



# LIBERTY EXPRESS



May 2025

## UNK - The Big Event

On Saturday April 12th, University of Nebraska Kearney (UNK) held their annual Big Event. This event is organized by UNK Student Government. This year we had volunteers come out to Central Nebraska Veterans' Home to help prepare the patios in the homes for the nice weather.

The students helped with cleaning the patios, setting out and cleaning the patio furniture. Another thing the students helped with was getting the members' garden tubs set up and cleaned so that they are ready for the garden season when the weather warms up in May. The students helped prepare 12 patios and the patio by Freedom Hall. These are all Quality-of-Life areas for the members, and they are frequently used throughout the spring and the summer, often until first snow fall.

The members are already excited as they start getting their lists prepared of the plants they want to put into the garden tubs this year. All the patios have garden tubs for the members to utilize. Thank you to all of the UNK students that came out to help with making our campus look beautiful for the members.



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## Merrymakers Performance with Kim Eames



In April, members enjoyed an afternoon music concert with performer, Kim Eames, from the Merrymakers (sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary). Kim performs music that ranges over the last seven decades. She has been a professional singer for 33 years and still loves to perform and sing. Kim is a familiar face to the members as she has performed here in the past. Members enjoy listening to the music that Kim plays as she keeps the audience involved. Setting the mood for the concert, she opened with "You Are My Sunshine", making up for the cloudy and cold weather outside. Some of the other songs she performed included "The Dance" by Garth Brooks, "The Boot Scootin' Boogie", and "Trailers for Rent". The members enjoyed all the songs that she performed. The members' toes were tapping and hands beating to the music.

### Message From the Administrator



By Dorin C. Vaipan,  
CNVH Administrator

The best of the month of April was to bring more warm days along with the increase in daylight time. I believe you are all in agreement with me that, we again want to see the green grass around Central Nebraska Veterans' Home

(CNVH) and have the 5,000 underground sprinkler heads turned on. I wish though, that we would have had more rain in April to fulfill the well-known proverb, "April showers bring May flowers"!

At the end of April, Nebraska Department of Veterans' Affairs (NDVA) team met with the Administrators of all four State Veterans' Homes (SVH) at CNVH for the quarterly meetings as well as the 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. During the Board meeting, the Board Members focused and decided upon the new applications submitted by the veterans living in the community for admission in one of the four SVHs.

In April, we also met with the CNVH Memorial Monument Committee to discuss the monument located on our property by East 56<sup>th</sup> Street. During the meeting, we reviewed together the current physical condition of the monument, we reviewed the physical projects that took place in the past year, and also, we reviewed the reserve of US flags provided by the committee to us. The strong winds in our area, tear very easily those flags, so the average life of a flag until it must be replaced is 3.5 weeks however, the common decision was to fly these flags from the Memorial Day weekend until the Labor Day and anytime when military commemorations are celebrated. Also, discussions took place around ways to upgrade the landscaping surrounding the monument by selecting vegetation that will last and beautifies the entire project.

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

Thank you!

Dorin C. Vaipan, CNVH Administrator

The diagram shows a landscape plan with various plantings labeled, including: 6 Pappus Yarrow, 1 Eastern Redbud, 7 Junor Halber Cabinet, 7 Snow HB Salix, 22 Little Spire Russian Sage, 37 Red Dwell Rose, 16 Glass Grit Deciduous Spirea, 10 Linedrift Primeval Redwing, 32 Red Dwell Rose, 12 Little Spire Russian Sage, 6 Pappus Yarrow, 8 Junor Halber Cabinet, 7 Snow HB Salix, 7 Pappus Yarrow, 8 Junor Halber Cabinet, 7 Pappus Yarrow, 32 Little Lime Hydrangea, 42 Jade Forsythia Sand Cherry, 32 Little Lime Hydrangea, and 3 Eastern Redbud.

