

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



# Liberty Express

December 2020

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

## Celebrating the Holidays Amidst a Pandemic

-Nancy Klimek, Activity Manager

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Everyone's *holiday traditions* can vary greatly, based on their individual *background, family relationships, and personal beliefs*. What brings joy and meaning to one person, may have no impact on another. Some love all of the hustle and bustle of decorating, singing, worshipping, socializing, giftwrapping, and eating favorite holiday treats. Others prefer to hunker down and just hope the days and the festivities fly by quickly, so they can get back to their normal routines. Regardless of one's personal preferences, *this year will be vastly different* than any others, due to the Pandemic and ongoing precautionary measures to keep everyone safe from the COVID-19 virus.

At the Central Nebraska Veterans' Home, our *employees become part of the extended family* of each of the members that reside here. Staff provide care and services 24 hours a day, seven days a week, which provides opportunities for great interpersonal relationships to form. During this unique holiday season, staff will be *working together to bring joy*, amidst the challenges of this Pandemic. Christmas trees and decorations will be provided by a variety of caring individuals, to create a festive atmosphere in each Home across campus.



Members and staff can have fun together putting up the decorations, singing carols, and participating in holiday parties throughout the month. Although our *volunteers and families will be sorely missed* this holiday season, we can find comfort that we have in this special relationship between staff and members, which will help to sustain us.

And while many may feel some loneliness over this holiday season, let us *never forget* those brave men and women who are currently serving in the U.S. Armed Forces that are *stationed around the world*, far from family and friends. Nor can we forget their families, who are faced with a holiday that includes having an *empty chair at their holiday table*.



Members of the Central Nebraska Veterans' Home have a much *deeper understanding* of the sacrifices made by our military personnel, since they can all recall the holidays and special occasions that were missed while serving in the military, or while their loved one served. Having experienced this firsthand, perhaps it will provide the *extra strength* needed to see us through to the other side of the Pandemic.

*President Ronald Reagan's 1981 holiday message* still rings true today:

*"For, more than just a day, Christmas is a state of mind. It is found throughout the year whenever faith overcomes doubt, hope conquers despair, and love triumphs over hate. It is present when men of any creed bring love and understanding to the hearts of their fellow man. The feeling is seen in the wondrous faces of children and in the hopeful eyes of the aged. It overflows the hearts of cheerful givers and the souls of the caring.... Let us resolve to honor this spirit of Christmas and strive to keep it throughout the year. Nancy and I ask you to join us in a prayer that prudence, wisdom, and understanding might descend on the people of all nations—so that during the year ahead we may realize an ancient and wondrous dream: peace on earth, goodwill toward men."*



GOVERNOR  
PETE RICKETTS

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS DIRECTOR  
JOHN HILGERT

CENTRAL NEBRASKA VETERANS' HOME ADMINISTRATOR  
ANDRICK MAGANGA

## DEC-ORATE THE HALLS

*Welcome* Someone new will be walking about our halls beginning this month, as our new **Administrator Vail Oleson** joins the Central Nebraska Veterans' Home team! He will be making his rounds to meet everyone and get to know our Home. Please give him a warm CNVH welcome!

Our heartfelt thanks go to Andrick Maganga for serving in this role while the search for a permanent Administrator was conducted. We wish Andrick the best on his future endeavors!

Amidst all the changes due to pandemic precautions this year, there are many things that remain unchanged. Several generous donations are making beautiful holiday decorations possible this year, so the households will be taking on a festive look. Don't forget the many tasty holiday treats too!



Staff are going the extra mile to make the holiday season bright for our members. If you see them tangled up in paper, ribbon and tape, its because they've been wrapping each member's gifts so they are ready in time for the household parties this month. Absolutely no peeking allowed! Okay, shh, don't tell anyone. Here's a hint - no one is getting coal!



For your viewing pleasure staff will also be donning some festive merriment this month...as there will be opportunities for holiday hair and hats, crazy socks, festive sweaters and outfits. The possibilities are truly endless and we have a creative bunch!

Lastly, not to be forgotten, is the music! We heartily encourage you to break out in song, if you feel so inclined. Hearing someone sing in the hallways always brings out the smiles! You might even get someone to join you!



**LET'S MAKE IT MERRY  
AS WE SHARE THE SEASON TOGETHER!**

## *Member of the Month: Ada Maul*

Ada Maul was selected “Member of the Month” by the CNVH Member Council. She was one of eight children and her father was a long time farmer in Buffalo County. Ada attended country school (walking from her farm to school) and graduated from Riverdale High School. She went to college a year and was able to become a country school teacher, where in addition to teaching, she had to load the stove with wood to heat up the building and also cleaned it regularly. She also later worked as a substitute teacher for 20 years.



