members. With decorations going up in December and more festive programs ahead, this performance was the perfect start to a month full of celebration. This event was sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary.



Veterans Dollar Days



Veterans Dollar Days is an annual activity to celebrate our members and their service. Veterans Dollar Days is sponsored by the American Legion Family all over Nebraska. Volunteers from the American Legion Family joined us from across the state to spend the afternoon with our members.

Members enjoyed an afternoon playing bingo and received cookies from Eileen's. Following bingo, the volunteers gave the veterans a letter and a gift for Veterans Day thanking them for their service.



Veterans Day Parade

The Central Nebraska Veterans' Home proudly celebrated Veterans Day with a community parade that placed local heroes front and center in downtown Kearney on the bricks. The streets were lined with cheering families and the community.

The parade was a moving tribute to the men and women who have served our country with courage and dedication. The parade served not only as a celebration, but also as a reminder of the enduring bond between the veterans and the community.

The Veterans Day parade was a tribute that captured the spirit of honor, unity, and remembrance that defines this important holiday each year.



Members enjoyed participating in the community parade as they rode through the parade route on the Central Nebraska Veterans' Home bus.

Veterans Celebration-Happy Hour and Appetizers-S.A.M. Que

In honor of the members, we celebrated them on a Monday afternoon with a Happy Hour and Appetizers featuring BBQ sliders from S.A.M. Que and fries made in house. This special celebration provided a great opportunity for members to visit with their friends from across campus.

This activity was sponsored by the VFW Auxiliary. The members also enjoyed visiting with all the volunteers that came out and helped celebrate with them. The afternoon was enjoyed with smiles, laughter, and of course a full tummy!



Veterans Day Bingo and Treats

The members enjoyed Veterans Day afternoon in Freedom Hall, playing bingo and enjoying a sweet treat from Eileen's Cookies. The cookies were decorated with an American flag in honor of Veterans Day. This patriotic activity was sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary.

We had volunteers from the American Legion Auxiliary and the UNK Health Science club come out and help with this special event. As members arrived, the UNK Health Science Club passed out Veterans Day cards they had made to share their appreciation and mark the occasion. The members enjoyed this fun-filled afternoon with each other and the volunteers. There was no shortage of laughter or smiles!



Check us out on the web!

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

Special Points of Interest Next Month:

- Gift For Yanks
- Merrymakers Concert-Mike McCracken
- Holiday Bingo

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