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

November 2018

Liberty Express

Grand Island Veterans' Home, 2300 West Capital Ave, Grand Island, Nebraska 68803 (308) 385 6252

Veterans Day: An Opportunity to Show Our Gratitude!

-Nancy Klimek, Activity Manager

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The purpose of ***Veterans Day*** is to honor America's veterans for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good.

November 11th is the official date observed for Veterans Day (originally called Armistice Day), which was selected due to the temporary cessation of hostilities during WWI between the Allied nations and Germany, which went into effect on the ***eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month*** (on November 11, 1918).

At the Grand Island Veterans' Home, we honor our veterans by scheduling a variety of activities and special events. Members will be the recipients of patriotic greeting cards constructed by children and volunteers. Various groups and organizations will sponsor events or come to visit. Banners will be hung in the hallways. All of these gestures are done with the goal of assuring our veterans that the ***sacrifices*** they have made to keep our country free and strong are ***appreciated and respected.***

We hope you will enjoy participating in some of these special events (and be aware that there are often additions to the calendar after the publication of this newsletter, which will be communicated via the electronic bulletin board screens and announcements). We honor those who have served or are serving our country every day, and Veterans Day gives us one more opportunity to ***show our gratitude!***

****Veterans Dollar Day***—Tuesday, November 6th at 2:00 p.m.—The American Legion Auxiliary sponsors this event which will include patriotic parties on each of the living units, and a monetary gift to every member.

****Nebraska Cattleman's Meal—***
Wednesday, November 7th—This organization has donated hamburgers to be grilled and served at the noon meal for your enjoyment.

****Veterans Parade***—Thursday, November 8th at 2 p.m.—This is the 20th anniversary of our annual parade co-sponsored with G.I. Sr. High School and will feature Honor Guards, the student's Respect Walk, the Unity Band and a variety of other entries. Special dignitaries will include the co-founders of the parade, Dr. Kent Mann (retired GISH Principal and Tom Kruger, retired Assistant Principal).

****Veterans Day***—Sunday, November 11th—Members wishing to attend the Veterans Breakfast at the United Veterans Club should contact Activity staff. At our facility we will also be observing the 100th anniversary of the end of WWI at 11 a.m. and will have a Patriotic Bingo at 2 p.m. sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary.

****Patriotic Program***—Thursday, November 15th at 10 a.m. performed by Cedar Hollow 5th grade class—Liberty Café.

GIVH Mission: The Grand Island Veterans' Home, an entity of the Nebraska Department of Veterans' Affairs, is dedicated to making a positive difference in the lives of those served.

The mission of the Grand Island Veterans' Home is to serve the unique needs of each member by providing high quality services and holistic long-term care in a homelike veterans' community.

GOVERNOR
PETE RICKETTS

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFFAIRS DIRECTOR
JOHN HILGERT

GRAND ISLAND VETERANS' HOME ADMINISTRATOR
ALEX WILLFORD

Administration Notes

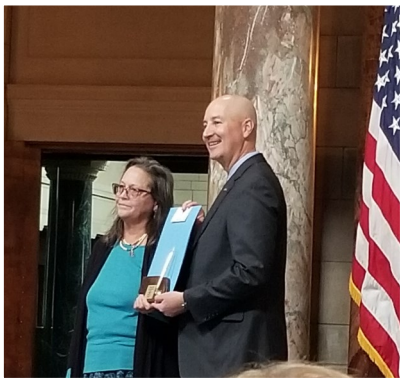
Alex Willford, Administrator

alex.willford@nebraska.gov

EXCELLENCE IN LEADERSHIP HONOREE

Patricia Smith, a Housekeeper at the Grand Island Veterans' Home was recognized at the "Excellence in Leadership Honorees" ceremony held at the Capitol Rotunda in Lincoln on October 24, 2018 (pictured at right).

She was nominated for her dedication to NDVA's mission, serving as an example to fellow employees, and promoting a positive, productive culture, particularly during this challenging time of transition. Patricia has received praise from teammates, veterans' home members, their families and guests for her customer service and attention to detail. She demonstrates patience and communicates kindly and professionally. Please join us in congratulating her on this honor!



Patricia Smith receives her Admiralship in the Nebraska Navy from Governor Pete Ricketts at the Capitol Rotunda in Lincoln.

STATE EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION AWARDS

I am pleased to share that the following employees were recently honored for their years of service to the State of Nebraska and the Grand Island Veterans' Home. They were recognized at the **Governor's Employee Recognition Program** held in Grand Island on October 22, 2018. We appreciate their ongoing dedication and outstanding service to our members. As you see them in the halls, please help congratulate them. We are proud to have them as part of the Grand Island Veterans' Home team!

