

# the link

JUNE/JULY  
2014



VA Nebraska-Western Iowa Health Care System



**10** MUSIC  
FESTIVAL  
PARTNERS TO SUPPORT  
VETERANS: FAMILIES



**Veterans have served this great country for generations, selflessly sacrificing to protect our liberty and freedom. They have fought in many battles from the Revolutionary War through today's wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.**

When they come home from battle, our nation promised to care for their mental and physical injuries sustained as a result of military service at our VA medical facilities.

Our dedicated employees of the VA Nebraska-Western Iowa Health Care System, many of whom are Veterans themselves, provide more than 55,000 Veterans with the excellent care they have earned and deserve. We provide care through a tertiary medical center in Omaha, a large community-based outpatient clinic (CBOC) and community living center in Grand Island, seven additional CBOCs in Bellevue, O'Neill, Norfolk, North Platte, Holdrege, and Lincoln, Neb., and Shenandoah, Iowa.

We recently received testimonials from Veterans who use our services praising the selfless work all of our NWI employees are doing. From multiple positive editorials, to Veterans stopping by and leaving a note, NWI has many people stepping forward to acknowledge the service of all our employees. Examples include "I want you to know I have received 5-star treatment at this VA", and "The people who staff this hospital are first rate."

At VA NWIHCS, we are committed to delivering high-quality care to our Veterans and to keep the promise that President Lincoln made to our nation more than 200 years ago, which is embedded on the VA headquarters in Washington, D.C.: "to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan."

*Marci Mylan*

**DIRECTOR AND PUBLISHER**  
Marci Mylan, Ph.D., MHA

**PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER**  
Will Ackerman

**THE LINK EDITORIAL STAFF**  
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Photographer | Bruce Thiel  
Designer | Becky Brown

FACT: THE NATIONAL GOLDEN AGE GAMES HAS GROWN FROM 115 PARTICIPANTS ITS FIRST YEAR TO MORE THAN 700 IN 2010, MAKING IT THE LARGEST OF VA'S SIX REHABILITATION SPECIAL EVENTS. (SOURCE: WWW.VA.GOV)

Cover: Lyman Garrison, Senior Vice Commander; Shawn Donald, Sgt. At Arms; Shon Olson, Commandant; and David Wooten, Chaplain, present the Colors for the opening ceremony of the Veterans Freedom Music Festival at the Lincoln VA campus June 14. They are with the Lincoln Marine Corps League Detachment 370. (Photo by Bruce Thiel)



# the link

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Shenandoah CBOC



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Appreciation Events for Women Veterans



A Time to Heal For Veterans



VA Views | Patient-Aligned Care Team Open House



Veterans Freedom Music Festival



2015 National Veterans Golden Age Games



CLC Resident Council: Getting Input to What Veterans Want



Editor's note: Due to minimal staffing, The Link will be published bimonthly until further notice. The next edition will be published Sept. 1.

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### CONTACT US

Have a story idea? Call the VA NWHCS Public Affairs Office; Will Ackerman at 402-995-4719, Anna Morelock at 402-995-5547, or email vhanwipublicaffairs@va.gov.

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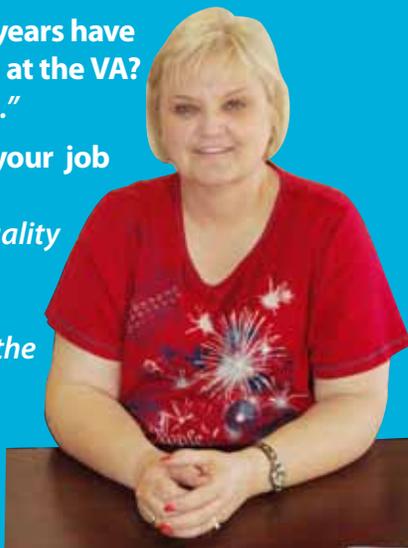


## MEET

**jane cote, rn**  
Community Nursing Home Nurse Coordinator  
GRAND ISLAND CBOC

**How many years have you worked at the VA?**  
"Seven years."

**What does your job entail?**  
"Ensuring quality services are provided to Veterans in the community nursing facilities that we work with."



