



# THE NVH OBSERVER

N O R F O L K V E T E R A N S H O M E

Volume 22  
Issue # 5

## From The Desk of Josh Stafursky NVH Administrator

Greetings,

Happy May! Even though the Nebraska weather hasn't decided what it wants to do quite yet, it's hard to believe we are inching very close to the start of summer. This season brings a different and exciting hustle and bustle to the Norfolk Veterans' Home.

I've mentioned it many times before, but the activities team and the "volunteer army" kick into high gear during this time of the year, with activities that include a lot more time out and about enjoying traditional warm-weather events all over the area. Just a few weeks ago, the annual Volunteer Recognition Dinner was held to recognize all the wonderful organizations and volunteers who support the home. In addition, it's an opportunity to recognize our activity team, and I want to take a minute to make sure to recognize them one more time on a wider scale here.

So, THANK YOU to Jasmine Machacek, Makayla Ottis, Michelle Schommer, DeAnn Stodola, Mary Swensen, and activities supervisor Stephanie Eckert, for the work you do every day supporting our members. This is also an appropriate time to announce that Mary Swensen will be retiring this month after nearly 25 years of service to the State of Nebraska and NVH. Mary has most recently served as the volunteer coordinator, which is a critical position at the home and in the community. We all wish Mary a well-deserved retirement and she will be missed by us all!

I'm also pleased to announce that we received official notification in April from the USVA of our deficiency-free annual survey. Since the USVA changed its annual survey process for State Veterans' Homes, deficiency-free surveys have been a rarity – only 7 percent of all homes across the country earned deficiency-free surveys in 2025. Again, this would not be possible without the work of every single member of the team here, and it's important to recognize that every department plays a key role in the member experience at NVH.

I hope everyone has a wonderful May as we get ready for an exciting summer!

Sincerely,

Josh Stafursky, Administrator

**GOVERNOR:**  
**JIM PILLEN**

**NEBRASKA DEPT.  
OF VETERANS'  
AFFAIRS DIRECTOR:**  
**JOHN HILGERT**

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

HOME HAPPENINGS	2-3
IN REMEMBRANCE	4
HOME HAPPENINGS	4
SALUTE TO OUR NEW MEMBERS	5
NEW STAFF	5
BITS AND PIECES	6

STATE OF NEBRASKA VISION:  
GROW NEBRASKA

STATE OF NEBRASKA – MISSION:  
CREATE OPPORTUNITY THROUGH  
MORE EFFECTIVE, MORE  
EFFICIENT,  
AND CUSTOMER FOCUSED  
STATE GOVERNMENT

# HOME HAPPENINGS

## Happy Hopping



Thank you to those who donated candy and stuffed eggs. The JOI kids' group for helping with games and the many volunteer groups who helped serve punch, cookies, and popcorn ensuring this event was successful.



# HOME HAPPENINGS CONTINUED

## ELVIS IS IN THE BUILDING!!



Elvis Presley tribute artist Joseph Hall visits NVH. Thank you to our sponsors Norfolk ALA and Dept. SAL.



Interested in Volunteer Opportunities at NVH?  
Contact Mary at (402)370-3102  
E-mail: [mary.Swensen@nebraska.gov](mailto:mary.Swensen@nebraska.gov)

## In Remembrance of Those Members Who Have Passed.

No person was even honored for what they received. Honor has been the reward for what they gave. – Calvin Coolidge

**Sharon Synovec**  
U.S. Navy Veteran

**Judith “Judy” Hahne**  
Spouse of a U.S. Army  
Veteran



## VOLUNTEER AWARDS PROGRAM



This year's **Volunteer Awards Program** was held at the Knights of Columbus Hall on Thursday, April 23rd.

We are pleased to be able to recognize all the wonderful volunteers who do so much to make members lives full here at the Norfolk Veterans' Home.

Photographed below are members Robert H., Gorlyn H., and Bill R. who helped greet our volunteers as they arrived for the program.

This year's featured speaker, Roxann Fox, Women's Director at the Norfolk Rescue Mission, delivered remarks highlighting the impact of volunteerism and community service. Top left photo, Fox is pictured with members of the NVH Activity Department.

The evening wrapped up with door prizes for those in attendance.

Without each and every organization's contributions we could not serve our veterans as we do - so thank you again for everything **YOU** do.

# SALUTE OUR NEW MEMBERS

NORFOLK VETERANS HOME WELCOMES YOU

## Donald H.

U.S. Army Veteran

## Linda H.

Spouse of a U.S. Army Veteran

## Henry B.

U.S. Army Veteran

## EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER



Christina Hagemann, was selected as Employee of the Quarter.

Christina brings incredible energy, positivity, and compassion to her role each day, consistently giving 100 percent in all she does. She has built outstanding rapport with members, their families, and outside providers, always creating an uplifting environment through her smile, laughter, and encouraging spirit. Even on the busiest days, Christina keeps her attitude positive and continues to put members first.

Her dedication goes beyond daily care. When possible, Christina accompanies members to medical appointments, asking thoughtful questions about risks, benefits, and expected outcomes to ensure they fully understand their options. Her advocacy helps members make informed decisions and reflects the genuine compassion she has for those she serves.

Christina's commitment to our members, her positivity, and her daily embodiment of the Norfolk Veterans' Home mission make her truly deserving of this recognition.

Congratulations Christina!

## NEW NVH EMPLOYEE



**Rick Stambaugh**  
Maintenance Specialist



**NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS**

EOE/AA/ADA

Norfolk Veterans Home  
600 E. Benjamin Ave.  
Norfolk, NE 68701  
Phone: (402) 370-3330



*Norfolk Veterans Home*

Bits & Pieces  
Census  
141  
Special Occasion  
Reservations:  
Call Activities @ (402)  
370-3110

Norfolk Veterans' Home Observer is published monthly  
for the members, families, staff and other interested parties.

**THE NORFOLK VETERANS HOME IS A STATE-OPERATED  
FACILITY PROVIDING LONG TERM CARE FOR ELIGIBLE  
NEBRASKA VETERANS, THEIR SPOUSES AND GOLD STAR  
PARENTS.**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION REGARDING  
ADMISSION, PLEASE CONTACT YOUR  
LOCAL COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER OR  
DODIE FINKHAUS @ (402)370-3109**