Ada’s husband was a U.S. Marine during WWII, and he shared some of his stories of living in Fox-holes and such. His brother also served. Ada and her husband raised four children who were all baptized and confirmed in the Trinity Lutheran Church at Amherst. She has volunteered for her church, the American Legion Auxiliary, and the Red Cross. Ada and her husband loved helping with the Bloodmobiles.

Ada enjoys keeping in touch with her family through phone and technology, which she has learned to utilize to a great extent. She likes to work on word puzzles, loves the music of the 40’s and 50’s (especially Bing Crosby and Guy Lombardo), and says Nebraska beef is #1!

One of the things that Ada likes best about living at CNVH is the opportunity to have lovely visits with people across the state! She is always very interested in finding out where their home towns are located—East, West, North or South!

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



## *In Memoriam*



*Don Weight*

*John Bauer*

*Burdette Sweeley*

*Ed Schriner*

*Don Buettner*

*Ken Hoxeng*

*L. D. Dubbs*

*Charles Anderson*

*Lois Meister*

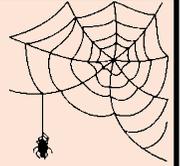
*Jonathan Griess*

*Bruce Dyer*

*Gayle Schwieger*



# Halloween Fun at C.N.V.H.



*Halloween parties were held for each Neighborhood, with special prizes and coupons sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Nebraska.*



*Spooky Cartoons, Halloween Bingo, candy, and lots of laughter!*



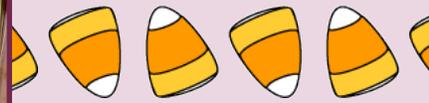
*A T-Rex was running amok on campus, but our veterans were ready to defend us from his hungry jaws!*



# Costume Parade & Treats!



*Members enjoyed greeting staff in costume, and sharing smiles and laughter.*



*The gals from the Recreation Department came as characters from "The Wizard of Oz".*



*Staff from a variety of departments dressed up in costumes for Halloween and a costume parade went to every Neighborhood to wish a "Happy Halloween" to the members.*



*Frankenstein pudding cups were delivered to every member at lunch on the Halloween holiday.*



# Veterans Day Observed & Celebrated



A special display of original WWI U.S. Savings Bonds posters were set up in the Hearth Room in observance of Armistice Day that occurred on the 11th hour, of the 11th day, in the 11th month. Extra items were also placed in the display cases.

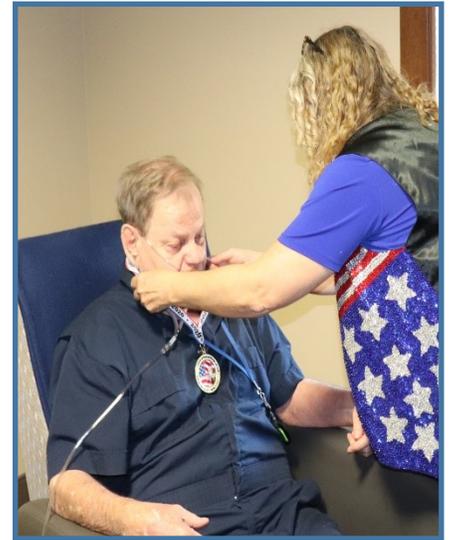
The American Legion Auxiliary Department of Nebraska provided greetings and a monetary gift for "Veterans Dollar Day", along with bingo parties with special prizes.



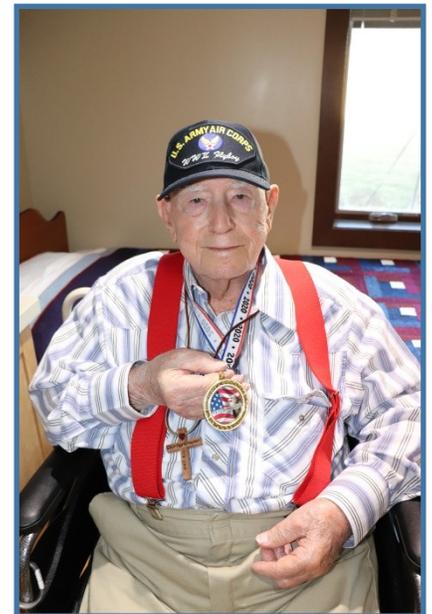
# Thanking Our Veterans For Their Service



*On November 11th, we held Veterans Day ceremonies in each Neighborhood. Each veteran also received a special Veterans Day medal in observance of their service to our country and in appreciation for the sacrifices they made for freedom.*



*Veterans were treated to a free pizza from Little Caesars for lunch and a special meal prepared by Dietary for supper. The V.F.W. Auxiliary donated patriotic cupcakes for every member as a special treat.*



**CNVH Member Council Honors:**

**Ada Maul**

**Member of the Month**

**CNVH Member Council Honors:**

**Nancy Harms**

**Employee of the Month**



Mail To:

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