



Honoring the Fallen: Memorial Day Ceremony

June 2026

By Jessica Modlin, Activities Manager



On Friday May 22nd, we held our annual Memorial Day Ceremony here at CNVH. The members, staff, families, and guests gathered for the ceremony in Freedom Hall to honor the brave men and women of the United States Armed Forces who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our nation. Dorin Vaipan, CNVH Administrator, served as master of ceremonies. The ceremony began with the Posting of the Colors, presented with dignity and respect, setting a patriotic tone for the event. The local Kearney VFW Post 759 and American Legion Post 52 Colored Guard conducted the Posting of the Colors and the 21-gun salute at the end of the ceremony. Following the posting of the colors Dave Kreutzer, Social Work Director sang the National Anthem. The invocation was provided by Michael Koeing our Chaplain, followed by the proclamation read by Dorin.

We were honored to have a special guest speaker Burdette Chappell. Mr. Chappell served in Army Aviation and retired with the distinguished rank of Chief Warrant Officer 5 after more than 30 years of military service to our nation. Throughout his remarkable career, he served during multiple conflicts and deployments, including Vietnam, Desert Storm, Iraq, and Afghanistan. His decades of dedication, leadership, and sacrifice reflect the true spirit of service and patriotism that we gather to honor today. After an extraordinary military career, he retired on January 1, 2011, leaving behind a legacy of commitment to both his fellow soldiers and his country. Burdette shared a meaningful message on the significance of Memorial Day, reminding everyone that the holiday is more than the unofficial start of summer, it is a time to remember and honor those who gave their lives in defense of our country. Burdette encouraged everyone to carry forward the legacy of service, courage, and dedication demonstrated by America's fallen servicemembers.

Following our guest speaker, we had special music sung by Dave Kreutzer, *America the Beautiful*. The ceremony concluded with a 21-gun salute and Rendering of Taps played by Caleb Hardy, followed by Retirement of Colors.

As Memorial Day approached, the ceremony provided an opportunity for all in attendance to reflect on the sacrifices made by generations of servicemembers and to express heartfelt appreciation for their unwavering commitment to our nation. Their courage and devotion will never be forgotten.



Message From the Administrator



By Dorin C. Vaipan,
CNVH Administrator

The month of May can be both hot and suddenly stormy. Saturday May 16th, Central Nebraska Veterans' Home (CNVH) experienced one of those storms, when rain, hail and strong winds blended together. We all were longing for rain, but I believe no one wanted hail or damaging winds. However, we live in Nebraska and these are expected. CNVH incurred that evening some damage like broken tree branches, missing portions of siding, blown gutters and missing roof shingles.

At the end of May each year, two major events are expected at CNVH, always being well attended. The first one takes place the Friday before Memorial Day, called the Memorial Day Ceremony which is usually celebrated by the facility's Veterans' Memorial site. Unfortunately, Friday May 22nd this year, the weather didn't cooperate with us, being too windy and rainy for outdoor ceremonies. Therefore, we moved the entire program to the Freedom Hall. 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 Warrant Officer 5 Burdette Chappell as our keynote speaker *(see details on page 1)*. On Monday May 25th, we had the second ceremony, called the Memorial Day's Remembrance Ceremony 2026, when we commemorated the names of those members that passed away since Memorial Day 2025. During the service that took place in our All Faiths Chapel, the names of those that passed in the previous 12 months were read from the Remembrance Tome and red poppies with their names were placed on the Remembrance Wreath. This wreath is kept in our chapel year-round. CNVH members who were also veterans serving in the armed forces laid wreaths for each service branch, commemorating all those who served in the US Army, US Marine Corps, US Navy, US Air Force, US Coast Guard, US National Guard or was a POW/MIA *(see details in page 6)*.

Beginning with the Memorial Day weekend, the 16 US flags around the Memorial Monument are flown daily until Labor Day. If the strong winds that are present in our area tear apart the flags, the Maintenance crew has a reserve of US flags provided by the Central Nebraska Veterans' Memorial Committee.

We have a new bus for the Activity/Recreation Department, which is a 14-seater or can accommodate up to 7 wheelchairs. We are working on its title and licensing now, as well as attempting to add a patriotic wrap on each side, to make it very "visible" when it is driven out in the community.

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 – Leonard Ziola

This month we are celebrating Leonard Ziola for being selected as Member Council's Member of the Month. Leonard was born in Ashton NE, before moving to Grand Island in 3rd grade. He then moved to Kearney, Nebraska before joining the Air Force Reserves during Korea and lived in four different air stations before ending in Utah. During that time, he married Lois and the two of them had four children together. Leonard and Lois were married for 63 years until her passing in 2019. Marrying Lois and staying married so long, Leonard feels is his greatest accomplishment.



