



250th Celebrations at CNVH

July 2026

By Jessica Modlin, Activity & Volunteer Services Director

The members at Central Nebraska Veterans' Home have been busy celebrating our nation's 250th Birthday! A wide variety of activities were planned throughout the end of June and the beginning of July for members to celebrate the 4th of July this year!

This year has been extra special for all of us here at CNVH because we got to celebrate with the heroes that gave so much for all of us to be able to be free and to be able to celebrate this huge milestone in our nation! One of the highlights as we were getting ready for all the celebrations was having shirts and hats designed (with special artwork shown right) to celebrate our veterans! Every member at CNVH could pick between a shirt or a hat to receive as a gift to wear during the celebrations. This was made possible by the Veterans First Committee being the sponsor for purchasing the hats and shirts for the members.



The staff also had the opportunity to purchase at their own cost a shirt or hat that they could wear during the celebrations as well. The members enjoyed their gift and have been wearing them proudly. Along with the celebrations, each day also had a dress-up day so members and our staff could dress up if they wished to help celebrate this milestone. Please see the following pages for some of the special celebrations that took place on our campus. Thank you to our veterans for 250 Years of Freedom!

Annual Patriot Celebration Parade



On July 1st, the members gathered outside in the morning at their neighborhoods so that they could get ready to enjoy the annual Patriot Celebration Parade! The members enjoyed seeing all the entries from the helicopter to the classic cars, tractors, motorcycles, police cars, fire trucks, and military vehicles, just to list a few of the entries for the parade. The parade was organized by Kim Deyo, one of our independent volunteers.

The parade entries lined up at Patriot Park to cross the street onto our campus. The parade started with AirCare flying their helicopter over the facility followed by the Color Guard leading the parade around the campus drive. The Color Guard stopped at each neighborhood honoring the members who came out to watch. Thank you to the community for supporting the parade each year!

Message From the Administrator



By Dorin C. Vaipan,
CNVH Administrator

June came in with very hot days but also with needed moisture. Rain is a true blessing in the growing season. However, June is famous for strong storms too, some with tornadic activity or large hail. Such hail events were strong this June, which created significant damage to properties and crops.

In June we welcomed a new Pharmacy Manager, Hallie Hartman (*photo right*), who has 7 years of pharmacy experience. Welcome Hallie to our team!



As I mentioned in my previous article, we have a new bus for the Activity/Recreation Department, which is a 14-seater and can accommodate up to 7 wheelchairs. The good news is that, after participating in the Nebraska Veterans First quarterly meeting, this group agreed to



cover the expense for installing on all sides of the new bus (*image left*) a patriotic designed wrap. The wrap will incorporate all military branch emblems, as well as the Nebraska Department of Veterans' Affairs (NDVA) logo and the Central Nebraska Veterans' Home (CNVH) logo and name. All these will make

our bus more "visible" when it is driven out in the community, attending patriotic events or parades. Thank you Nebraska Veterans First for your donation!

More good news! The All Nebraska Tractor Club (*photo below*) was part of the Annual Patriot Celebration Parade as they have been in the past years. Each year this organization hosts the All Nebraska Tractor Drive on a weekend in June driving tractors across South Central Nebraska to raise funds for the home. The Activities Department receives an annual donation following the parade from them for members to have events throughout the year. Thank you to the All Nebraska Tractor Drive for the \$5000 donation this year and for your continuous financial support year by year, for the activities of 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 – Walter Hobelman

This month we are celebrating Walter Hobelman for being selected as Member Council's Member of the Month. Walter was born on a farm in Byron, Nebraska. After getting married to his wife Nancy they lived in Wymore, Nebraska. Walter and Nancy have 3 children. Walter is a United States Marine Veteran and served during the Vietnam War. Outside of serving his country he was an Electrician for Midwest Electrical. Walter enjoys spending time reading the newspaper and watching *The Price is Right*. Walter has been involved in many clubs over the years, his church, Red Cross, VFW, American Legion, Vets Club, Masons, and Elks. Some of his favorites include the color white, while his favorite food is ham and his favorite vehicle is a Ford pickup. When asked what he enjoys best about living at Central Nebraska Veterans' Home, Walter said, "the staff, because they work hard and take good care of me." Congratulations Walter for being Member of the Month!

