

# Liberty Express

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

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



## The "Good Old Summertime" Will Look Different This Year!

-Nancy Klimek, Activity Manager

Page 2—  
Administrator's  
Notes

Page 3  
Memorial Day Dis-  
play & Memorial  
Page

Page 4  
Wild West Fun

Page 5  
John Wayne Salute

Page 6  
Virtual Visitations  
Continue

Page 7  
Creating Fun  
Moments



Summer 2020 won't be like any other summer season we've ever experienced, due to the **ongoing precautionary measures** being taken as a result of the **COVID 19 Pandemic**. Many of the traditional summer activities in Nebraska - camping, swimming at the local pool, baseball and softball games, attending fairs and concerts—have been cancelled or postponed. Even as the restrictions are lifted on some activities, crowd size is still being limited and social distancing continues to be requested. These **restrictions will have an impact** on the types of activities and outings we can offer to members this summer, so those having questions or special requests should contact Activity staff for updates and further information.

We can still enjoy the summer through a variety of outdoor activities available at the facility. Members at the Central Nebraska Veterans' Home are blessed with a beautiful campus that includes **outdoor courtyards for every Home**. Members can go outside to enjoy the **fresh air and sunshine**, as long as they practice social distancing and wear their masks. Those that enjoy **gardening** have been provided plants and flowers in the garden planters and tubs located in these courtyards, so that they can water and nurture their plants. Some of these planters are "community" gardens, for all to assist and enjoy.



Activity staff will also utilize the courtyards for **grilling burgers** to serve at certain meals for individual Neighborhoods.



Another popular location on campus is the **beautiful lake**, which is fully stocked with a variety of fish such as rainbow trout, largemouth bass, bluegill, and catfish. Members that are able to be safely outdoors independently can go **fishing** at their leisure. Fishing equipment is available for check out from the Activity staff for those wishing to have them on a short or long term basis. Members that require assistance fishing will be taken to the lake by staff, and also provided the equipment and bait as needed. Again, we ask that everyone wear a mask and practice social distancing when at the lake. An "X" has been placed on the piers to indicate the number that can be safely gathered at that location.



Activity staff can also provide **walks or strolls outdoors**, as well as **golf cart rides** for those who can safely transfer in/out of the golf cart.

"**Wacky Wednesdays**" have returned on the June calendar to provide additional opportunities for Activity staff to take members outdoors for some of these aforementioned activities. If you would like to participate in outdoor activities, or have some other special request, contact your Activity Specialist for more details.



We hope to eventually begin to implement **small group activities** again (bingo, concerts, socials, etc.), as restrictions are eased.

We can't wait for "The Good Old Summertime" to resume!



GOVERNOR  
PETE RICKETTS

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS DIRECTOR  
JOHN HILGERT

CENTRAL NE VETERANS' HOME ADMINISTRATOR  
ALEX WILLFORD

# Administration Notes

*Alex Willford, Administrator*

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## CONTINUED FOCUS ON MEMBER CARE

Due to the ongoing global pandemic, we had to develop alternate means of delivering some of our services. One of those was “curbside” visits from the Finance department (shown at right). A masked representative from Member Finance visits each neighborhood to visit one-on-one with members regarding financial business, implementing infection control precautions between each individual visit.



We voluntarily offered to the Nebraska Infection Control Assessment and Promotion Program, to be a site visit for the University of Nebraska Medical Center’s Biocontainment Unit and National Emerging Special Pathogen Training and Education Center (NETEC) to review of our infection control processes, records, precautions, equipment and more in addressing COVID-19. Their visit resulted in positive reinforcement of steps we have taken to protect our members and good discussion. We were pleased to have the opportunity to benefit from their experience and expertise.

In the last week of May, due to having gone no positive cases of COVID-19 for members and staff, we lifted the precaution of keeping members to their neighborhoods, to allow them to walk about the campus (inside and out) with social distancing. Members continue to sport their masks on their walkabouts and it is wonderful to see them in the hallways and common areas again!

Our members’ ability to walk outside on our grounds is also made possible by us maintaining a closed campus to visitors. The interest in our Virtual Visitation program has grown by leaps and bounds, keeping our equipment very busy, one reservation after another. We have had a lot of positive feedback from members and families about their virtual visits.

We appreciate the ongoing understanding and compliance of our members, families, and staff as we monitor the ever-changing situation closely and lift or re-implement precautions as deemed necessary for everyone’s safety.

## *Memorial Day Display*

Although we couldn't have a "traditional" Memorial Day Ceremony due to the Pandemic, we did create a beautiful display throughout the week in the Juliet Hearth Room with flags from each branch of service and the "White Table" exhibit. The Activity staff also took a "mobile" White Table exhibit to every Member's room to describe what each item on the table represented.

The Armed Forces Medley was played in each Home on Memorial Day to recognize our veterans who served. Members were also treated to Root Beer and a Patriotic Bingo in their rooms, sponsored by donations from the V.F.W. Post.



## *In Memoriam*

**Sam Nolte**  
**Ed Hummel**





# Wild West A Popular Theme For Room Bound Programming in May



*Activity staff kicked off the month of May with a “Wild West Poker Game” sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary. Members received a monetary coupon if they beat the dealer’s hand.*



*The song, “My Rifle, My Pony, and Me” was performed in the Rio Bravo movie, so staff utilized a DVD that the AL Auxiliary purchased from local musician Rascal Martinez, to serenade the members with his version of the tune.*



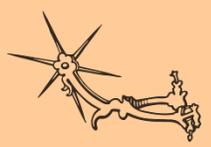
*Later in the month, we celebrated John Wayne’s birthday, and members got to have their photo taken with “The Duke” himself! Social distancing maintained while posing!*



# *John Wayne—Still Beloved By Many!*



*Members enjoyed watching a hilarious clip on our donated DVD players, from the “I Love Lucy Show”, in which John Wayne was one of the guest actors.*



*Everyone had fun with John Wayne (he was even given a mask when he visited one of the Neighborhoods to wear in a show of solidarity against the Pandemic!).*



## *Virtual Visitations Keeping Members Connected!*



*Members marvel at the new technology in the world that allows them to stay connected with family and friends, especially while visitors are restricted from coming in person as a precautionary measure due to the Pandemic.*



*Members have also been able to view special celebrations and ceremonies virtually.*

*One of our veterans' grandson was graduating from the Marines in California so he was able to watch it virtually—So many special moments!*

# *Creating Fun Moments Amidst The Pandemic*



*Celebrating Cinco de Mayo with music, mocktails, and churros (provided through a donation from the Kearney D.A.V.)!*



*Popcorn Aroma Therapy!!*



*Members are having fun with outdoor leisure activities. Fishing in our lake has yielded excellent catches of rainbow trout, catfish and largemouth bass.*

*Those with a “Green Thumb” are getting their gardens planted! Can’t wait until we can make bacon, lettuce and tomato sandwiches!*





*Flag Day is celebrated on June 14. It commemorates the adoption of the flag of the United States on June 14, 1777 by resolution of the Second Continental Congress.*

*In 1916, President Woodrow Wilson established Flag Day as an annual national celebration. However, it wasn't until 1949 that the Congress officially recognized Flag Day by passing the National Flag Day Bill.*

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