

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 2021

Central Nebraska Veterans Memorial Dedication Scheduled for Nov. 11th

-Nancy Klimek, Activity Manager

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The Central Nebraska Veterans Memorial Dedication Ceremony will be held on the C.N.V.H. campus on Thursday, November 11th at 2 p.m. at the Veterans Memorial site. Due to the possibility of inclement weather, this ceremony will also be livestreamed into Freedom Hall on the big screen for members wishing to view inside the comfort of the Veterans' Home (public are not allowed inside our facility due to ongoing COVID precautions, but can watch it on the Kearney Chamber of Commerce's facebook link).



This ceremony will feature remarks from various dignitaries including Governor Pete Ricketts, as well as the featured guest speaker, Brigadier General (Retired), ARNG, Kevin D. Lyons. Brigadier General Lyons served as the Assistant Adjutant General—Army for the Nebraska Army National Guard until his recent retirement. He also served as the Land Component Commander responsible for approximately 3400 Nebraska soldiers. His awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, and numerous other Federal and State awards.

 The National Anthem will be performed by Brette Enszt and the Kearney High School Band will perform the Armed Forces Medley.

The Master of Ceremonies is Major Alexander Straatmann, and Bob Harpst of the Central Nebraska Veterans Memorial Committee will provide a brief history about the project. The Invocation and Benediction will be provided by Major General (Retired), USAF, William J. Dendinger, Chaplain.

In 2010, a group of local veterans at the Kearney American Legion discussed the possibility of constructing a Veterans Memorial in Kearney. The Central Nebraska Veterans Memorial Committee was formed and seed money for the project was donated in the summer of 2011, when the Kearney American Legion Post had excess funds raised when they brought in the Vietnam traveling wall. The focus of this project was to be a civics and history lesson, rather than recognizing individuals. These ideas were presented to Architect Phil Cudaback, who provided the final design for the project.

When the Central Nebraska Veterans' Home project came to Kearney, the name of the project was changed to the Central Nebraska Veterans Memorial, and was redesigned to be located at the new facility's campus. The focus for the project included "all Veterans past, present, and future," and includes all military conflicts in which Nebraskans have participated. Fundraising began in earnest in 2015 and the site preparation began in October 2019. An endowment is in place to provide for the maintenance expenses for the memorial for many years to come.

We are all grateful for the many donors and supporters of this meaningful project. Members will be able to visit this Memorial as often as they wish, and reflect on the many sacrifices that they and others have made through service to our country.



Public wishing to attend the ceremony will utilize Patriot Park for parking.



GOVERNOR
PETE RICKETTS

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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The month of November has key moments of remembrance and gratitude. We keep these in mind throughout the whole year, but they are highlighted this season and not taken for granted. We are truly grateful for our veterans' service and sacrifice.

Thank you to our members and their families for choosing Central Nebraska Veterans' Home to serve you.

Thank you to our teammates for choosing to serve our veterans and their families.

Thank you to our volunteers for giving so freely of your time for our members.

Thank you to our local and surrounding communities for tremendous support!

We are truly blessed for each and every one of you!

VETS HELPING VETS

"Vets Helping Vets" is a special volunteer program aimed at veterans, those who have answered the call of duty before, offering them the opportunity to help serve fellow veterans. It allows volunteers to give back to veterans and their loved ones by performing tasks that allow CNVH teammates to enhance direct care to members. Our very first "Vets Helping Vets" Celebrity Server, Kim Deyo, is shown here serving a meal to John Finkner. Thank you Kim!



Member of the Month: Harold Ziegenbein

Harold Ziegenbein was selected “Member of the Month” by the Member Council. Harold was born in Clearwater, Nebraska and also lived in Chambers. He had 10 siblings.



He entered the U.S. Army during the Korean War era from 1953-55. Harold was stationed in Ft. Bliss, TX and Willsworth, SD. He achieved the rank of Corporal and his military duties primarily involved working with the Motor Pool, especially all of the trucks.

