

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



Liberty Express

August 2021

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

Celebrating the Olympics & Re-Creating the Fair at C.N.V.H.

-Nancy Klimek, Activity Manager

"The most important thing in the Olympic games is not to win, but to take part, just as the most important thing in life is not the triumph, but the struggle. The essential thing is not to have conquered, but to have fought well." - Olympic Creed

Members and staff wishing to loan other items for display in Freedom Hall are encouraged to **contact Activity staff**. This could include a variety of items that one would normally see at a fair, such as vegetables and flowers from your gardens, crocheted/knitted items, leathercraft, woodwork, photography, sewing projects, and other arts and crafts. These items do not have to have been made by the person entering them into the display, so if you have items made by other family members or friends, they can be displayed as well.



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The **2020 Summer Olympics Games** were postponed until 2021 due to the Pandemic, and we've been watching and cheering on our USA athletes. These athletes have faced many struggles, and yet they continued amidst adversity to fight on to have the opportunity to compete. In addition to watching the Olympics daily, members have also been taking part by participating in and "competing" in a variety of activities here at CNVH.



In the spirit of competition, the members have also been working on a variety of **special projects for entry** in the Buffalo County Fair, Creative Arts Festival, and the Nebraska State Fair. Members have already come home with some great ribbons from the county fair, and these pieces will be on display for everyone to view during our **County Fair Exhibit Hall** that is scheduled on **Wednesday, August 11th**, in Freedom Hall.



Since we are unable to take members to the area Fairs this summer due to ongoing precautionary measures, we are bringing a bit of the fair to CNVH during the month of August. There will also be a **tractor display** out on the grounds in front of Freedom Hall on the day of the Exhibit Hall display.

Activity staff will be serving some fun food items at various events as well. **Happy Hour** sponsored by donations from the S.A.L. on Tuesday, **August 3rd at 3 p.m.** in Freedom Hall, will feature adult beverages and fair snacks, as well as feature **Elvis Tribute Artist Joseph Hall** (a Nebraska native who placed in the "America's Got Talent" show on T.V.) on the big screen.

The American Legion Auxiliary will be sponsoring a **Fair Bingo Party** on Tuesday, **August 10th at 2 p.m.** in Freedom Hall, where members will have the opportunity to win fun prizes and partake of delicious treats. On Sunday, August 15th, the District 6 American Legion & Auxiliary will be **providing Bingo and a Melon Feed** at 2 p.m.



A **new Merrymakers performer**, Mike McCracken, will be provide a concert on Thursday, August 19th at 2 p.m. in Freedom Hall. Members are encouraged to participate in all of these **"Fair Time" events!**



GOVERNOR
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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS DIRECTOR
JOHN HILGERT

CENTRAL NEBRASKA VETERANS' HOME ADMINISTRATOR
VAIL OLESON

Administration Notes

Vail Oleson, LNHA, MHA, Administrator

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Denise Scott recently stopped by CNVH to present a Memorial gift donation in honor and memory of her husband, Dennis Scott, in appreciation of the care and services he received while in our care. She paused for a photo opportunity with Nancy Klimek (left), Director of Recreation and Volunteer Services, and Vail Oleson, Administrator.

The Nebraska Quilters Guild presented over 40 quilted blankets and wheelchair/walker tote bags for use at the Central Nebraska Veterans' Home, asking that we "wrap our Members up with love and warmth" with this lovingly made donation. Absolutely beautiful craftsmanship!



We thank everyone for thinking of our members! We also appreciate everyone's generosity in words of gratitude towards our staff, recognizing their efforts and genuine care on a daily basis. Knowing we make a difference in so many lives is truly rewarding!

We Thank You!

Member of the Month:

Elwin Dunbar



Elwin Dunbar was selected “Member of the Month” by the CNVH Member Council. He was born in Guide Rock, Nebraska but was raised all over the country because his father was a minister. He lived in Long Island, Kansas, Ruskin, NE and Oak, NE.

Elwin worked throughout his school years, winding brooms, mowing lawns and actually saving his money to buy farm equipment so he could do some farming his junior and senior years of high school. After graduating from Ruskin, Elwin took a 6 month course on heating and air conditioning for automobiles and then went to diesel training at Milford trade school.

