

To honor all  
who stand up  
and speak out  
for freedom &  
liberty!



# Liberty Express

Central Nebraska Veterans' Home, 4510 E. 56th St., Kearney, NE 68847 (308) 865-6000

November 2020

## November a Focus on Thankfulness

-Nancy Klimek, Activity Manager

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*"I saw your sons and your husbands, your brothers and your sweethearts. I saw how they worked, played, fought, and lived. I saw some of them die. I saw more courage, more good humor in the face of discomfort, more love in an era of hate, and more devotion to duty than could exist under tyranny." - Comedian Bob Hope, 1944, in "I Never Left Home," his book about going on tour to entertain the troops, which he did in every U.S. conflict from World War II to the Persian Gulf War.*

Bob Hope was a beloved comedian, but he also had great devotion to "the troops" who served our country, spending most of his holidays performing overseas to bring them comfort and laughter in the midst of war zones. He was inspired by the resilience he witnessed by those who served, as evidenced by the quote above.

Members and staff at the Central Nebraska Veterans' Home continue to exhibit these traits, during the adversity posed by the Pandemic:



- **Courage**—As John Wayne was quoted as saying "Courage is being scared to death, but saddling up anyway"
- **Good humor**—Laughter is always the best medicine!
- **Love** - More love and kindness makes us stronger together.
- **Devotion to duty**— Discipline says, "I need to". Duty says, "I ought to." Devotion says, "I want to". (- Adrian Rogers).

As we "soldier on" in this journey of the Pandemic, we can draw strength and hope by incorporating these traits into our daily lives. We can be inspired by the selfless sacrifices that were made on our behalf by those who've served in the Armed Forces.

Although November 11th is designated "Veterans' Day" for our Nation to pause and give thanks for the sacrifices made by those who have donned the U.S. Armed Forces uniform, at the Central Nebraska Veterans' Home, we pay tribute every day of the year to **our nation's heroes**, through the care and services we provide for those who are in our care.



We will implement programming designed to observe these sacrifices during the week of November 11th, and spend time reflecting on how **grateful** we are to live in this great nation. Last year, **Marine Lieutenant General John F. Kelly** delivered the following remarks to the Semper Fi Society of St. Louis, which gives us some insight on the level of sacrifice made on our behalf:

*"Those with less of a sense of service to the nation never understand it when men and women of character step forward to look danger and adversity straight in the eye, refusing to blink, or give ground, even to their own deaths. The protected can't begin to understand the price paid so they and their families can sleep safe and free at night. No, they are not victims, but are warriors, your warriors, and warriors are never victims, regardless of how and where they fall. Death, or fear of death, has no power over them. Their paths are paved by sacrifice, sacrifices they gladly make for you."*

We extend a sincere and humble "thank you" to all of our veterans. Your courage, good humor, love, and devotion to duty are greatly appreciated!



GOVERNOR  
PETE RICKETTS

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS DIRECTOR  
JOHN HILGERT

CENTRAL NEBRASKA VETERANS' HOME ADMINISTRATOR  
ANDRICK MAGANGA

# Administration Notes



We are grateful for our members every day, for their service and sacrifice. Each member adds so much to our unique community and sparks moments of joy amidst challenging times.

We are grateful to each and every family for choosing to share their loved ones' with us and for entrusting us with their care. We are grateful for everyone's patience and cooperation throughout the pandemic and being compliant with the recommended infection control protocols. This has been a long road but we are comforted by the fact that we are doing what we love...providing the best care we can for those who have served us.

We are grateful for dedicated teammates who have chosen to work for Central Nebraska Veterans' Home, where they give their best each and every day, making a positive difference in the lives of our members and their families.

We are also grateful to the many dedicated organizations and individuals that show their support for the members at Central Nebraska Veterans' Home. The thoughtfulness and generosity has been amazing.

We are grateful for a beautiful home which provides our members with their very own space, a wide variety of activities and options, all in a gorgeous setting.

We are also grateful for Alex Willford's service for over 11 years as our Administrator. After seeing everyone through a successful transition to our beautiful new home, he will be able to spend more with his family and other pursuits. Alex retired from his role this past month and we wish him the best!

While the search for a permanent Administrator is conducted, Mr. Andrick Maganga will be serving as Administrator. Be sure to say hello when you see him and give him a warm CNVH welcome!



## Fish Have A New Home

State of Nebraska Game & Parks made a stop at Central Nebraska Veterans' Home in October to release 300 rainbow trout into the lake.



Volunteers with the **Grand Island Elks Lodge** stopped by to present Central Nebraska Veterans' Home with a \$1,200 check to be used towards clothing and personal care items for members. Thank you for your kindness and generosity!

## *Member of the Month: Kyle Lantz*



Kyle Lantz was selected “Member of the Month” by the Member Council. Kyle is from Pawnee City, Nebraska. At the age of 18 he was selected to serve in the U.S. Navy. He took the various tests and scored high in mathematics, so was trained to work in Supply. Kyle became a Storekeeper 3rd Class during his four years in the Navy from 1949 to 1953.

