Central Nebraska Veterans' Home

LIBERTY EXPRESS

November 2026

CNVH Staff and Families Bring Halloween Cheer to the Members

By Jessica Modlin, Activities Director



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.

The children made their way from one neighborhood to another neighborhood visiting all the members across the home. As they arrived to each neighborhood the members greeted the kids with candy, high fives, and joyful conversation. This event offered something special for everyone. For the members, it was a chance to experience the energy and excitement of children celebrating the holiday. For the staff it provides a meaningful way to connect their families and the community inside of CNVH. For the children, it was a fun and memorable Trick 'R Treating experience filled with kindness and new relationships.

This evening was a "treat" for everyone, and the smiles at the facility told the whole story. The conversations that members had in the following days after showed a successful All Hallow's Eve celebration.





Message From the Administrator



By Dorin C. Vaipan, CNVH Administrator

On October 15th and 16th, Director John Hilgert from Nebraska Department of Veterans' Affairs (NDVA) and Nicki Guretzky, NDVA HR Director, were at Central Nebraska Veterans' Home (CNVH) for the annual Employer in Residence program. During these two days, they met with employees from various shifts and departments, trying to find out their personal perception regarding their work experience, what good or not so good things happened at CNVH and how we could all enhance our employees' work experience.

On October 16th we were honored with the visit of Trevor Lee, who leads the Development Council for Buffalo County's Board of Directors, along with Senator Stan Clouse, member of the Nebraska Legislature from the 37th district. The visit focused on the types of care provided to the veterans, admission process and general operational questions, and ended with a facility tour. They were impressed with the size of our facility, its cleanliness and how friendly our employees are.

Another event that took place in October was the Vaccine Clinic offered to our members and employees by the Two Rivers Public Health Department. Yes, the flu season is right around the corner, so we better have our immunity built up by then! On October 20th, 131 members and 78 employees received their flu vaccine. Also, 86 members requested the most recent COVID vaccine. Another vaccination clinic is scheduled for November 10th.

On October 21st – 23rd, NDVA team met with the Administrators of all four State Veterans' Homes at Norfolk Veterans' Home for the quarterly meetings as well as the Veterans' Homes Board meeting. During these meetings, policies were reviewed and updated, the status of the existing projects were presented as well as future needs for the buildings, staffing or care needs. I could not attend the Board meeting because I had to attend a very important family event: the wedding of my youngest son in Florida!

The last thing I would like to share is an interesting "situation". Whenever I am out of my office, some of my direct reports find ways to have a good time (1st photo) while bringing evidence of "hard working" (second photo), but only in my office! I let you be the judge of this trend…





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 – HERB HOLLINGSWORTH



This month we will be celebrating Herb Hollingsworth as our Member Council's Member of the Month. Herb has lived in the home since March of 2026. Herb was born in Ainsworth NE, but ended up living and working in Texas, Arizona, and South Dakota.

Herb started his military service in San Antonio before moving to California. He was then stationed in Manila in the Philippines before being sent to Vietnam. After the military Herb worked a few different jobs. In Texas and Arizona, he mostly worked construction building houses. In South Dakota he worked in law enforcement and for the governor's office.

Herb has two daughters, one living in South Dakota and one in Virginia. Herb considers his children to be his greatest accomplishment in life. In his down time Herb enjoys photography, and he loves working with Nikon cameras. A friend of his got him into the hobby. He briefly turned that hobby into a side job called Garage Glamor doing photo shoots in his garage.

Congratulations to Herb for being the Member Council's Member of the Month!



Member Council: Employee of the Month CINDY NEBEN in Human Resources

Cindy is our Human Resource Specialist/Generalist Assistant. She has been here for almost four years. Cindy handles interviews and hiring for Housekeeping and Dietary departments. She is part-time and partially retired. Cindy is a Veteran and she served in the Air Force with an honorable discharge. Cindy was an Air Force Air Passenger Specialist. She is a mom of two daughters and married for 25 years. Cindy enjoys gardening, traveling, and antiquing. She has three dogs and two cats that she adores. Please congratulate her as you see her out and about!

Merrymakers/Dreamweaver Concert with Ben Tomasello

The Merrymakers/Dreamweaver performer for the month of October was Ben Tomasello. The members enjoyed an afternoon listening to the music Ben Tomasello sang for them.

Ben shared classic songs like Shake Rattle and Roll and songs by Elvis such as Stuck on You. Ben also set the tone for the upcoming Halloween season by singing Monster Mash. Ben also sang Make the World Go Away by Eddy Arnold. There were many members keeping beat to the songs with their feet or tapping their fingers on the table as Ben performed for us.



After the concert, many members could be heard discussing how good the performer was, and how many great songs he played for them. Don't miss Ben's next visit to the home, it is a show to remember.

This event was sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary.



