

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



March 2021

Liberty Express

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

Commitment to Nebraska's Veterans for 134 Years! -Nancy Klimek, Activity Manager

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The Nebraska Veterans' Home was established on **March 4, 1887** when the **Legislative Bill 247** passed to create the state's first "**Soldiers and Sailors Home**". In the bill, it referenced the fact that there were many old soldiers in Nebraska, who from wounds or disabilities received while in the **Union Army** during the rebellion, were in the county poorhouses in the state. It resolved that a suitable building be erected and grounds provided for the **care and comfort of the old soldiers of Nebraska** in their declining years.



This month, we will be observing our **134th anniversary** of providing for that care and comfort to the thousands of individuals who have resided in this Nebraska Veterans' Home system, at what **now includes four campuses** across the state! Over the 134 year history of the Nebraska Veterans' Home, many challenges have been faced, and yet the **commitment of Nebraska's citizens to our state's veterans** has never wavered!

As we reach this annual observance of the Veterans Home's beginnings, we reflect on the tremendous **challenges our teammates and members have encountered this past year**, due to the **COVID-19 Pandemic**. This has not been the first time in our Veterans Home history that we experienced a Pandemic. In 1918, a new deadly strain of influenza (called the **Spanish Flu**) hit the United States, which eventually killed approximately 675,000 in our country alone (over 50 million world wide). The Nebraska "Soldiers and Sailors Home" suffered many casualties in that Pandemic, due to the limited medical knowledge available and the infectious nature of the flu. In the U.S., we have now reached the tragic total of **500,000 Americans that have now died from the COVID-19 virus**, which is fast approaching the number of casualties from the Spanish Flu in 1918.

Although **we mourn the loss** of each individual that has succumbed to the COVID-19 virus (the current total of 500,000 is more Americans who have died in a single year of this pandemic than who died in World War I, World War II, and the Vietnam War combined), we look to the year ahead with **hope**. The Central Nebraska Veterans' Home has completed **three vaccination clinics**, with over 95% of the members and over 77% of the staff opting to receive their vaccine. This is a huge step towards minimizing the risk of the virus coming into the facility, which will also hopefully allow us to eventually move into the **next phase** for long term care facilities.

As we head into this 134th year of providing care and services to our members, we look forward to **making the transition** to the other side of the Pandemic. Members will have the ongoing opportunity to be engaged in **fun and meaningful activities**, throughout each phase.



In March, the activities planned thus far include the celebration of the patent for the delicious candy of **M & M's**, programs and bus tours pertaining to the great **Sandhill Crane** migration, the added treat of Nebraska's famous "**Runzas**" at a lunch meal, a **St. Patrick's Day** celebration, observing horse racing season by playing and winning prizes on our **horse race DVD game**, and **Easter** festivities. In addition, members can participate in therapeutic craft and woodshop sessions, and pursue their individual leisure pursuits in the library, canteen, dens, activity rooms, and outside strolls as the weather starts to warm.



When the March 2020 edition of the newsletter was published, we had no idea how much the world was going to change! But one thing never changes, and that is our **134 year long commitment** to the care and well-being of our State's veterans!



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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS DIRECTOR
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Administration Notes

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Perseverance

On Feb. 18, at 2:55 p.m. CT, the Mars rover, “Perseverance”, landed on the surface of the red planet. It was amazing to watch and to think about what it means for the future.

It also struck me that **perseverance** is a description for our staff here at CNVH.

Our staff have always persevered, through multiple challenges – caring for the most fragile and vulnerable Nebraskans, dealing with staffing changes, attempting to stay quickly informed on new developments in long-term care, and being an ongoing support to our members and their loved ones.

However, in 2020 and now 2021, our staff took perseverance to a whole new level. They learned, along with the rest of the world, more than perhaps they ever wanted to know, about this virus – how it is transmitted and how lethal it can be for elders and medically-compromised individuals.

Our staff **did everything possible** to stay informed and compliant with rules that constantly changed and were frequently adjusted to meet new guidelines in the fight against the Pandemic.

Our staff **endured surveys** that judged their early actions after the fact.

Our staff **put their own health at risk** to continue to care for those who rely on them.

Our staff **struggled and worried** as time passed and the virus continued its invisible spread.

Our staff **fought for access** to vaccine and treatment for the benefit of our members and fellow teammates.

Our staff **celebrated moments of triumph** – a member recovering from COVID-19, a special connection between a member and loved one, or the arrival of the vaccine finally hitting our doorstep.

OUR STAFF persevered.

We see you, we hear you, we appreciate you, and we are forever in awe at what you accomplish every day during this pandemic!

Thank you for the inspiration you provide. It is a privilege to support you!