After the service Leonard worked in Carpentry building houses and cabinetry. He then changed careers and became a supervisor of custodians at Walnut Jr. High School to be closer to his kids. During his down time Leonard enjoys reading, playing bingo, taking walks, watching TV, and exercise. He was active in Knights of Columbus, an American Legion -Life Time Member, and a member of Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church in Grand Island. When asked what he enjoys best about living at CNVH, Leonard responded that every part of it is great, and that he hasn't found a better place to live.

Congratulation Leonard for being Member of the Month!

Member Council: Employee of the Month Maggie Ewoldt in Crafts



This month we will be recognizing Maggie Ewoldt as the Employee of the Month! Maggie works in the Activities Department in Crafts. Maggie is an important part of the Crafting Team as her knowledge of ceramics allows her to help members create unique items and designs that bring the art to life. When Physical Therapy was having trouble getting members to attend open gym, she was quick to help make sure the members who attend Crafts know their attendance schedule and she made sure everyone got down to get their daily exercise. Maggie is gifted at remembering the small details in everyone's lives so she can ask them about this or that which helps everyone feel the care she exudes. Crafts would not be the same without Maggie. Congratulations Maggie, on being selected as Member Council's Employee of the Month!

Merrymakers/Dreamweaver's Concert Featuring Tim Javorsky

By Jessica Modlin, Activities Manager

The members enjoyed an afternoon concert with music performer Tim Javorsky. Tim is a performer of many talents. His wife calls him a triple threat: saxophonist, singer, and bandleader. Tim sang for the members and played his saxophones.

He had 3 different saxophones (Sax for short) for the concert set, Alto Sax, Tenor Sax, and Soprano/Baritone Sax. Alto and Tenor Sax are the two most popular saxophones, but they differ significantly in size, pitch, and tone. Alto sax is much smaller than the Tenor Sax in size and pitch, while the Soprano/Baritone sax is the biggest yet and takes it to the extreme.



In the hour long set Tim played twenty-two songs for the members to enjoy. Tim plays back-to-back songs so that he is able to provide as many songs as possible for the members to enjoy. Tim played a wide variety of music for the members to enjoy for the afternoon. The members were toe tapping and keeping beat on the tables as well. Tim is also a vocal chameleon and can channel Louis "Satchmo" Armstrong, Elvis, Frank Sinatra, and many other styles.



In Memoriam

Wren Trospen

Janice Rudolph



Meet the Leadership – Donita Vieth



Today we are learning about Donita Vieth, our Health Information Management (H.I.M.) and Nursing Scheduling Manager. Donita was born and raised in St. Libory, NE. Along with Grand Island these are the only two places that Donita has lived in her life. She raised a stepson and now has a wonderful Daughter in law and those two provided her with two wonderful granddaughters.

She earned her associate's degree in business administration and then worked for CHI starting in medical transcription before moving up to manager of that department. She was with CHI for 22 years before moving over to CNVH. Donita has been with CNVH for 12 years. In her down time, she enjoys attending St. Libory Catholic Church, good use of sarcasm, and working with horses and other animals. Donita feels her favorite accomplishment in life has been being a long-term employee every place she has worked which is becoming less common. During her time here she has enjoyed the staff, the members, and the ongoing opportunity to learn something new that the home provides.

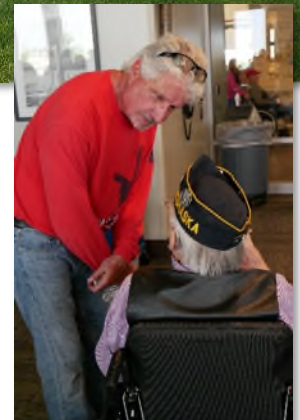
National Veterans Awareness Riders

By Jessica Modlin, Activities Manager

In May, we had the honor of having the National Veterans Awareness Riders stop at Central Nebraska Veterans' Home. This is an annual event, and they stop every year unless they get held up in weather on their way across the country. This year we had over 50 riders join us on a Saturday afternoon. Prior to the riders arriving at the Home, members gathered in Freedom Hall and played bingo until the riders arrived. The members always enjoy the silent build up right before their arrival time to hear the rumbling of the bikes as they approach and come around the lake.

When the riders arrived, they drove their bikes around the lake and parked on the sidewalk circling the lake. The members then welcomed the group into Freedom Hall with a round of applause. After the riders arrived, they did a short ceremony in Freedom Hall and then spent time visiting with the members. The members enjoy this activity every year when they come. Many members enjoy talking with the riders and hearing their stories and the riders feel the same about the members' stories.

