

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



# Liberty Express

April 2022

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

## Spring Is A Time For New Beginnings!

-Nancy Klimek, Activity Manager

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They say that *“April showers bring May flowers”*, and we are certainly hoping that this will be true, since we have experienced a major drought this year, and everything is so dry! However, Members wishing to begin working on their gardening, should contact Activity staff, as we have some additional garden planters donated by the American Legion Auxiliary to fill with flowers and vegetables! Seeds can be started in the mini greenhouses this month and the plants transplanted once the weather warms up in May.

April is also the month that *“National Volunteer Week”* is celebrated, which falls this year on **April 17th—23rd**. We have such dedicated volunteers and volunteer organizations that assist us with activities, donations, projects, and many other tasks throughout the year. We are so grateful for their generosity and for sharing their time and talent with us! When you see a volunteer in the facility this month, be sure to stop and **thank them for the difference they make** at our facility!



Speaking of talent, we will be having a *“Variety Show”* in **Freedom Hall on Wednesday, April 27th at 2 p.m.** to showcase those who'd like to share that talent with us. For those of us without a special talent, we also try to incorporate some additional fun “acts”, so contact Activity staff to learn more about this event. If you know someone that might share their time/talent that day, let us know!



I wanted to share with our readers that it is with a mixture of joy and sadness that I have decided that after *reaching my milestone of working as the Activity Manager for the Veterans' Home for 40 years*,

that it is time for a new beginning in my life. As a result, I've submitted my official notice of retirement with my last day being **Monday, May 2nd**.

I've always loved my job and have great passion for our mission of providing quality of life for our nation's heroes, but it is time to *“pass the torch”* to the next generation to continue onward. It has been a privilege to work with my teammates, volunteers, and other advocates of the Veterans' Home. It has also been an honor to have the opportunity to become part of the extended family of our members, to hear their life stories and be the recipient of their wisdom.

My own life story has been so entwined with my work at the Veterans' Home, that it is hard to envision the beginning of this next chapter. Suffice to say that it will involve more opportunities to spend quality time with my family and friends, as well as continue to volunteer for some of my favorite organizations in a greater capacity.

And don't be surprised if I show up once in a while to visit, or to be a sponsor of one of the activities at the Veterans' Home!

***You will always be  
in my heart!***



GOVERNOR  
**PETE RICKETTS**

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS DIRECTOR  
**JOHN HILGERT**

CENTRAL NE VETERANS' HOME INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR  
**MATT BAUMAN**

# Administration Notes

## NDVA Teammates Recognized

At the most recent “All Teammates” meeting, Interim Administrator Matt Bauman (right), covered several items about facility operations and also answered questions from teammates.



Nebraska Department of Veterans’ Affairs (NDVA) Director John Hilgert (left) also spoke to teammates, recognizing their hard work and dedication demonstrated through the pandemic.

NDVA teammates were asked “What would we have done without?”

Director Hilgert presented teammates with a token of appreciation, featuring the NDVA Seal and the words “Heroes Helping Heroes” in recognition of their hard work and dedication throughout the pandemic.



*Above: NDVA Director John Hilgert makes a presentation to Central Nebraska Veterans' Home Cook Omni Smith.*

## *Member of the Month: Dale Hild*

Dale Hild has been selected “Member of the Month” by the C.N.V.H. Member Council.



Dale was born on a farm by Plattsmouth, Nebraska, where he was raised and attended both a country school and then Plattsmouth High School. He served in the United States Army from 1957-59, spending his last year in Germany.

Dale worked primarily in meat packing plants in Lexington, Darr, and Schuyler for a living. He and his wife raised two sons and one daughter. He has ten grandchildren, and 10 great-grandchildren.

Dale was involved in 4-H when he was a youngster, and as an adult he joined the AMVETS organization. His favorite cars are Fords. His favorite hobbies included going camping when he was younger, and now he likes working the woodshop on a variety of projects. He also enjoys doing jigsaw puzzles, watching television, doing word searches, and playing bingo.

When asked what he likes best about living at the Central Nebraska Veterans’ Home, he replied, “The staff that work here.” Congratulations, Dale, on being selected “Member of the Month”!



## *Vietnam War Veterans’ Day Observed With Special Display*



A Proclamation by Governor Ricketts in honor of “Vietnam War Veterans’ Day” which is observed on March 29th, was part of a special display in the Juliet Building.