PLANT SCHEDULE	Qty	Species Name	Common Name	Size/Location
1	1	Eastern Redbud	Eastern Redbud	18' Galen
2	2	Hydrangea paniculata 'SWEETWINE'	Little Lime Hydrangea	42' Galen
3	3	Hydrangea paniculata 'ANNIE'S HOPE'	Little Lime Hydrangea	42' Galen
4	4	Prunella japonica 'LANCEOLATA'	Jade Forsythia Sand Cherry	42' Galen
5	5	Red Dwell Rose	Red Dwell Rose	42' Galen
6	6	Spirea japonica 'TOR SANI'	Glass Grit Deciduous Spirea	42' Galen
7	7	Junonia halimifolia 'JUNONIA'	Junonia Halber Cabinet	42' Galen
8	8	Junonia halimifolia 'JUNONIA'	Junonia Halber Cabinet	42' Galen
9	9	Junonia halimifolia 'JUNONIA'	Junonia Halber Cabinet	42' Galen
10	10	Junonia halimifolia 'JUNONIA'	Junonia Halber Cabinet	42' Galen
11	11	Junonia halimifolia 'JUNONIA'	Junonia Halber Cabinet	42' Galen
12	12	Junonia halimifolia 'JUNONIA'	Junonia Halber Cabinet	42' Galen
13	13	Junonia halimifolia 'JUNONIA'	Junonia Halber Cabinet	42' Galen
14	14	Junonia halimifolia 'JUNONIA'	Junonia Halber Cabinet	42' Galen
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16	16	Junonia halimifolia 'JUNONIA'	Junonia Halber Cabinet	42' Galen
17	17	Junonia halimifolia 'JUNONIA'	Junonia Halber Cabinet	42' Galen
18	18	Junonia halimifolia 'JUNONIA'	Junonia Halber Cabinet	42' Galen
19	19	Junonia halimifolia 'JUNONIA'	Junonia Halber Cabinet	42' Galen
20	20	Junonia halimifolia 'JUNONIA'	Junonia Halber Cabinet	42' Galen
21	21	Junonia halimifolia 'JUNONIA'	Junonia Halber Cabinet	42' Galen
22	22	Junonia halimifolia 'JUNONIA'	Junonia Halber Cabinet	42' Galen
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26	26	Junonia halimifolia 'JUNONIA'	Junonia Halber Cabinet	42' Galen
27	27	Junonia halimifolia 'JUNONIA'	Junonia Halber Cabinet	42' Galen
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45	45	Junonia halimifolia 'JUNONIA'	Junonia Halber Cabinet	42' Galen
46	46	Junonia halimifolia 'JUNONIA'	Junonia Halber Cabinet	42' Galen
47	47	Junonia halimifolia 'JUNONIA'	Junonia Halber Cabinet	42' Galen
48	48	Junonia halimifolia 'JUNONIA'	Junonia Halber Cabinet	42' Galen
49	49	Junonia halimifolia 'JUNONIA'	Junonia Halber Cabinet	42' Galen
50	50	Junonia halimifolia 'JUNONIA'	Junonia Halber Cabinet	42' Galen

## Member Council: Member of the Month - Elaine Flies

Elaine Flies was selected to be the “Member of the Month,” by the CNVH Member Council for April. Elaine has been a member at CNVH since December of 2022.

Elaine was born and raised in Gothenburg, Nebraska, but has lived in North Platte, Brady, Ravenna, and Shelton as well, all here in Nebraska. Elaine was married to Roy Flies for forty-eight years. They have three sons. First son Travis is married to Angela with two grandchildren for Elaine, Garrett and Caleb. Tony is married to Michelle. Elaine and Roy’s third son Tulsa has passed away.

Elaine’s husband Roy served in the Army during Vietnam and was very proud of it. Elaine graduated high school at Gothenburg High School. She then attended North Platte Community College. Elaine mainly served as a cook for convenience stores, at The Lodge, and at the lake in Brady.



Elaine Flies

Some of Elaine’s hobbies include reading, collecting angels and Native American figurines, coloring, listening to country music, ceramics, and baking. She was involved with the VFW prior to living at the home. Her favorite color is purple. She has also attended the Methodist church but is currently attending Lutheran Services in the home.

Elaine feels her greatest accomplishment in life was remaining married for forty-eight years and raising three boys. When asked what she enjoyed most about living at the CNVH she stated, “Everybody is nice and friendly, remembering to call her by name. Everyone here has been good to me.”

Congratulations, Elaine on being selected “Member of the Month!”



## Member Council: Employee of the Month

### LEXI ERPELDING in Nursing

We were thrilled when Lexi returned to us at CNVH last year! We are very happy to have her back on the Alpha team. Lexi is punctual, well organized, and has great prioritization skills. She is compassionate and empathetic with the members and their families. She works well as part of our team to ensure our members get the best care. Thanks for all you do Lexi!




## Easter Bingo Party with VFW Auxiliary

In April, the members enjoyed an afternoon at the Easter Bingo Party sponsored by the VFW Auxiliary. The members had a special visitor for the party, as the Easter Bunny came for a visit and photo opportunity. When the members arrived at Freedom Hall they were greeted by the Easter Bunny, and they received a special gift - a rubber ducky with their branch of service on it.



After the meet up with the Easter Bunny was the opportunity to enjoy Bingo. The members also had Easter treats, which included Easter cupcakes. They enjoyed the afternoon with the volunteers from the VFW Auxiliary that came out to help with the activity. The afternoon ended with nine blackout winners.