The members are also able to go outside and look at the bikes. The National Veterans Awareness Riders began in 2005 as a non-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. This 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 across the country to let veterans know they are not forgotten!



Memorial Day Remembrance Ceremony Honors Fallen Veterans at CNVH

By Jessica Modlin, Activities Manager



Members, staff, families, and guests gathered in the chapel at Central Nebraska Veterans' Home on Memorial Day to participate in a moving Remembrance Ceremony, honoring the sacrifices of our nation's veterans and remembering those members of our CNVH family who have passed away during the past year. The ceremony began with a welcoming by Dorin Vaipan our Administrator, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, and the National Anthem sung by Dave Kreutzer our Social Work Director. Following the National Anthem, Dorin

shared opening remarks, followed by the Invocation by Michael Koenig CNVH's Chaplain. Part of the ceremony was a reading of the proclamation for Memorial Day read by Dorin.

During the ceremony veterans from CNVH presented each branch of service ceremonial wreaths. The members placed the wreath on the stand that was next to each branch of service flag. The veterans proudly placed the wreaths in tribute to the men and women who served in each branch of service. As each wreath was laid, attendees reflected on the dedication, courage, and sacrifices made by generations of service members in defense of our nation.



A special portion of the ceremony was dedicated to remembering CNVH members who passed away during the previous 12 months. As each name was read from the Memorial Tome, members from CNVH placed a red poppy with the members name on it on the Remembrance Wreath. The poppy, a long-standing symbol of remembrance and sacrifice, created a beautiful visual tribute as it filled the wreath throughout the ceremony. The reading of the names and placement of poppies served as a poignant reminder that while our loved ones may be gone, their service, friendships, and contributions remain an important part of the CNVH community. The members, staff, family members, and visitors shared a moment of reflection and gratitude as each individual was honored. Following the ceremony, the completed Remembrance Wreath, Memorial Tome, and White Table display remains in the chapel year-round.



The Memorial Day Remembrance Ceremony reflected the spirit of CNVH- honoring service, preserving memories, and ensuring that those who have gone before us are never forgotten.



250th of July Celebrations

Central Nebraska Veterans Home

Date	Event	Time	Location	Attire
Tuesday June 23 rd	Annual Thomas Pribnow Fishing Tournament	9:30 to 11:30 & 1:30 to 3:30	CNVH Lake	Fisher Theme Day
Wednesday June 24 th	Father's Day Bingo-ALA	2:30 pm	Freedom Hall	250 th T-shirt or Military Colors Day
Thursday June 25 th	Neighborhood Events please refer to your neighborhood calendar			Red/White/Blue Hat Day
Friday June 26 th	250 th 4 th of July Celebration- Bingo Party, Fishing Tournament awards, Fireworks-Kearney Elks	7:15 pm	Freedom Hall	Wear Red Day
Saturday June 27 th	Weekend Fun Packets			Crazy Hair Day
Sunday June 28 th	All Faith's Service	10:00 am	Chapel	Flag Theme Day
Monday June 29 th	250 th Celebration-Happy Hour & Appetizers-ALA	2:30 pm	Freedom Hall	Patriotic Shoe or Sock Day
Tuesday June 30 th	4 th of July Banana Split Social-ALA	2:30 pm	Freedom Hall	1950s Soda Shop Day
Wednesday July 1 st	Annual Patriot Celebration Parade	10:30 am	Circular Drive to each neighborhood	250 th T-shirt Day
Thursday July 2 nd	Cruisin' For Freedom: 250 Years of Independence: *Car & Bike Show *Live Music *Patriotic Quilt/Art Display	1:30 pm to 3:30 pm	-Car & Bike Show-East Parking lot -Live Music-East Parking lot Patriotic Quilt/Art Display in Freedom Hall	250 th T-shirt Day
Friday July 3 rd	250 th Years of Freedom Scavenger Hunt	All Day	Located in Juliet, Golf Hub & Hotel Hub. Sheets are at control points & reception	Red, White, and Blue Day
Saturday July 4 th	4 th of July Bingo Party-ALA	10:00 am	Freedom Hall	250 th T-shirt Day
Saturday July 4 th	4 th of July Proclamation read by Dorin	11:00 am	Freedom Hall	
Saturday July 4 th	Special 4 th of July meal	12:00	Neighborhood Dining Rooms	
Saturday July 4 th	250 Years of Freedom Activity Packets	In the afternoon	Available at the control points.	





Special Point of Interest Next Month:

- 250th Celebrations at CNVH

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