- Vail Oleson, LNHA, MHA, Administrator

CNVH ROCKS THE SHOT

AGAINST THE PANDEMIC Parts II & III



We are pleased to say that parts two and three of our COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic went as smoothly as the first. We partnered with Walgreen’s for the clinics which administered the vaccine for our members and staff. The second of three clinics was held on February 3, providing an opportunity for those missing their first dose, to get one, and for everyone else to get their second dose. Remaining staff that needed their second dose, obtained theirs at the last of the three clinics held on February 23. We are working with our local public health department on vaccines for new members and staff that join us in the future.

Member of the Month: Mary Lee Anderson

The CNVH Member Council has selected Mary Lee Anderson as the “Member of the Month”. Mary Lee was born in Lincoln, Nebraska but lived much of her young years on the East Coast during WWII because her father was in the Navy. She went to school in Maine, Washington, D.C., Arlington, VA, Colorado and Nebraska. When she lived in Arlington, Virginia all of the buildings were painted gray so enemy bombers wouldn’t have good bomb sights.



She attended her high school years in Hemingford, Nebraska (which was her folks’ home town), and graduated there. She attended the Colorado Women’s College for one year until she got married to her first husband in 1950. During her first marriage, she moved a lot due to her husband being in the Air Force, and they lived in Colorado, California and Nevada. They had two daughters and one son together.

Mary Lee married Chuck in 1973. He had two sons and one daughter, so between them they had six children! Chuck was a WWII Army Veteran.

Mary Lee worked for a Loan Company and was a homemaker. Her favorite things to do are to read fiction and mystery books, watch television, and take walks. Past leisure interests also included traveling and gardening. She has been a member of the Methodist church since she was a little girl. Her favorite car was a 1950 green Ford convertible. She likes all types of food but states that fruits are very important, and her favorite color is red. Some of her favorite memories are when she was living in Brunswick, Maine and Arlington, VA.

Mary Lee states that what she likes best about living at CNVH is that she loves the togetherness and feeling accepted here by the other members. Congratulations, Mary Lee, on being selected “Member of the Month”.



In Memoriam

Bruce Bundy

Darwin Frey

Edward Kloke



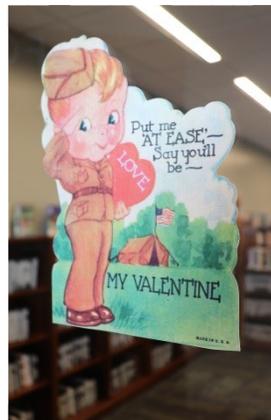
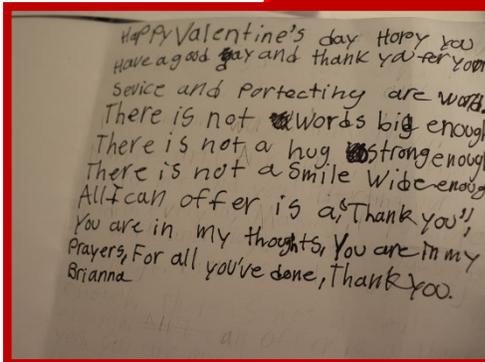
Chinese New Year Party—Year of the Ox



Members enjoyed learning about the Chinese Zodiac and which animal represented their birth year at the Chinese New Year party. This event was sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Nebraska and also included a photo opportunity with an elephant and dragon (kite!), playing bingo game with both monetary coupons and special prizes, and snacking on fortune cookies.



Valentines for Veterans!



Valentines for Veterans is a national campaign through which school children, churches, veterans' organizations and other groups and individuals create a Valentine greeting for veterans residing in Veterans' Homes and Hospitals across the country. Members enjoyed receiving these special notes!



A local florist donated buckets of beautiful flowers to arrange in vases to put on display in the various Neighborhoods for the members' enjoyment.



The V.F.W. Auxiliary coordinated a delivery of delicious sweet breads from the Hy-Vee Bakery for a Valentine treat for the members!



Valentine's Parties Enjoyed On Each Neighborhood



The District 10 American Legion and Auxiliary sponsored a Valentine's Party for each Neighborhood. Members enjoyed playing regular bingo with special valentine prizes, a "Love Songs" Bingo during which they could sing along to their favorite love songs via a DVD played on their televisions, and some fun valentine treats. Such a fun time for everyone!



Mardi Gras Celebration !

The American Legion Auxiliary Department of Nebraska sponsored the Mardi Gras Celebration which featured jazz music, bingo with special prizes, and thirst quenching beverages!



Waffles & Sausage A Breakfast Favorite!



Members continue to enjoy the waffles and sausage breakfast meals being cooked and served by the Recreation staff during these cold winter months.

Special thanks to the Kearney Legion, V.F.W. and D.A.V. who are the sponsors of these delicious morning meals!



CNVH Member Council Honors:

Mary Lee Anderson

Member of the Month

CNVH Member Council Honors:

Katie Argueta

Employee of the Month



Mail To:



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