

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

May 2021

## Many Reasons to Celebrate in May!

-Nancy Klimek, Activity Manager

Page 2—  
Administrator's Notes

Page 3—  
Memorial Page &  
Member of the Month

Page 4—  
Springtime Fun!

Page 5—  
Earth Day!

Page 6—  
Such a Variety!

Page 7—  
So Much To Celebrate!

Page 8—  
Member Council  
Salute

From May Day, to Mother's Day, to Armed Forces Day, to Memorial Day—there are **many reasons to celebrate** during the **month of May!** It is also the time of school graduations, as students begin their transition to adulthood. And in addition, Nebraska's weather warms up and we can look forward to nicer days to spend pursuing outdoor activities!



Members are enjoying the increased opportunities for **facility group recreational activities**, many of which are taking place in Freedom Hall. During the Pandemic this past year, we have provided activities primarily in each Neighborhood, as a precautionary measure to prevent the spread of any infections. Now that the majority of members have been vaccinated, we are able to implement more activities in **Freedom Hall.**

Due to the need to still try to **maintain social distancing**, we only allow several Neighborhoods to participate in the space at one time, but it is still a good step towards providing larger group activities for everyone's enjoyment. We are also working towards a plan to allow a few **volunteers** to return to the facility to assist with some of these events, and look forward to seeing their **smiling faces and helping hands** in the near future!



**Gardening** is a favorite pastime of many members, and we are in the process of growing seeds/seedlings in our new indoor greenhouses, which will be transplanted into our outdoor planters in May. Contact Activity staff if you'd like to assist with gardening this season!

We are also excited to announce that we are expanding our in-person, in-room visits to include **weekend time slots starting May 1st.** These pre-scheduled visits are set up in the same manner as during the weekdays (via signing up on the computer for designated time slots). Visitors must sign up, come to the Juliet building to be screened, and then go to their Neighborhood to park and come inside to their member's room for their visit. We have had lots of visitors successfully participating in this program in April, so look forward to expanding it in May for additional opportunities to visit their loved ones here at the Central Nebraska Veterans' Home!



If there is one thing we've learned during the Pandemic, it is that

things can quickly change, but we have planned the following activities for **the month of May** (check your Neighborhood Activity calendars or with Activity staff for more information):

- **Cinco de Mayo Party** (featuring Mariachi Band and Dancers on the big screen and margaritas!) on May 5th
- **Mother's Day Bingo** on May 7th
- **Spring Tea** (featuring pie and ice cream!) - May 10th/11th
- **Bingo** by Kearney VF W on May 13th
- **Happy Hour** on May 18th for Alpha & Bravo and on May 20th for Echo & Foxtrot—serving your favorite adult beverages!
- **Merrymakers Concert** featuring Tim Jivorsky—May 25th
- **Campfire & S'Mores** on May 27th
- **Memorial Day Service**—May 31st

Join us in celebrating the warmer weather and fun activities planned in May!



GOVERNOR  
PETE RICKETTS

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS DIRECTOR  
JOHN HILGERT

CENTRAL NEBRASKA VETERANS' HOME ADMINISTRATOR  
VAIL OLESON

# Administration Notes

Vail Oleson, LNHA, MHA, Administrator

vail.oleson@nebraska.gov

## CELEBRATING Generosity

In April, the D.A.R. presented a monetary donation to Central Nebraska Veterans' Home towards the purchase of equipment in our Physical Therapy and Restorative Care areas.

*Photo right:* D.A.R. volunteer Pat Skiles with the Ft. Kearney Chapter paused for a photo marking the occasion with CNVH Administrator Vail Oleson and Alicia Butterfield of Genesis Rehabilitation Services, CNVH's therapy provider.



The Gibbon American Legion Post #310 delivered a "May Day" donation that included a variety of fun food items including ice cream toppings, popcorn and cake mixes. Members enjoyed partaking of these treats and the "May Pole" decoration that was also included.

*Photo left:* Cricket Bell and John Paul Arias of AL Post #310 with their "May Day" delivery and Nancy Klimek, CNVH Director of Recreation and Volunteer Services.

We appreciate our donors' amazing generosity and kindness!

Thank You



## *Member of the Month: Betty Abels*

Betty Abels was selected as “Member of the Month” by the Member Council. Betty was born in Bradshaw, but her family moved around due to her father renting various farms, and they ended up in Amherst. Betty graduated from Amherst High School and then went to Kearney State for 3 years, after which she taught country schools for 5 years.



Betty met Marvin through his sister, which was one of her best friends. They met at a card party and started dating before he joined the Army. He was stationed in Japan during the Korean War, so they wrote letters to each other (she states she kept them until he started teasing her about it years later, so finally tossed them). When Marvin returned from Japan and discharged from the service in 1953, Betty states “I grabbed him and married him!”

