

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

December 2021

Wrapping Up The Year & Reflecting On Our Gratefulness -Nancy Klimek, Activity Manager

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It is time to “*wrap up*” 2021, and what a year it has been! We celebrated the arrival of the **COVID vaccines** at the beginning of the year, and had high hopes that we could put this Pandemic in our rear view mirror for the remainder of 2021.

Although we *haven't returned completely to “normal”* due to ongoing precautions, we have definitely been able to *move forward* in many aspects. In April we were able to transition from the “window visits” that were in place for over a year, to “*in-room, in-person visits*” which was a major milestone and resulted in many *joyous reunions!*

We also transitioned from only having “Neighborhood” activities, to having *larger group activities* in Freedom Hall and other areas (as long as we maintained social distancing and wore masks). Members were no longer restricted to campus and were allowed to go *independently off campus* via public transportation or their own personal vehicle, to pursue their leisure interests such as visiting family, going shopping, going out to eat, or other types of events. In July, we were able to start allowing a select number of *volunteers and organizational volunteers return* to assist with activities and other tasks, and everyone was thrilled to welcome them back!

Most recently, we received the *booster vaccines*, which will hopefully also help us *transition further towards the “normal” routines* we once enjoyed prior to this global pandemic. We realize that it is hard to be patient, but *everyone's patience has paid off* so far this year, and we want to continue to keep everyone safe and healthy through the holiday season.

Speaking of the *holidays*, let's all reflect on a few of the “*gifts*” we can be grateful for *this year*:

- *Spending “in person” time with loved ones*—Whether family and friends come to visit, or members go off campus to attend family gatherings, the best gift is that this year we can all actually physically be together! Last year's holiday was so difficult when we couldn't get together with loved ones, so we can really celebrate that we get to connect in person in December 2021!
- *Attending worship services in the Chapel*—It will be so wonderful for all who are celebrating the birth of Jesus, to be able to do so in the beautiful sanctuary of our All Faiths Chapel throughout the month of December!
- *Volunteers making spirits bright*—The generosity of volunteers and volunteer organizations shine bright, especially during the holidays. A variety of groups are providing Christmas trees and decorations for each of the Neighborhood Homes and commons areas, to make things festive. Special holiday treats, activities, cards, gifts, and donations will be distributed throughout the month. We are so blessed by everyone's kindness and caring!
- *Friendships*—The friendships we all share at the Central Nebraska Veterans' Home—*Members, Teammates, Family, Volunteers*—What a *magical gift* it is to have so many wonderful friends in our lives!

Soon it will be time to “*unwrap*” the new year, and all of the promise it brings!



GOVERNOR
PETE RICKETTS

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS DIRECTOR
JOHN HILGERT

CENTRAL NE VETERANS' HOME INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR
WALTER GIBSON

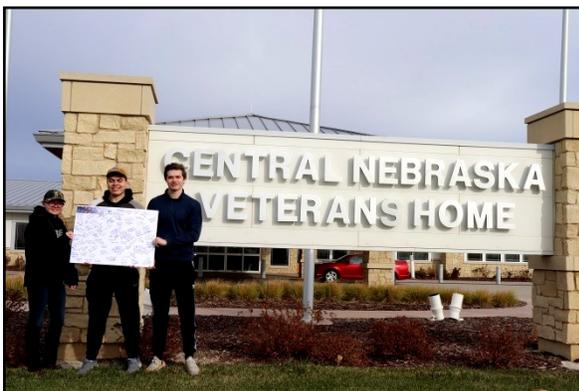
Administration Notes



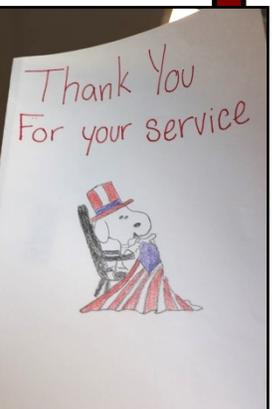
Thank you for choosing
to be a part of the
CNVH family.