In Memoriam

David Connely

Thomas Christy

Bessie Shada

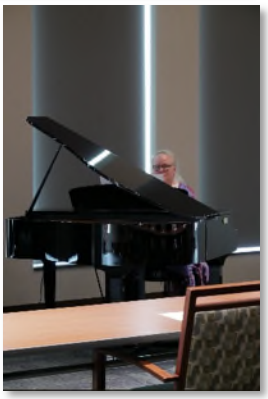
Michael Hegarty

Patriotic Piano Recital

By Jessica Modlin, Activities Director







On a Saturday afternoon the members at Central Nebraska Veterans' Home enjoyed listening to a Patriotic Piano Recital. The members gathered in Freedom Hall for the show and waited in anticipation for it to start. The performers for the recital ranged from young children to adults. The recital started with God Bless the USA followed by This Land is Your Land. The hour was filled with all the best Patriotic music from The Marine Hymn to the Armed Force Medley. The members enjoyed watching the performers, and it is such a blessing for them to share their talents with our members. All the performers were dressed in patriotic clothes as well, which helped set the mood for the concert. When the concert was over the performers passed around "Thank you Veteran" pens to all the veterans that were in Freedom Hall.

Echoes of the Prairie

By Charlene Allen, Volunteer Coordinator

Circle Theatre out of Omaha was here in October to perform, "Echoes of the Prairie." Circle Theatre Omaha engages individuals of all abilities in creative opportunities on and off stage in all aspects of theater. "Echoes of the Prairie" is an original inclusive touring production combining music, movement, and storytelling. The performers were all very good at singing and dancing which got the members singing and clapping along. The performer group used props, poems, and music to tell stories of the tribulations of living on the prairie and moving forward in time. It was a fun experience for all involved.





Bringing Generations Together: Family Suite Preschool Halloween Fun

By Jessica Modlin, Activities Director





The members enjoyed a morning filled with laughter, smiles, and a bit of spooky fun in Freedom Hall with the Family Suite Preschool for a Halloween Celebration. The kids arrived in their costumes, and the members were ready to greet them when they arrived. Freedom Hall was filled with games, Halloween décor, and of course treats. The members enjoyed welcoming the kids into Freedom Hall. This even brought a lot of smiles to the members and the kids.

The kids went around and played games and got prizes from the game stations and candy from the members. Events like this highlight the special bond between generations. For the members, this even 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.





Halloween Party with Apple Pie and Ice Cream

By Jessica Modlin, Activities Director



What better way to celebrate Halloween but with Apple Pie and Ice Cream. The members gathered in Freedom Hall to celebrate Halloween with warm apple pie and ice cream. This was a great way to wrap up a week of Halloween celebrations that happened throughout the week at the home. The members enjoyed the afternoon gathering with their friends to visit the afternoon away. The room was decked out to the nines in spooky and cute decorations including several inflatable items which added to the ambiance of All Hallowed Eve. This activity was sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary.

Classic Car Museum

By Jessica Modlin, Activities Director

The members enjoyed an afternoon outing to the Classic Car Museum here in Kearney. When we arrived at the museum we had a guided tour through the various car exhibits.

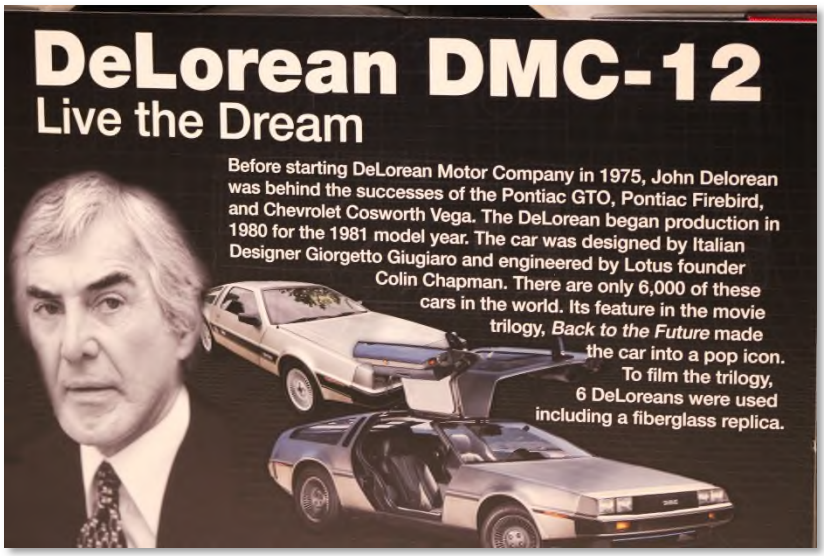
The members enjoyed checking out all the classic cars and the automotive memorabilia on display. The members also enjoyed sharing stories about cars that they had in the past and sharing with the staff and the volunteers which cars are their favorites. Many of these cars brought back fond memories of cars owned or fondly dreamed about.

The only thing the members would change about this outing was they wished they could have driven some of the cars! The members really enjoyed the outing.









Check us out on the web!

https://veterans.nebraska.gov/cnvh

Special Point of Interest Next Month:

- Veterans Day Parade
- Merrymakers/Dreamweaver Concert with Joyce Torchia



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