**What is the favorite part of your job?**  
"Getting to meet Veterans and their families."

**What do you do when you are not at work?**  
"I love to travel. I hope to go up in a hot air balloon soon." 📍

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# LEADING AT ALL LEVELS

Will Ackerman | Public Affairs



Photo by Will Ackerman

Top row mentors from left: Rick Missell, Deb Carlson, Janelle Wormuth  
Not pictured – Todd Fleischer

Bottom row participants from left: Regina Wessel, Kayla Zoucha, James Schiltz, and Chad Bartholomew

Four VA NWIHCS employees graduated from the Leading at All Levels (LAL) program May 16. The program supports the development of high-potential employees seeking to develop their own leadership abilities, said Nancy Brock, Employee Education Supervisor.

The program is part of a four-tiered program Veterans Health Administration program called LEAD – Leadership, Effectiveness, Accountability and Development. LEAD includes the LAL, a VISN-level program the Health Care Leadership Development Program and the Health Care Executive Fellowship Program.

The 12-month LAL program uses a blended learning approach for the employee to complete a practical learning project and other activities to develop their self-identified needs. Each participant is assigned a volunteer mentor who supports and guides the participants through the program.

Any employee can participate. The next program starts in October, with the application announcement advertised in July. 📍

For more information, contact Brock at (308) 382-3660, ext. 2352 or email [nancy.brock@va.gov](mailto:nancy.brock@va.gov).

# Honoring Our FALLEN HEROES

Will Ackerman | Public Affairs

**A Memorial Day Commemoration was held May 23 at the Omaha Veterans Affairs medical center to honor America's fallen service members.**

Denise Harrison, associate director for operations, VA Nebraska-Western Iowa Health Care System, led the event by recognizing the ultimate sacrifices Americans made by dying for their nation.

"We owe a lasting tribute to these courageous men and women who stepped forward when their country called and made it possible for us to be here today, and to reflect with pride on America's past, present, and the promise of the future," Harrison said.

Other speakers included Rep. Lee Terry, (R-NE), Tom Kallman (Sen. Mike Johanns R-NE), Roger Lempke (Sen. Deb Fischer R-NE), and keynote speakers Frank Bracken and Dottie Barickman of the Nebraska Vietnam Veterans of America.

The U.S. Air Force Heartland of America Band's Offutt Brass provided music for the event.

VA NWIHCS's VA Police Ceremonial Honor Guard performed a retreat ceremony.

A special addition to this year's event was the unveiling of a battle cross that was installed near the main flag pole. The battle cross consists of an upturned rifle that sits in between a pair of combat boots and is topped with a metal helmet affixed. It is a symbol of a fallen service member on the battle field. 🗣️



Above: A new battle cross statue was unveiled at the commemoration. Veterans salute during the unveiling.

Below left: VA Police Honor Guard Officer Michael Garrah, Sergeant Martin Petersen and Officer Tyrone Lloyd fold the U.S. flag during the Retreat ceremony.

Below right: U.S. Air Force Offutt Brass performs during the commemoration.



Photos by Anna Morelock

# Dr. Stringfellow: NWIHCS' Chief of Staff

Will Ackerman | Public Affairs



Photo by Will Ackerman

**G**race Stringfellow, M.D., entered the medical field because she felt it would be “rewarding to have an impact on improving a patient’s health and well-being.”

So, VA Nebraska-Western Iowa Health Care System’s new chief of staff took the path of being a physiatrist as a specialty, because it provides her the “ability to add quality and function to a patient’s life through rehabilitation.”

Dr. Stringfellow came to NWIHCS after stints as chief of staff at the Oscar G. Johnson VA Medical Center in Iron Mountain, Mich., and the Amarillo VA Health Care System in Amarillo, Texas.

During her 15 years at the Amarillo VAHCS, she served as clinician and chief of the Occupational Health and Rehabilitation Medicine Service before becoming chief of staff.

As a physiatrist, she led a team that focused on rehabilitation treatment of patients with musculoskeletal, central or peripheral nervous system injuries such as stroke or spinal cord injury.

“Our goal was to assess the patient’s short and long-term goals as well as their additional injury specific medical conditions to gain a higher level of function through their rehabilitation program.”

Grace Stringfellow, M.D. | VA NWIHCS Chief of Staff

Dr. Stringfellow, from Washington, Ill., went to Abilene Christian University in Abilene, Texas, and then onto medical school at the University of Texas and completed her residency in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at the University of Kentucky.

Before joining the VA in 1997, Dr. Stringfellow served as medical director of a new rehabilitation unit at St. Anthony’s Hospital in Amarillo.

