



# THE NVH OBSERVER

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

## NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS

### From The Desk of Josh Stafursky NVH Administrator

Greetings,

After several weeks of anticipation, the Norfolk Veterans' Home completed its annual USVA survey during the week of April 15-19. The survey usually occurs in March each year but was a little later than normal. Despite the wait, the NVH team was ready and did a great job in 2024!

The survey is conducted annually to ensure the facility meets federal requirements for the operation of a State Veterans' Home – including care in the skilled nursing and domiciliary programs. It provides an opportunity for the home to show off the great work done for the benefit of Nebraska's veterans and their loved ones, as well as the opportunity to identify possible areas of improvement. The 2024 visit was conducted by four surveyors who came to Norfolk from all over the country.

During their visit, the surveyors saw firsthand Nebraska's challenging Spring weather. On the second day of the visit, Madison County was placed in a Tornado Warning and staff and members took part in evacuation protocols. This provided a unique opportunity for the facility to be "tested" under real-life conditions, and resulted in the identification of areas where improvement was needed. I'm incredibly proud of our leadership team for their commitment to ensuring the experience resulted in enhanced one-on-one training with staff and a fresh review of our Tornado Warning plan. These efforts paid immediate dividends with two very smooth evacuations on Friday, April 29, due to more tornadoes in the county. I can't say enough about the wonderful team we have at NVH.

I am also very proud to say that no additional issues were identified during this comprehensive survey! It is rare these days to have a weeklong survey that finds no deficiencies in the day-to-day provision of clinical and other services in a State Veterans' Home, but the team at NVH achieved just that. The official survey results will not be made available until later this month, but during their visit the surveyors were very complimentary of all departments at NVH and the teams who provide member care every day. They didn't just identify one department as standing out – they identified them all! They also noted the wonderful physical condition of the facility and were very impressed by the community involvement in making this a great place to live and work.

Many thanks to the entire NVH team for the hard work and dedication they show every day to our members and our mission.

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
HEROES WALL-TRIBUTE TILES	4
SALUTE TO OUR NEW MEMBERS	7
NEW TEAMMATES	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



This year's **Volunteer Awards Program** was held at the Knights of Columbus Hall on Thursday, April 11th.

This was the first program held since COVID, and recognized all the wonderful volunteers who do so much to make members lives full here at the Norfolk Veterans' Home.

Members Karen O., Wesley H., and Gorlyn H., helped greet our volunteers as they arrived for the program. (left photo.)



This year's featured speaker was Deb Becker, former NVH Activity Supervisor and Volunteer Services Supervisor. (bottom left photo.)

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

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



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



# HOME HAPPENINGS



**Solar Eclipse**  
April 8, 2024



## Repotting plants


Below : Unit D member Steven B. helped Activity Assistant Makayla get the job done.



**Dreamers Place**  
visits members.



**SAVE THE DATE**  
 Wednesday, June 5th  
 Time 1:30-3:15 in Heroes Park

Come and enjoy

- ◆ Music with Jerry Stingley
- ◆ Petting Zoo—Stanton FFA
- ◆ Games—various with the JOI kids
- ◆ Food—corn dogs, popcorn, mini tacos, cotton
  - ◆ candy, shaved ice

\* Staff and Families are invited \*

# In Remembrance of Those Members Who Have Passed.

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

**Kenny Fernau**  
U.S. Army Veteran

**Lyle Tramp**  
U.S. Army Veteran



## MEMORIAL DAY PROGRAM

**MEMORIAL DAY 2024**



Please join us at the Norfolk Veterans Home for our **Memorial Day Program**.  
Flag raising at 9:15am in the front circle drive  
Program at 9:30a.m. in the Rec. Room

Norfolk VFW is in charge.

## NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS TEAMMATE OF THE QUARTER



### Lori Lewis, Staff Care Tech II

Lori was selected for being willing to train new staff and she sets them up for success by teaching them properly, while having the patience and willingness to answer questions. She is member focused and a wonderful advocate for our members.

She demonstrates all of NDVA's core principles, but what stands out is how she treats everyone with dignity and respect. No matter what is going on, no matter how challenging a particular unit or shift might be, Lori is positive, compassionate, and professional in her actions, words and mannerisms.

Congratulations Lori!



# SALUTE OUR NEW MEMBERS

NORFOLK VETERANS HOME WELCOMES YOU

**Leroy G.**

U.S. Army Veteran

**Charles "Charlie" T.**

U.S. Marine Corps Veteran

**Cecil S.**

U.S. Army Veteran

**Alton F.**

U.S. Marine Corps Veteran

**Wendell P.**

U.S. Navy Veteran

**Robert "Steve" H.**

U.S. Air Force Veteran

**Lester L.**

U.S. Army Veteran

## NEW NVH STAFF



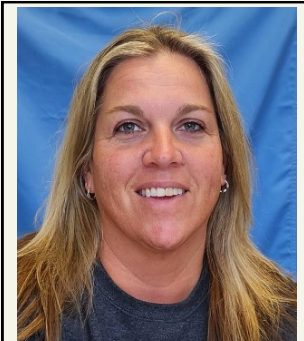
**Argentina Pineda**  
Staff Care Tech II



**Kseniia Marchenko**  
Staff Care Tech II



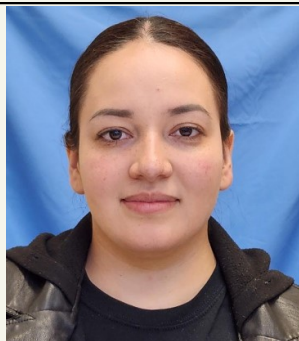
**Chelsea Spriggs**  
Custodian/Housekeeper



**Lynzi Medel**  
Staff Care Tech II



**Cassie Fisher**  
Food Service Assistant



**Adriana Gonzalez**  
Staff Care Tech II



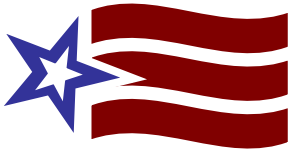
**Blake Ofe**  
Food Service Asst.

**Please welcome the following new staff to NVH.**





**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  
138

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 SERVICE OFFICER OR  
DODIE FINKHAUS @ (402)370-3109**