The display included artwork, books, and an audio visual program that played on the T.V.

We salute our Vietnam Veterans for their service and sacrifice!





# Mardi Gras Party Sponsored by the ALA



*Members enjoyed celebrating Mardi Gras with jazz music, a video about the Mardi Gras parade, bingo with special prizes, and delicious Beignets.*



## Nebraska Veterans' Home System's 135th Anniversary Observed



*Members attended a special presentation about the history of the Nebraska Veterans' Home, with Nancy Klimek, Activity Manager (and Veterans Home "Historian") serving as the keynote speaker.*

*Photo displays depicting the various stages of the history of the Nebraska Veterans' Home's history can be found throughout the hallways and commons areas of the Central Nebraska Veterans' Home for everyone's viewing.*

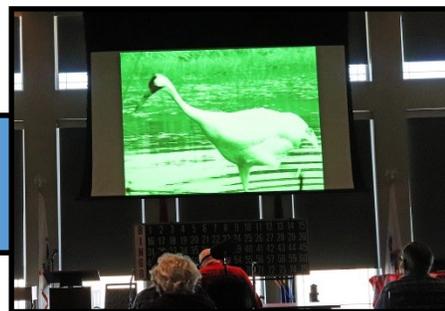


## *Re-Creation Concert Live-Streamed From Pennsylvania!*



*Members enjoyed the high energy performance by the talented vocalists in the musical group Re-Creation that is based out of Pennsylvania. Due to ongoing COVID restrictions, they are unable to perform inside our facility, but appeared “live” on our big screen and gave several “shout outs” to us as they sang, danced, and paid tribute to our veterans.*

## *Sandhill Crane Program and Scavenger Hunt!*



*The amazing Sandhill Crane Migration occurs each spring through Central Nebraska, and members learned some fun facts about it through a video on the big screen and from Nancy Klimek, Activity Manager, who also serves as a volunteer tour guide for the Nebraska Crane Trust. Members had the chance to win prizes by finding the cranes hidden in the facility in the Crane Scavenger Hunt afterwards, and many crane bus tours as well in March.*

# St. Patrick's Happy Hour & Rainbow Ice Cream



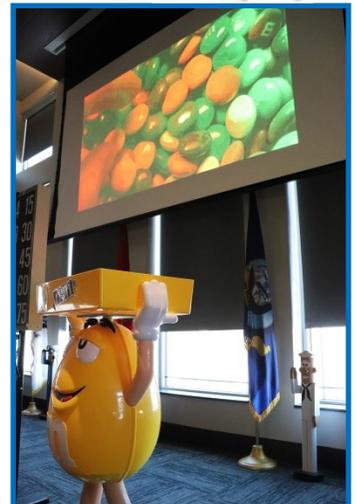
*Members enjoyed adult beverages and some delicious rainbow sherbet ice cream, while watching the Riverdancers on the big screen at the St. Patrick's Day party. Some of those of Irish descent posed with our leprechaun, and others had the "luck of the Irish" when they won special door prizes.*



## M & M Bingo Party A Popular Event!



*M & M's were invented in March, so we threw a party, complete with M&M candy and cookies!*



# Recreational Opportunities Abound At C.N.V.H.

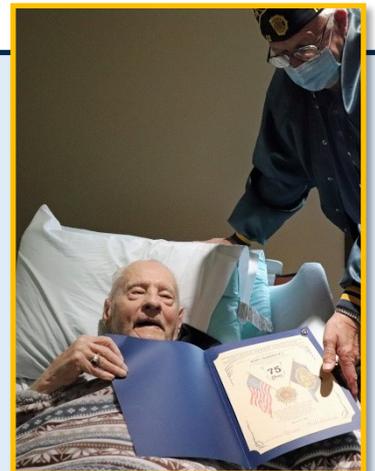


Members enjoyed taking golf cart rides, baking cupcakes, playing cards and games, and many other recreational activities this month.

Special thanks to Doyle Loeffler and Alan Modlin for assembling the 15 garden containers donated by the ALA!!



The Kearney American Legion honored members Duane Hasty and John Morrissey each with a certificate in honor of their 75 years membership in the organization.



**CNVH Member Council Honors:**

**Dale Hild**

**Member of the Month**



**CNVH Member Council Honors:**

**Josh Cleveland**

**Employee of the Month**



Mail To:

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