When she started at the VA, she said it was an exciting time, because in keeping with the mission of delivering exceptional care to Veterans, the VA was “on the cutting edge healthcare delivery through (former Undersecretary of Health) Dr. Ken Kiser’s leadership.”

She said it’s been a great experience working for Veterans at the VA. In just three months at NWIHCS, Dr. Stringfellow said she sees “truly compassionate, caring staff who deliver excellent care” to Veterans.

Her overarching goal as chief of staff is to provide “accessible, high-quality care for our Veterans with an excellent service experience.” Dr. Stringfellow wants to ensure she “provides support and resources to retain and recruit quality providers so that our Veterans receive the right care at the right time and the right place.” She also believes in having a “safe, innovative and enjoyable work environment.”

For fun outside of work, Dr. Stringfellow likes to read, walk, and is experimenting with container gardening, which has yielded many petunias on her window sills. “Plus, I live in an area with lots of walking paths and enjoy meeting my warm-hearted and friendly Omaha neighbors.”

# Appreciation Events FOR WOMEN VETERANS

Will Ackerman | Public Affairs

**W**omen are the fastest growing group within the Veteran population, according to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Although women Veterans have served in the U.S. armed forces throughout history, their roles have significantly expanded in recent wars in the Gulf War, Iraq and Afghanistan. To show the VA's thanks to women Veterans, and to expose them to the array of health care and other benefits available to them, two Women Veterans Appreciation Events were held. An event was held June 5 at the Omaha YMCA and at the Lincoln VA clinic auditorium June 14.

“Our main goal was to thank women Veterans and recognize their contributions to the military. Some of the women Veterans who attended said they had never received that before.”

Donna Higgins, LCSW | VA Nebraska-Western Iowa Health Care System  
Women Veterans Program Manager

Higgins said many women Veterans don't realize the services available for them at the VA or how to access them.

“A lot of women do not always identify themselves as Veterans,” Higgins said.

Both events featured cooking demonstrations by VA nutritionists, introduction to yoga, prize giveaways, and guest speakers. Omaha Mayor Jean Stothert thanked the women Veterans for their service to the country at the June 5 event. VA dietitians Jayne Peters and Ellen Bernadt performed cooking demonstrations at the Lincoln event.

“We try to promote healthy eating recipes,” said Peters. “Some people think to have a lot of flavor you have to sacrifice nutrition.”

A former Nebraska Army National Guard Veteran who served in Desert Storm said the support system for women was not as robust within the VA when she returned from the war.

“You can't go into war and not be changed by it,” said Lina Plock. “We all need someone to talk to. Women Veterans are most likely going to talk to other women, because they have had common experiences.”



Photos by Anna Morelock



Photo by Will Ackerman

Top left: A reporter from Omaha's KMTV interviews Donna Higgins, NWIHCS Women Veterans Program Manager.



Photo by Will Ackerman

Top right: Omaha Mayor Jean Stothert makes comments at the Omaha event June 5.

Middle photo: Krystal Salisbury and Ashley McAllister, U.S. Air Force Veterans, talk to Roger Tschampl-Diesing, AMVETS, about benefits at the Lincoln event June 14.

Bottom: Jayne Peters, VA dietician technician, and Ellen Bernadt, dietician, demonstrate healthy meals.

*a time to*



# heal

## FOR VETERANS



NWIHCS is the first VA in the country to launch the research program.

The program is designed to help Veterans regain their physical, emotional and spiritual health after cancer treatment.

This is a wellness rehabilitation group, not a support group.

Participants are Veterans who are enrolled in VA health care, have written permission from their physician, and have completed surgery, chemotherapy and/or radiation for a cancer diagnosis.

**b**attling cancer is not only physically stressful, it's emotionally and psychologically draining.

“It’s a combination of support and education. We teach coping skills each week, and a new way to think about life. We help the Veterans set goals about how to create the best life after treatment.”

VA NWIHCS is launching a 12-week research program called A Time to Heal.

Lori Jensen, LCSW | Oncology Social Worker  
Omaha VA Medical Center

“The goal is to teach the Veteran how to get on with life after their treatment is completed,” said Jodi Lakin, RN, an oncology case manager at the Omaha VA Medical Center, and one of the two program coordinators.

The program is a research project, with an objective to determine if there is a decrease in emotional distress, increase in hope, spiritual strength and resilience and improved quality of life.