Kyle has many interesting memories from his service years. He served aboard the U.S.S. Rochester. This ship was 679 feet from bow to stern and 4 stories high, and had about 4,300 men on board. It had three sets of 8 inch guns facing forward on the ship and one set facing to the rear. These guns could shoot a distance of 25 miles, and Kyle states that as they cruised the seas near Korea’s shore, they would shoot 7200 rounds of ammunition inland.

Kyle noted that there were about 45 sailors assigned to working Supply, as they were open 24/7. The items they couldn’t seem to keep in stock very long was chocolate candy bars and chewing gum. Kyle was a pilot so he could fly a supply plane to Guam or other islands to obtain fresh produce or other items as needed.

Upon return to civilian life, Kyle first worked as a contractor in California, followed by becoming a Deputy Sheriff, and finally working as a Civil Engineer. While in California, he met and married his wife and they had one daughter, who was later tragically killed in a car accident. Kyle and his wife helped raise their granddaughters as a result. Kyle’s wife passed away about 9 years ago.

Kyle is a member of the V.F.W., American Legion and the Masons. He enjoyed flying for many years and loves to work on a variety of craft projects here at the Vets Home. Kyle states that what he likes best about living here is the comradery and friendships with the people here, and that it’s great at his age to be able to “take it easy” now! Congratulations, Kyle, on being selected “Member of the Month!”



## *In Memoriam*



*Marvin Woodring*  
*Maurice Beecher*  
*Stephen Woods*  
*James Maxon*  
*Richard Ramirez*  
*Jerome Montgomery*

*Clint “Smitty” Smith*  
*Doug Wilkinson*  
*Armand Gauthier*  
*Johnny Martin*  
*Gary Smith*  
*LaVerne Reil*





# *Marching Band Tribute Day*



*Such a great treat for both the students to get to march and play, as well as the Members to view and hear their talent!*



*The combined 8th grade Kearney Middle School Band and the Kearney High School Band marched around the facility and performed in front of each Neighborhood!*



*Members enjoyed listening and watching the bands as they performed, and many reminisced about the instruments they played when they were in school.*



# *Autumn = Oktoberfest Parties & Special Breakfasts!*



*The Kearney Elks provided the monetary donation to sponsor the Oktoberfest parties in each Neighborhood!*



*Members were treated to pretzels, root beer, polka music, and special prizes while celebrating the Oktoberfest holiday!*



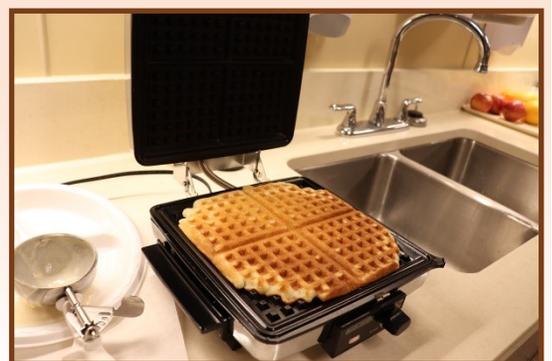
*The Kearney American Legion, VFW, and DAV made a monetary donation to be used towards special meals for members at the Veterans Home. Activity staff prepared waffles and sausage during October on various Neighborhoods.*



*Warming our hearts, and our tummies, one waffle at a time!  
Yum! We love our volunteers (and our waffles!).*



*One of our donated waffle irons makes waffles in the shape of the United States of America! So fun to see the members' faces when they get that unique waffle!*

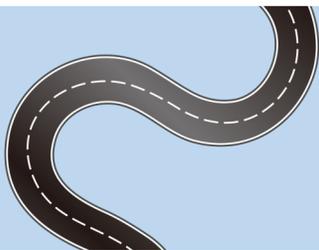


# *Kearney Cruise Night - Cruising Around CNVH*

*Due to the Pandemic, Kearney Cruise Night was rescheduled to the month of October, so everyone bundled up and went outside to enjoy the hundreds of vehicles that drove around our campus!*



*Members reminisced about their favorite vehicles, as they watched the cars and bikes go by.*



*Special thanks to the organizers of this event—Members love seeing & waving at the participants!*





# Pirate Plunder Fundraiser &

Members sponsored a "Pirate Plunder" Fundraiser and raised over \$270 to purchase candy to be donated to area organizations having Trick-or-Treat activities (since we weren't able to have children come to CNVH due to the Pandemic restrictions). For a suggested donation of \$1, individuals could be designated to "walk the plank". Or, they could donate a dollar to stay clear of those shark infested waters! Arrgghhh!!



John Hilgert, Nebraska Dept. of Veterans' Affairs Director, was on campus during the fundraiser, so of course he received multiple "summons" to "walk the plank"!



Thanks to the members who volunteered, and all who were good sports about "walking the plank"!

The AL Auxiliary also sponsored a "Pirate Bingo" for the members with special prizes and coupons! Fun times for all!



**CNVH Member Council Honors:**

**Kyle Lantz**

**Member of the Month**

**CNVH Member Council Honors:**

**Lacey Ienn**

**Employee of the Month**



Mail To:

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Printing: Reception  
Newsletter on line: <https://veterans.nebraska.gov/cnvh>