



# 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,

How time flies! It's hard to believe we're already into 2024 and the holidays have come and gone. I hope everyone was able to enjoy some holiday cheer with friends, families and loved ones. We've been fortunate to have mild weather, but we all know Mother Nature always has surprises in store once the calendar hits January.

With the start of the new year, we can look back to a busy and productive 2023. We continue to be especially grateful for the community's support of the facility, as evidenced most recently by all the holiday activities in December that provided opportunities for members to celebrate the season. The past year has also brought back a sense of normalcy after a difficult couple of years dealing with COVID-19 and all the associated challenges. We hope that normalcy will continue into 2024 and appreciate everyone's commitment to keeping the focus at NVH on the safety and well-being of the members.

As a new administrator at NVH, the new year will bring with it a fresh look for me at how the facility operates through various seasons and events. One upcoming event, for example, is the annual USVA survey, which typically occurs in March and provides us with an excellent opportunity to showcase the great work done by the NVH team.

My mission as the new administrator in 2024 is to focus on continuous improvement and open, transparent communication among members, the NVH team, and the various groups and organizations that help make this place so special. I have enjoyed the discussion at Member Council meetings and look forward to more of that as time goes on. We will strive to be responsive to new ideas and suggestions whenever possible while honoring and respecting the fact that each person who calls NVH home is the product of his or her own unique life experiences and has individual needs.

Please feel free to reach out to me or any other member of the NVH team at any time if you have questions, concerns, or ideas you would like to share with us. By working together toward a common goal, we can make 2024 the best year ever at NVH!

Sincerely,

Josh Stafursky, Administrator

**GOVERNOR:  
JIM PILLEN**

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

#### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

HOME HAPPENINGS	2-5
IN REMEMBRANCE	6
REMINDERS	
SALUTE TO OUR NEW MEMBERS	7
NEW TEAMMATES	7
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



The Norfolk American Legion Riders strolled throughout the facility handing out cards and goodies to the members.



The ALA sponsored a Red Hat Christmas party for the ladies. They enjoyed playing 'Christmas Themed' games.



# HOME HAPPENINGS



Nebraska Dept. of Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary hosted their yearly Oyster Soup Feed for the members.



Left: Members were invited to the Norfolk VFWA for a lunch outing. While there Junior High students sang songs and played games with the members.



Below: Premier Marketing brought in gifts for the members and Santa!



## HOME HAPPENINGS

**Thank You:** So many people and organizations generously provided gifts, cards, gift baskets, flowers, blankets, snacks, decorations, and monetary donations to show their support of our members over the holiday season. We appreciate that these caring individuals and groups communicated their love and support of those who reside at Norfolk Veterans' Home during the holiday season. We are blessed beyond measure!

**National Activity Professionals Week:**

Is January 22-28, 2024. This week is created to give honor and recognition to those dedicated individuals who contribute so significantly to the quality of life to those they serve. Their creativity and energy make life much more enjoyable to those to reside here at the Veterans' Home. We want to extend our appreciation and gratitude to the staff of the Recreational Department here at the Veterans Home. When you see these ladies during this special week, say "Thanks" to (pictured left to right) Jasmine Machacek, Mary Swensen, Stephanie Eckert, DeAnn Stodola, Michelle Schommer, and MaKayla Ottis.



**Below Left:** NVH Public Servants got in the holiday spirit by wearing ugly sweaters. Members voted the top two ugliest.

**Below Right:** Our winners! First place pictured left to right went to Lizzy Ruitenberg, second went to Karla Zechmann. Congratulations ladies, and thank you to everyone who participated. We are looking forward to doing this again next year.



# HOME HAPPENINGS CONTINUED



Public Servants were encouraged to decorate windows and then members got to vote for their top two favorite. The top two winners were "Mittens" decorated by Makayla Ottis in the Activity Dept and "Thank you Veterans" decorated by the Member Service's Dept. (Valerie, Jen and Christina) Congratulations to the winners and everyone who participated. It was fun to see all the different ideas and everyone's creativity. Below are a few more of the decorated windows.



## 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

**Tommy Rieken**  
U.S. Army Veteran

**Richard Cordes**  
U.S. Army Veteran

**Rona Rotherham**  
Spouse of a U.S. Navy Veteran

**Ruth Lauver**  
Spouse of a U.S. Army Veteran



## REMINDERS

**Meal tickets** are available at the Canteen or the Bank window (during normal Business Hours.)



Single Meal tickets are now \$3.00 each.

*Please note that tickets are non-refundable and expire in 30 days from date of purchase.*

Families who bring in articles of clothing, blankets, etc. during the holidays or any time of the year, must make sure to give it to nursing staff on your members unit to ensure they get labeled correctly and don't get misplaced.

All electrical items must be inspected prior to being taken to the members room. These items can be left as the Front Desk.

Thank you!



# SALUTE OUR NEW MEMBERS

NORFOLK VETERANS HOME WELCOMES YOU

**Donald G.**

U.S. Marine Corps Veteran

**Carolyn G.**

Spouse of a U.S. Marine Corps Veteran

**Rosa S.**

U.S. Air Force Veteran

### Norfolk Veterans Home Gift Cards

**Available in any amount from  
\$1 to \$25**

May be used to purchase any item sold in the Canteen including meal tickets

**Available for staff & members  
convenience**

Meal tickets can be purchased in the canteen or NVH Accounting Window and are \$3.00 per ticket.

## NEW TEAMMATES



**Leah Noel**  
Food Service Assistant



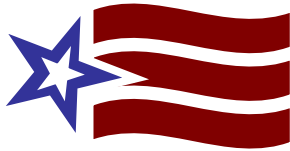
**Kharley Henneman**  
Staff Care Tech II

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

**WELCOME**



**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  
135

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**