10 Years
Mike Maginnis
Maggie Randolph

15 Years
Karry Bloomquist

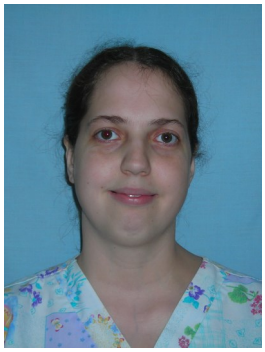
20 Years
Tash Hamm
Linda Lewis
Deb Lohman

30 Years
Joleen Carillo
Linda Marisch

35 Years
Kristi Bowers
Tammy Hansen
Vicky Lierman
Lisa Sedlak

45 Years
Rose Dixson
Rod Halm

Nebraska Department of Veterans' Affairs TEAMMATE OF THE MONTH



Betty Ball
Nursing

Betty was nominated by three co-workers, sharing the following about her:

Betty is a great leader as charge nurse on PM Shift. She brings a sense of teamwork to the shift and always assists the aide with member cares.

In Memory

RICHARD SAAR

U.S. Army
Peace Time Veteran
Member Since: July 2014

BEVERLY HOPKINS

Widow of U.S. Navy
WWII Veteran
Member Since: December 2010

To Care for Him Who Shall Have Borne the Battle—*Abraham Lincoln 1865*

Korean War Combat Veterans Honored

Several of our combat veterans from the Korean War, ***Wayne Sawyer and Walter Kreeger***, were recently honored with a ceremony and presentation of an ***"Ambassador for Peace"*** medal from the grateful nation of the Republic of Korea. The proclamation read as follows:

"It is with great honor and pleasure to express the everlasting gratitude of the Republic of Korea and our people for the service you and your countrymen have performed in restoring and preserving our freedom and democracy. We cherish in our hearts the memory of your boundless sacrifices in helping us reestablish our Free Nation. In grateful recognition of your dedicated contributions, it is our privilege to present you an ***"Ambassador for Peace"*** *medal with every good wish of people of the Republic of Korea. Let each of us reaffirm our mutual respect and friendship that they may endure for generations to come."*

Member of the Month
Stan Holsten

Stan Holsten is our "Member of the Month". He served in the U.S. Navy during WWII and was stationed in the Pacific Theatre. He and his wife, Helen have four children, and he also has three stepchildren. Stan had a dry wall business in Denver, North Platte and Omaha. Stan likes dogs and had a beloved poodle named Josh.

Stan's favorite leisure interests include football, especially the Huskers, and he was also a huge horse race fan and enjoyed spending time at Fonner Park during the race season. He also enjoys fishing and time with family.

Volunteer Spotlight November 2018: United Veterans Honor Guard

The United Veterans Honor Guard, under the direction of Commander Richard Simpson, volunteers many hours of service both at the Grand Island Veterans' Home, as well as in the community. They participate in our annual Veterans Parade, Memorial Services, and other special ceremonies and events at our facility. In addition, they provide a 21 Gun Salute and Taps at the graveside services for our veterans that are buried in our Nebraska Veterans' Memorial Cemetery.

These dedicated volunteers endure all of the elements of Nebraska's weather—heat, rain, snow, and wind—in order to assure our veterans receive the respect and dignity they so deserve.

We appreciate the volunteers who serve in the United Veterans Honor Guard!

Members are encouraged to work off that delicious Thanksgiving meal by participating in a **"Turkey Trot" Scavenger Hunt**! Fun facts about Thanksgiving and turkeys will be posted around the GIVH Campus over the Thanksgiving holiday for Members to find. The facts you find can then be turned in to the container in the WWII Lobby or to Activity staff on Monday, November 26h for a chance to win prizes!

Full details of the locations will be posted near the entrance to the Liberty Café, so be sure to burn off a few extra holiday calories, and learn some fun facts in the process, by participating in this event!

PLEASE REMEMBER TO MAKE

RESERVATIONS FOR THANKSGIVING DINNER

Members are encouraged to invite their families for Thanksgiving Dinner on Thursday, November 22, 2018.

Families wishing to join their member for a Thanksgiving Meal on Thursday November 22nd should notify Dietary at ext. 486 by Monday, November 19th. We are unable to accept meal reservations or sell meal tickets for more than (4) guests per member. *Guest tickets are $2.50 each*.

This is the most fair way to allow all members the opportunity to have some guests for holiday meals. Those members making reservations need to plan to eat at 12:00 noon, regardless of their regular meal times. No salad bar available on this holiday meal.

Holidays are always more special for members when they can share them with family and friends. Your visits to the Veterans' Home are the very best gifts you can give your loved ones.