We wish all of our members,
families, staff, and volunteers
a very happy and healthy
holiday season!

CELEBRATING *Generosity*



Here are a couple highlights of thoughtfulness expressed by our surrounding communities. University of Nebraska at Kearney Speech students shared their thank you poster and local students showered our campus with beautiful cards and artwork in the month of November!



Member of the Month: Marian Kotas

Marion Kotas has been selected “Member of the Month” by the Member Council. Marion was born in Davenport, Nebraska in her Grandmother’s home with a doctor attending. She is the oldest of four siblings. Marion attended school in Davenport and Wesleyan College, and became a teacher. She loved teaching, and one of her 6th grade class of students invited her to their 50th class reunion last year, but the Pandemic arrived so they weren’t able to get together.



Marion married Del Kotas and travelled with him while he was in the military to Augusta, Georgia and then to Laughten, Oklahoma. They returned to Kearney where they have lived for 55 years. Marion worked beside her husband in all of his ventures, from farming to operating motels.

Marion enjoys pursuing a variety of leisure interests. In the past, she did volunteer work at the homeless shelter and at her Lutheran church. She served as a Sunday School teacher, played the organ, and participated in Bible Study. She was also active in PEO, Dance Club, Country Club, and enjoyed playing golf and ping pong. (she won in the women’s division of a ping pong tournament in Kearney!) . Marion loves to socialize, playing cards and board games, attending family and friend gatherings, She also does puzzles, word searches, listening to music, and studying her Bible.

When asked what she likes about living at the Central Nebraska Veterans’ Home, Marion had quite a list! She stated, “I love the people, the activities, the food, my room, and the fact that I have my husband right down the hall so I can visit him regularly and know that he is getting the medical care he needs. My family picks me up whenever we have a family get-together. It can’t get any better than this!” Congratulations, Marian, on being selected “Member of the Month”!



In Memoriam

ROBERT SCHMITZ

JIM FERGUSON

JACK MERRILL



Honoring Our Veterans With Parties, Prizes, & Recognition



Members were honored for their service and sacrifices during November. The American Legion & Auxiliary sponsored Veterans Dollar Day parties and presented each with a monetary gift. Beautiful patriotic quilts created by the Nebraska Quilt Guild were awarded through a special drawing. Members received a Certificate of Recognition from the Nebraska Dept. of Veterans' Affairs, as well as many wonderful cards and artwork from children and individuals thanking them for their service.



Heartwarming Activities



Members learned the heartwarming story about the origins of the popular game, “Candyland” when they attended the Candyland Bingo sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary, with candy prizes provided by The Buckle employee outreach team. They learned that a teacher in the 40’s fell ill with polio and spent time on a children’s polio ward, during which time she created this beloved game to help cheer them up. Members listened to Sammy Davis Jr. sing his famous, “The Candy Man” song on the big screen, won coupons and candy during bingo, and everyone received a treat bag of candy.



Nothing more heartwarming (and tummy warming) than a delicious bowl of homemade chicken noodle soup made and served by the Activity staff (via donations from the Kearney Elks).



Kearney Scouts Perform Inaugural Flag Raising At The Central Nebraska Veterans Memorial



Local Boy Scouts provided the manpower for the inaugural flag raising at the Central Nebraska Veterans Memorial on the evening prior to the dedication ceremony. A wonderful learning experience for them, and an indescribably beautiful sight to witness.



The flags will fly 24/7, in honor and tribute to all who have served and are serving in the U.S. Armed Forces.



Central Nebraska Veterans Memorial Dedication Ceremony Attended By Hundreds On Veterans Day



Thanks to the Central Nebraska Veterans Memorial Committee and all who participated in making this such a meaningful dedication ceremony!

CNVH Member Council Honors:

Marian Kotas

Member of the Month



CNVH Member Council Honors:

Sheila Grosvenor

Employee of the Month



Mail To:



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