Elwin joined the Army and went to Ft. Chaffie, Arkansas for basic training. He was a Peace Time veteran, stationed in Hanau, Germany for 2 1/2 years where he served as a mechanic. Upon return from the service, he was a mechanic for International Harvester dealership. While working as a mechanic troubleshooting nursing home construction, his boss wanted him to become a pilot to fly to various work sites, so Elwin got his pilot license. He also taught auto mechanics at the University of Technical Institute for 20 years.

Elwin’s hobbies include leather crafts, making powder horns for black powder rifles, and riding motorcycles and snowmobiles. His was a member of the National Rifle Association for many years. He grew up as a Pastor’s kid, attending the Assembly of God’s Church. Elwin’s favorite food is Prime Rib. He has owned so many cars over the years that he can’t just pick one favorite, but states he usually owns Chevrolts.

Elwin states that the best thing about living at CNVH is that the staff looks out for you and takes care of you. He also says, “It is a bonus that I don’t have to scoop snow anymore!” Congratulations, Elwin!



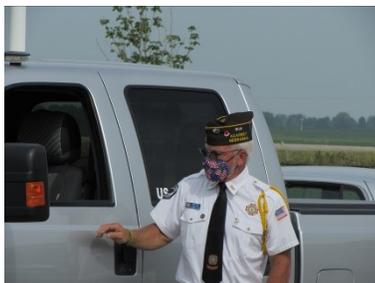
Members are having lots of success fishing in our lake, pulling out a wide variety of fish! Great summertime fun!!!



Patriot Celebration Week Festivities



In honor of Independence Day & the freedom our veterans have provided for our nation, we had a great Patriot Celebration!

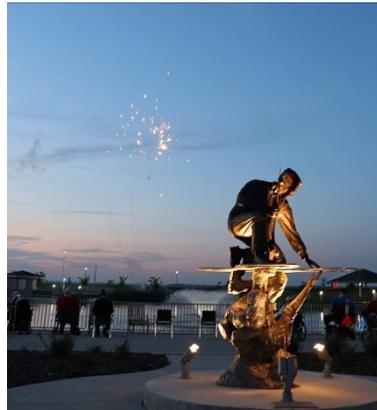


Special thanks to our V.F.W. Representative, Kim Deyo, for organizing this special celebration!



We appreciate all of the participants that spent their morning providing this special salute to our members!

More Patriot Week Activities



The Kearney Elks were the sponsor of our Patriot Party & Fireworks Display. They were greeted by Member Council President, Pat Abbott (upper left photo), as we celebrated the return of the first volunteer group to re-enter the facility since the Pandemic began in March 2020! The Kearney Fire Department volunteers shot off the display over the lake.



Members also enjoyed banana splits, watermelon, and a special 4th of July gift of either a personal necklace fan or a patriotic visor to keep them cool this summer.

The Activity staff worked hard to make Patriot Week a special celebration for our Members. Special thanks to all of our donors!



Bingo, Ice Cream & Music—All Favorites!



District 10 American Legion & Auxiliary sponsored a Bingo & Ice Cream Social, which was enjoyed by all.

It is so fun to have our volunteer groups back in the building providing activities!



The American Legion & Auxiliary sponsor our monthly Merrymakers Concerts, and we are so grateful to have live entertainment inside the building! Our performer in July was Kim Eames, and we had a great turn out, as well as some fun impromptu performances when she sang songs about classic cars!



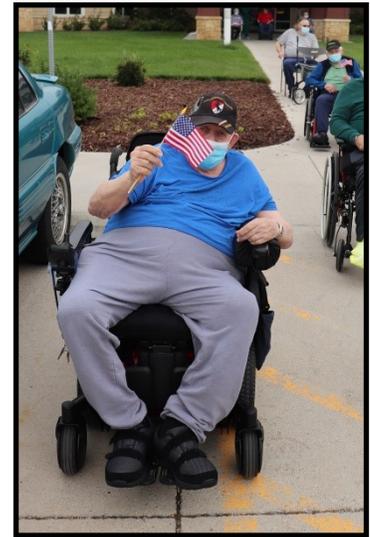
Lincoln Highway & Kearney Cruise Night



Members learned about the Lincoln Highway (aka Hwy 30 now), while sipping a cool beverage and munching on popcorn at Happy Hour.



The next evening they got to view over 200 classic cars, as they drove through campus during Kearney Cruise Night!



CNVH Member Council Honors:

Elwin Dunbar

Member of the Month



CNVH Member Council Honors:

Stephanie Christensen

Employee of the Month



Mail To:



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