YOUR COOPERATION IN MAKING

ADVANCED RESERVATIONS ARE

VERY MUCH APPRECIATED, THANK YOU!

Good Music & Good Fun!

Willie Skala's Polka Show—Sponsored by the VFW Auxiliary!

An Oktoberfest celebration that included delicious kolaches!

Merrymakers Concert Featuring "The Gooch"

Gooch demonstrated how musicians use different tools with a trumpet to get different sounds, and wowed the audience with his vocals. These monthly concerts are sponsored by the American Legion and Auxiliary.

Members showed their support of the Nebraska Cornhuskers by participating in a video production to send to Husker Vision in hopes of being featured on the stadium screen at the Military Salute game in November.

Tom Prasch shows off his Kearney Loper shirt and antler gesture in support of the UNK Volleyball game we attended.

Supporting Our Teams & Community!

Members sponsored a fundraiser to raise money to purchase books for the Heartland United Way's "Little Free Library" program. They were able to purchase 16 books for age ranges of 3rd –8th grade children, as well as gather another additional gently used books to donate to this special program.

The boxes of books were presented to the Heartland United Way office by Tom Prasch, Pat Abbott, and Ellamae Moseley who also part of the group that assisted with the fund-raising effort.

NOVEMBER 2018

Facility Activity Calendar

Computer Lab Available 24/7
ON VARIOUS

FOXHOLE OPEN
Monday—Sunday

LIBRARY HOURS

MEMBER BROWSING MONDAY-FRIDAY
8:00AM-3:00 p.m. & Weekends 8—2 p.m.

CHECK OUT TIMES
MONDAY—THURSDAY
1:00PM-3:00PM

FRIDAY
8:00AM-10:00AM

We invite you to come enjoy what your Library has to offer!

Craft Ceramics Shop Open
Monday Wednesday Friday
&
Open Every 3rd Saturday of the Month

Woodshop Open
Monday-Friday

Additional Activities available on each unit: Please view posted unit calendars.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	Journey to Wellness—Monarch Butterfly Migration: Pismo Beach, Monarch Butterfly Grove, California			1 9:30 Welcome Bingo & Tea- Liberty Café JOE 2:30 Member Council-Liberty Café NK	2 9:15—NWHS Students—O.T & Pershing Rec Room—JB 10:30 Mass –Chapel –JM 2:30 Lutheran Church Services Chapel – JM	3 8:00—2:00 Library Open 9:00—1:00 Fox Hole 10:00 Tailgate Bingo—JM TBA Huskers vs Ohio State
4 **Daylight Savings Time Ends** 8:00—2:00 Library Open 9:00—1:00 Fox Hole 9:30 All Faiths Church Chapel	5 9:15 Casino Fun w/NWHIS 10:00 Bible Study– Bill Noer- WWII 2nd	6 **Election Day** 10:00 Bible Study—Phillips 2nd 2:00 Veterans Dollar Day Parties—All Units—ALA	7 Noon Meal—Veterans Salute Burger Meal—NE Cattleman—Liberty Café & All Units	8 9—Shopping 1:30—Patriotic Video in Liberty Café 2:00 GIVH/GISH Veterans Parade—Front Drive ***Jose Trejo***	9 10:30 Mass– Chapel—TF 2:30 Lutheran Services—Chapel—TF	10 8:00—2:00 Library Open 9:00—1:00 Fox Hole TBA—Huskers vs Illinois NK/LS
11 TBA—Veterans Breakfast at United Vets Club 8:00—2:00 Library Open 9:00—1:00 Fox Hole 9:30 All Faiths Church Chapel 11:00 WWI 100th Anniversary 2:00 Veterans Day Bingo—ALA	12 ***HOLIDAY***	13 10:00 Bible Study—Phillips 2nd 10 Merrymakers Concert—Rich Patton—AL & Auxiliary 7:00—Bingo—DAV/MOPH & Auxiliaries—JB ***Don O'Connell***	14 TBA Wacky Wednesday	15 10 Patriotic Concert—Cedar Hollow Students—Liberty Cafe TBA—Moving Buddy Meet & Greet—All	16 9:15—NWHS Students—Pershing & O.T. –JB 10:30 Mass –Chapel – LS 10:45—Food Committee Meeting—Liberty Cafe 2:30 Lutheran Church Services Chapel – LS	17 8:00-noon & 1:00-4:00 O.T. Craft Dept. Open 8:00—2:00 Library Open 9:00—1:00 Fox Hole 10:00—Tailgate Bingo—TF TBA Huskers vs Michigan St.
18 8:00—2:00 Library Open 9:00—1:00 Fox Hole 9:30 All Faiths Church Chapel 9:00—1:00 Fox Hole	19 9:15 Thanksgiving Bingo w/ NWHS 10:00 Bible Study– Bill Noer- WWII 2nd	20 10:00 Bible Study– Phillips 2nd 1:30/2:00 Paint Nails & Bingo—GI VFW Auxiliary	21 10:30 Mass—Chapel—KH 2:30—Lutheran Services—KH	**22 Thanksgiving Day Holiday** Turkey Trot Scavenger Hunt—All Areas—Look for Posters!	23 **Holiday** 11:00—Huskers vs Iowa—Fox Turkey Trot Scavenger Hunt—All Areas—Look for Posters! ***Carl Hagan***	24 8:00—2:00 Library Open 9:00—1:00 Fox Hole Turkey Trot Scavenger Hunt—All Areas—Look for Posters!
25 8:00—2:00 Library Open 9:00—1:00 Fox Hole 9:30 All Faiths Church Chapel 2:00—Bingo—KH Turkey Trot Scavenger Hunt—All Areas—Look for Posters!	26 9:15 Christmas Decorating w/ NWHS 10:00 Bible Study– Bill Noer- WWII 2nd	27 10:00 Bible Study– Phillips 2nd TBA—Moving Buddy Meet & Greet—All ***Cora Linn Foglesong***	28 TBA Wacky Wednesday	29 2:00—Bingo—ALA		