### In Memoriam

*Leroy Sheets*

*William Pittner*

*Bruce MacNish*

*Alton Schmitt*



## Fair Prep Time!

By Ralph Healey, Editor

It is Buffalo County Fair preparation time in the Craft Department again this year. Now is the time to start preparing your work of art for entry into the Buffalo County Fair. Here is a how to guide about how to get your entry into the Fair.

### Preparation

Come down to the Craft's Department on your assigned days. Decide, do you want to make a ceramic piece, or a wood working piece for the Fair? Once you have decided you can start picking out what you want to make. The staff down in the Craft Department are happy to help offer suggestions if you need advice. Once you have picked out what you want to make you will spend several crafting sessions working on the piece making it into your own work of art.

Once you have your portion done you can turn the piece over to the Craft staff and they can help you with the smallest details, like the eyes, along with any other finishing touches. Once those small details are done you will be shown the finished product. You can take a picture of it at this point to show it off to family and friends as you will not get it back for a while.

### Behind the Scenes

Once you have turned over your art piece for Fair entry then your helpful craft staff will take over the process. Staff will record what you have made and box it up with the rest of the Fair

piece. As it gets closer to the Fair the craft staff go online and create your entry into the Fair for you.

You are not charged for entry into the Fair like someone in the community would be. This is a

perk the County Fair has offered the members of the Central Nebraska Veterans Home. Then at the start of judging our staff will take all the art pieces down for judging. This often occurs prior to the opening of the Fair. This way once the Fair is open those who have won an award already have those ribbons on their piece and it is available for viewing by the public at the Fair.

### After the County Fair

Once the Buffalo County Fair is over then our staff will go pick up the items and your ribbons from the Fair. If you earned a first-place ribbon for your art piece, you are then automatically entered into the State Fair for further judging (we will talk more about that in another article next month).

### Showing Off

After the Fairs are over your art piece, along with everyone else's, will be displayed in the glass case near the bank in Juliet. Those are displayed for about a year before they are taken down for the next batch of Fair pieces to be put on display. If you would like to give a Fair piece a try please stop on by Crafts and speak with a staff member.

**"If you earned a first-place ribbon in the County Fair for your art piece, you are then automatically entered into the State Fair"**



## Showing Love to Our Volunteers

On Tuesday April 22<sup>nd</sup>, the Activities Department of the Central Nebraska Veterans Home had the honor of thanking the volunteers who help the home in so many ways.

Each year we bring together the volunteers from across the home to show them support for all they do for the members and staff. This year was our very own Volunteer Coordinator Charlene Allen. She started with a well prepared thank you address to the group of volunteers. Afterwards Manager of the Activities and Volunteer Service Jessica Modlin provided her thanks for everything these fine people do to support the various programs on campus.

The Activities staff then served the Volunteers a Hamburger/Hot Dog dinner with all the picnic fixings. At the end of the event the Volunteers went home with a summer themed gift bag. Volunteers here at CNVH help with Activities events, Bingo, in the Library, Church Services, at the Gyms, end of life support, in home with games, individual activities, parades, and other special events throughout the year. Without our Volunteers many of

the events and activities on campus would not be possible.

We tip our hats to those who have given of their free time to serve our most deserving members. A big thank you to them all!




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NDVA is proud to announce that Lance McKenney has been named Teammate of the Quarter for the 1st Quarter at CNVH.

Lance was chosen for this honor due to his outstanding demonstration of Dignity and Respect toward a member. He earned the member's trust, offering comfort and actively listening to their needs. At the member's request, Lance attended a care plan meeting and advocated for the necessary medication.

Through his actions, Lance also exemplified Integrity and Excellence, setting a remarkable example for us all.

Please join NDVA in congratulating Lance on this well-deserved honor!



*Employee of the Quarter  
Lance McKenney,  
Business office Manager*

## First Baptist Church Faith Singers



The members enjoyed a concert on a Sunday afternoon this April, from the First Baptist Church's Faith Singers. The Faith Singers are a group of students ranging from 2nd to 6th graders. The kids started the show by introducing themselves to the members and sharing their age and name.

The kids sang songs such as "Fruit of The Spirit", "My God is So Big", and "When we Get To Heaven," just to name a few songs performed. After the kids finished their singing performance, they switched to some different songs and played the hand bells. Some of those songs were "What a Friend we have in Jesus", "Amazing Grace", and "How I Love Jesus" just to name a few. The members enjoyed the concert that the Faith Singers provided for them. There were many smiles in the room.





Check us out on the web!

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

Special Points of Interest Next Month:

- *Merrymakers Concert with Joyce Torchia*
- *Mother's Day Bingo*
- *Memorial Day Ceremonies*

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