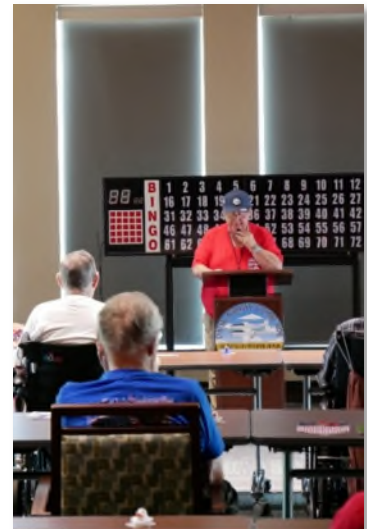


Member Council: Employee of the Month Alisha Patzel in Business Office

Alisha is a standout employee. She earns compliments from the staff and members alike. She is prompt in her duties, kind to everyone, and makes everyone feel at home. Her patience gives a calming effect to every member that visits Member Finance. Please join me in congratulating Alisha on being employee of the month. She certainly earned it.

4th of July Bingo Party and Proclamation

On Saturday July 4th the members enjoyed the morning by having a 4th of July Bingo Party! The bingo party was followed with the reading of Governor Jim Pillen's proclamation for Independence Day and America's 250th anniversary read by CNVH Administrator Dorin Vaipan. The members enjoyed the celebration and winning at bingo. This activity was sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary. Throughout the last couple of weeks, the facility received patriotic cards and gifts which were passed out at this event. Following bingo, the members enjoyed a special 4th of July lunch and special activity packets in the afternoon.



Merrymakers/Dreamweaver Concert with Mike McCracken

It is always enjoyable when the Merrymakers / Dreamweaver musicians are here at CNVH. In June we had Mike McCracken as the performing musician. Mike has been here before and it is always a good time. Mike grew up in a military family with his father in the service. To start his show, he played a song by Elvis and mentioned that Elvis was in the Army and then he went right into a Johnny Cash song, a singer who served in the Air Force. Mike played a "Dobro Guitar," which is known for its loud sound. The guitar had a big aluminum circle on it that made the guitar's sound project to the audience. These kinds of guitars were used before electric guitars for audiences to hear in big rooms. He encouraged the members to sing along with him if they knew the song, and many did. The show was most enjoyable for all who attended.

Cruisin' For Freedom: 250 Years of Independence: Car and Bike Show, Live Music, and Patriotic Quilt/Art Display

On July 2nd we celebrated 250 years of Independence with a Car and Bike Show, Live Music, and a Patriotic Quilt/Art Display. The Car and Bike Show took place in the East front parking lot. Live music by Mark Irvin was performed in Freedom Hall which provided a festive atmosphere for the Patriotic Quilt and Art Show that was on display. Throughout the afternoon the members and families enjoyed checking out the classic cars and motorcycles, listening to the music and seeing all the artistic talent with quilts, photo art, table centerpieces, and wood craft.



In Memoriam

Marvin Smith

Jerel Poe

Michiael Kile

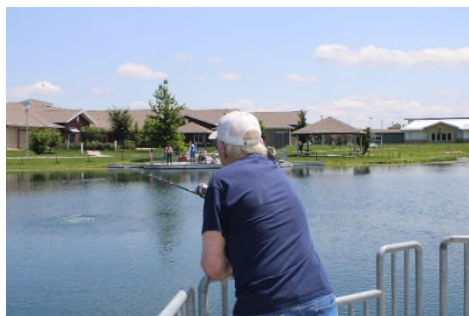
Anna DeLaet

Nancy Hobelman



Annual Thomas Pribnow Memorial Fishing Tournament

By Jessica Modlin, Activities & Volunteer Services Director



This year the fishing tournament had to be pushed back by one day due to storms in the area. This ended up working out perfectly because the weather the next day was wonderful for fishing. The members look forward to this activity every year, and they practice their fishing skills in the months leading up to the fishing tournament resulting in well-prepared members on tournament day. A lot of fish were caught on the day of the fishing tournament, and the members enjoyed their time out at the lake. We also had many volunteers here to help us with the tournament as there were many lines in the water and many fish being caught at the same time. Once the fish was reeled in, it was weighed, measured, and the information about the catch was recorded on the member's fishing tournament card. Once the fishing tournament was over all the information was gathered and points were totaled. The members received their awards at the 250th Independence Day Celebration that was held on Friday, June 26th. The members were very excited to see the results and the awards from the tournament. The sponsors for the Fishing Tournament were American Legion Auxiliary Post 52, VFW Auxiliary 759, VFW 759 and American Legion Post 52.

Fourth of July Banana Split Social-ALA

On Tuesday, June 30th members had a fun filled afternoon at the "Retro Diner" set up in Freedom Hall by our Activities department, where they were served a banana split with all the toppings! The Retro Diner was complete with soda shop music playing in the background as the members enjoyed their banana splits and socializing with their friends. The dress up day was 1950's theme and staff and members dressed up if they wished. This was a great afternoon celebrating in a unique way for the 250th 4th of July.