MEMBER CENSUS

DIVISION OF VETERANS' HOMES MEMBER CENSUS As of October 19, 2018		GRAND ISLAND VETERANS' HOME Grand Island	WESTERN NEBRASKA VETERANS' HOME Scottsbluff	EASTERN NEBRASKA VETERANS' HOME Bellevue	NORFOLK VETERANS' HOME Norfolk	TOTAL
WORLD WAR II	VETERAN	12	20	27	25	**84**
	SPOUSE	0	6	4	6	**16**
	WIDOW	7	4	5	12	**28**
KOREA	VETERAN	17	26	19	38	**100**
	SPOUSE	1	5	0	7	**13**
	WIDOW	5	3	8	5	**21**
VIETNAM	VETERAN	40	15	27	29	**111**
	SPOUSE	0	0	1	0	**1**
	WIDOW	1	0	1	1	**3**
WW II & KOREA	VETERAN	0	0	0	0	**0**
	SPOUSE	0	0	0	0	**0**
	WIDOW	0	0	0	0	**0**
KOREA & VIETNAM	VETERAN	1	0	1	1	**3**
	SPOUSE	0	0	0	0	**0**
	WIDOW	0	0	0	0	**0**
WW II, KOREA & VIETNAM	VETERAN	0	0	0	0	**0**
	SPOUSE	0	0	0	0	**0**
	WIDOW	0	0	0	0	**0**
VIETNAM & LEBANON	VETERAN	0	0	1	0	**1**
	SPOUSE	0	0	0	0	**0**
	WIDOW	0	0	0	0	**0**
VIETNAM, LEBANON & GRENADA	VETERAN	0	0	1	0	**1**
	SPOUSE	0	0	0	0	**0**
	WIDOW	0	0	0	0	**0**
VIETNAM, LEBANON, GRENADA, PANAMA & PERSIAN GULF	VETERAN	0	0	0	0	**0**
	SPOUSE	0	0	0	0	**0**
	WIDOW	0	0	0	0	**0**
LEBANON & GRENADA	VETERAN	0	0	2	1	**3**
	SPOUSE	0	0	0	0	**0**
	WIDOW	0	0	0	0	**0**
LEBANON, GRENADA, PANAMA & PERSIAN GULF	VETERAN	1	0	0	0	**1**
	SPOUSE	0	0	0	0	**0**
	WIDOW	0	0	0	0	**0**
LEBANON, GRENADA, PANAMA, PERSIAN GULF & GLOBAL WAR	VETERAN	0	0	1	0	**1**
	SPOUSE	0	0	0	0	**0**
	WIDOW	0	0	0	0	**0**
PERSIAN GULF	VETERAN	0	0	0	1	**1**
	SPOUSE	0	0	0	0	**0**
	WIDOW	0	0	0	0	**0**
PEACE TIME	VETERAN	9	16	11	20	**56**
	SPOUSE	0	4	0	3	**7**
	WIDOW	1	1	0	0	**2**
GOLD STAR PARENT						**0**
TOTAL CENSUS		**95**	**100**	**109**	**149**	**453**
LADY VETS (incl. above)		**4**	**2**	**4**	**1**	**11**

GIVH Member Council Honors:

Stan Holsten

Member of the Month

GIVH Member Council Honors:

Cinda Ritchie

Employee of the Month

Mail To:

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