They have 4 daughters, and “oodles of grandkids and great-grandkids”. Betty helped do the book work for Marvin’s company, “Abel’s Well Drilling”, as well as raise the children. They have been lifelong members of the Trinity Lutheran Church at Amherst where they were married. Betty has volunteered through hospital service league in the gift shop at Good Samaritan Hospital in Kearney, as well as been active in the Red Cross, V.F.W., American Legion, and Masons. She enjoys reading and playing all cards, especially Pitch. Her favorite color is teal or turquoise and she loves Mexican food. Betty and Marvin enjoyed travelling all over the U.S. and other countries. They liked sightseeing and going to casinos. One of her favorite places was Lake Louise in Canada, where there was a beautiful castle, snow capped mountains, and a lake.

When asked what she likes best about living at CNVH, Betty states the staff is very good and friendly, and it has great accommodations. Congratulations, Betty, on being selected Member of the Month!

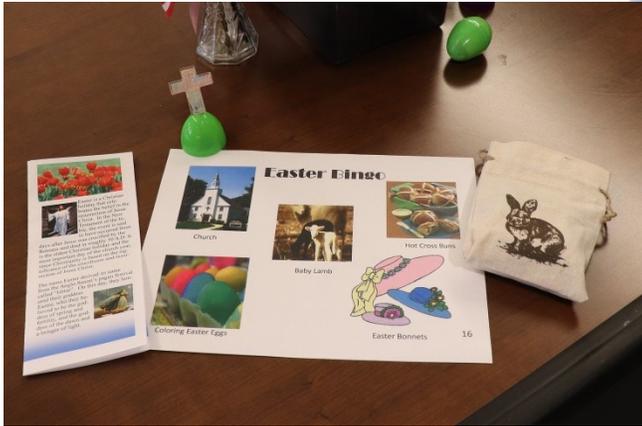


## *In Memoriam*

**Dennis Scott**  
**Duane Bauer**  
**Marvin Nesiba**



# Springtime Fun!



*The American Legion Auxiliary sponsored both the Easter Bingo and the Spring Bingo activities.*

*Members were excited to return to Freedom Hall for some of this month's events—social distancing yet still being able to interact with each other! To do this, these events are implemented twice to accommodate everyone.*



# Earth Day & Bird Scavenger Hunt



*The American Legion Auxiliary also sponsored Earth Day festivities. Members watched a Discovery Planet documentary while munching delicious popcorn, played bingo for special prizes, and then went on a Bird Scavenger Hunt around campus (including doing some Snipe hunting by the clinic!).*

*Members have also been busy planting seeds and watching seedlings grow in their new greenhouses, in preparation of transplanting them into the outdoor planters in May.*



# Variety Keeps Everyone Engaged!



*Variety is the “spice of life” and April provided lots of variety for everyone’s enjoyment!!*

*Members “sailed” on the Titanic, watching a brief documentary, playing bingo for special prizes, and learned their “fate” (whether they went down with the ship or made it into a lifeboat). They finished with delicious “iceberg” ice cream. This was sponsored by the Kearney Elks.*

*The first live Merrymakers Concert since the Pandemic closed things down was a huge success. Extra safety precautions were implemented, yet the energy filled the room with excitement. Special thanks to the American Legion and Auxiliary for their sponsorship of these concerts!*



*Members enjoyed a special display of animal pelts provided by the Nebraska Game & Parks and placed in the Craft department, triggering many fond memories of their hunting days.*



# So Many Reasons To Celebrate at CNVH!



*Members have lots of things to celebrate this month!*

*Above: Members can now partake of alcoholic beverages at designated scheduled activities supervised by staff, and the first "Happy Hours" were a huge hit!*

*Right: Members enjoyed pulled pork sliders, compliments of the Kearney Elks.*

*Below: Members are reuniting with family during scheduled in-room visits on campus.*

*Below Right: Margie Cumpston is first person to win a Blackout on an "In-Room" Bingo game with every number matching what was posted each day!*



**CNVH Member Council Honors:**

**Betty Abels**

**Member of the Month**

**CNVH Member Council Honors:**

**Nick Andersen-Holt**

**Employee of the Month**



Mail To:

---

---

---

---



The Liberty Express is published monthly by Central Nebraska Veterans' Home,  
4510 E. 56th Street, Kearney, NE 68847 (308) 865-6000  
Administrator: Vail Oleson  
Editor: Nancy Klimek, Public Information Officer  
Printing: Reception  
Newsletter on line: <https://veterans.nebraska.gov/cnvh>