Harold married Francis (he is now widowed) and they had two sons, Harold “Norm” Jr. and Alan. He worked for the Department of Roads for 43 years. Harold liked to bowl, play horseshoes, watch the Husker football team and go fishing. He also attends Lutheran Services and enjoys a variety of activities at the Veterans’ Home. When asked about what he likes best about living at CNVH, he replied, “This is a beautiful facility to live in!”

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



In Memoriam

BETTY ABELS

LLOYD OMAN

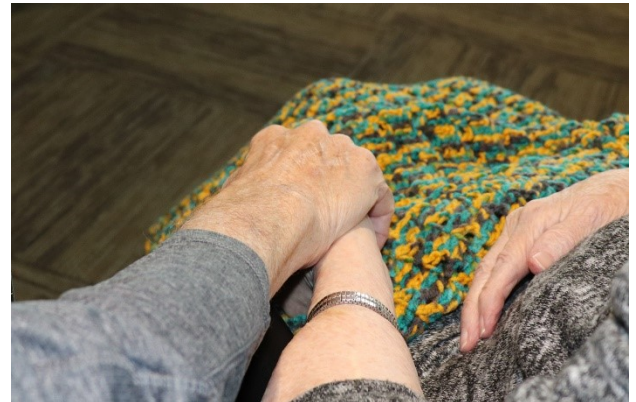
LARRY BENNETT



Music Is A Universal Favorite!



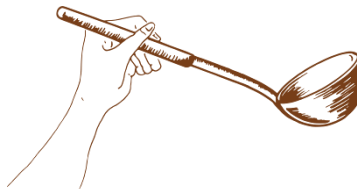
Whether listening to a Country Classic DVD at Happy Hour (and snacking on pizza provided by the Elks) or being entertained by a live performance on our campus, featuring Bill Chrastil, (sponsored by the ALA), Members always love to attend our musical activities!



Neighborhood Parties Feature Food & Fun!



Activity Staff baked apple pies in the Neighborhoods to spread a delicious aroma throughout the area and served with ice cream. (sponsored by the ALA) They also made home-made chicken noodle soup (sponsored by the Elks) to serve in their Neighborhoods, to the delight of all of everyone!



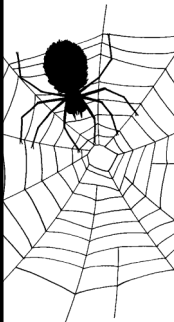
Another popular Neighborhood event is the "Horse Race" DVD game. Members select their favorite horse in each race, and then cheer them on to victory. If their horse wins, they win a prize coupon sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary. Things can get pretty loud amidst the cheering (& groaning if their horse loses!).



Halloween Spooktacular Fun Times!



Our “Boos & Brews” event featured Halloween classic T.V. episodes on the big screen while eating Halloween treats and sipping special beverages, playing a Halloween Bingo, and cheering on Activity staff trying to win coupons for their designated teams!



Having Howling Good Times!

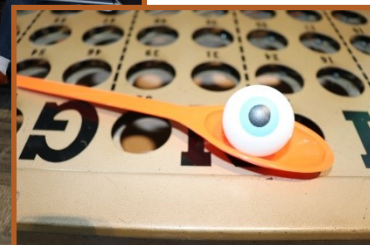


Members won prizes at the Halloween “Boos & Brews” Party through various games and contests. Activity staff competed in a “Black Cat Toss” and a “Spoon Eye-ball Race” to win prizes for their sections.

Thanks to the American Legion Auxiliary for sponsoring the party and prizes!



Note: No actual kittens were harmed in this game!



Members enjoyed decorating pumpkins provided by a generous donor both in the Crafts Department as well as at various activities in the Neighborhoods. Everyone had fun showing their creativity!



CNVH Member Council Honors:

Harold Ziegenbein

Member of the Month



CNVH Member Council Honors:

Tom Vieth

Employee of the Month



Mail To:



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