This activity was sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary.



Laser System Added to the Wood Shop

By Ralph Healey, Crafts/Woodshop Supervisor

This summer we added a new piece of equipment to the Central Nebraska Veterans' Home found down in the craft department. Our craft department is now equipped with a 20 Watt Infrared Laser Engraver. This system allows objects up to 16 inches by 11 inches by 5.5 inches to be customized as our members see fit. Everything from names, military logos, and other symbols can be laser engraved onto wood, leather, or ceramic items. This will allow members to customize gifts that they give to family and friends when they are finishing up a handmade creation in the Craft department. The system is also equipped with a rotating tumbler system that allows engraving onto a rounded object like a mug or vase. We look forward to exploring what this new system can offer the members as they come up with unique ideas and new creations.



Celebrating America's 250th with Wood Craft

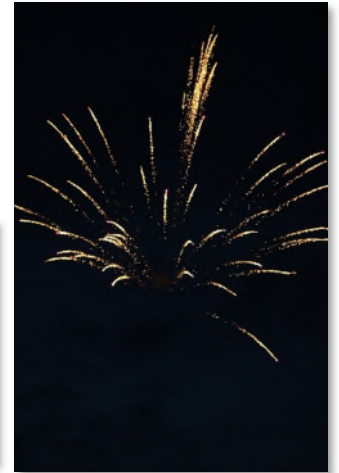
To celebrate the 250th anniversary of America in the craft department we decided to build something to memorialize the event. We wanted something with 250 objects that could represent the years the country has been alive and kicking. We settled on a giant wind chime with each year of the country's life represented in five rings around the outside. In the center are thirteen striker rods to represent the original thirteen colonies that set us on this path to an amazing country. At the top is an octagon with each of eight branches of the military on the various sides displayed at the top. The wind catch is a Liberty Bell on one side and the CNVH logo on the other. This project took six weeks, a dozen members, and a few public servants working on various parts to pull this amazing piece together. This project gave us our first opportunity to show off what our new laser engraver system can do. The wind chime was on display during the various Independence Day Celebrations happening during the lead up to the 4th of July this year, before going on display in the home.



250th Independence Day Celebration: Bingo Party, Fishing Tournament Awards, Ice Cream Social, and Fireworks

By Jessica Modlin, Activity & Volunteer Services Director

On Friday, June 26th, Central Nebraska Veterans' Home held our annual Patriot Party Celebration that was sponsored by the Kearney Elks Lodge! This activity was a great way to celebrate the 250th Independence Day with our members! We can celebrate all the freedoms that we have due to the sacrifices that our Veterans have made for all of us. Freedom Hall was packed with members, families, and volunteers to kick off the evening. The evening started off with the Thomas Pribnow Fishing Tournament awards being announced from the tournament earlier in the week. The members were very excited to hear all the results. Following the awards was bingo, which is one of our members' favorite activities! The bingo featured extra prizes each time the 4th ball popped up in honor of the 4th of July. Bingo was followed with an ice cream social featuring the ever-favorite sundaes! After the Ice Cream Social was over it was time to head outside for the firework show. The show this year was 24 minutes long and was tuned to music, starting with the Star-Spangled Banner. This year's show was designed by a local community member Brandon Schade. The Kearney Volunteer Fire Department was also on campus for the firework show and brought the big American Flag for the evening. The members had an amazing view by the lake to watch the fireworks. Thank you to our sponsor The Kearney Elks Lodge for sponsoring the bingo, ice cream social, and the fireworks. Thank you to the Kearney Volunteer Fire Department for coming out for the night of celebration and for bringing the flag. Thank you to Brandon Schade for setting up the fireworks for everyone to enjoy. Also thank you to all the families that joined us to celebrate with your loved ones!



250th Celebration-Happy Hour and Appetizers-ALA

The members enjoyed a Monday afternoon celebrating the 250th with a Happy Hour and Appetizers. For the Happy Hour and Appetizers, the members enjoyed hamburger pizza from Pizza Hut as the appetizer. They were offered a list of beverages that they could pick from to enjoy as well. The members enjoyed the afternoon listening to patriotic music, enjoying their treats, and socializing with their friends from all the neighborhoods. Some of the members even had patriotic nails for the activity! This activity was sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary. Cheers to 250 years of Freedom!



Check us out on the web!

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

Special Point of Interest Next Month:

- Kearney Classic Car Cruise Night Parade
- Merrymakers/Dreamweaver Concert – Mary Link

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