“This is research with assessments that will be based upon each Veteran’s responses,” Lakin said.

“Cancer patients often have a fear that the cancer will come back. We want to help them refocus and live life rather than worry that the cancer might come back.”

The group lasts for two hours one day a week for 12 weeks. There will be two groups per year. Currently seven people are enrolled for the first program, which starts Aug. 4.

Veterans who meet the criteria are encouraged to participate. Each participant may bring a family member or caregiver or friend to the program.

Jodi Lakin, RN | Oncology Case Manager  
Omaha VA Medical Center

To sign up or for more information, contact Jensen at 402-995-4119 or email [lori.jensen@va.gov](mailto:lori.jensen@va.gov), or Lakin at 402-995-4872 or email [Jodi.lakin@va.gov](mailto:Jodi.lakin@va.gov).

# What is your favorite part of being a parent?

PARENTS DAY IS THE LAST SUNDAY IN JULY.



*Spending time with my children.  
I love having fun with my kids.*

**Cindy Stoehr, LPN** | Bellevue CBOC

*I enjoy spending quality time with my kids.  
We love to sit in jammies and watch movies.*

**Stephanie Potter, CDA** | Dental Assistant  
Grand Island CBOC



*To see the impact I've made on my son;  
watching him grow, knowing someone  
loves me for being me.*

**Essie Gross, LPN** | Shenandoah CBOC

*Experiencing my childhood again through them.  
Making their's ten times better than mine.*

**Kathy Vieman** | Pharmacist  
U.S. Air Force Veteran | Bellevue CBOC



*All of the different stages that my son and daughter  
went through. I like being involved in their activities  
when they were younger and now seeing that hard  
work paid off, because they are successful people –  
my son is in the Navy.*

**Janelle Brock, LICSW** | PACT Social Worker  
Grand Island CBOC

## PATIENT ALIGNED CARE TEAMS

Delivering excellence in every aspect of patient care.



# OPEN HOUSE

for Veterans, Families and Employees

## Tuesday, July 22

8 am to 3 pm

Omaha VA Medical Center, Education Conference Room

A Patient Aligned Care Team is a partnership between each Veteran and his/her health care team to make sure the Veteran receives whole-person care. This is personalized care to meet their individual health care goals.



**Light refreshments provided by Voluntary Services**  
\*\*Veterans: Transportation reimbursement is not available to attend this program



**VA HEALTH CARE** | Defining EXCELLENCE in the 21st Century



# VETERANS FREEDOM MUSIC FESTIVAL



Photo by Bruce Thiel

**F**ree music from eight bands and activities for children. A warm, sunny day on the grounds of the historic Lincoln VA campus.

This was the 2014 Veterans Freedom Music Festival. Sponsored and coordinated by the Veterans Advisory Council and VFMF committee, the event serves as a community music celebration of Veterans.

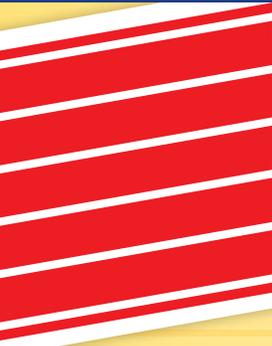
“We cannot thank Veterans enough,” said Dave Poulson, a Veteran, and one of the organizing committee members. “I feel a special love for Veterans.”

The event featured a variety of music from folk, to classic country, and acoustic rock plus the traditional patriotic themes.

The event was also an information fair with vendors from various VA program offices and other Veteran-service organizations.



Photo by Will Ackerman



The spouse of U.S. Navy Veteran Fred Lambrecht said that this is the third year they have attended the event.

“(The music festival) is where he first became aware about his VA benefits. Plus, I enjoy the music.”

Jo Lambrecht | U.S. Navy Veteran Spouse

The event was also live streamed over a web site at [www.VFMF.net](http://www.VFMF.net). In addition to people being able to enjoy the music online, Poulson, who works at local radio station KFOR in Lincoln, also interviewed VA and other people throughout the day. This helped spread information about the VA's benefits and services.

“VA offers so many things,” Poulson said. “Everyone knows a Veteran. We all need to support them.”





# 2015 NATIONAL VETERANS GOLDEN AGE GAMES

Anna Morelock | National Veteran Golden Age Games Local Coordinator

**V**eterans across the country train year-round to participate in the National Veterans Golden Age Games.

Robert "Sparky" Sparkes, a 94 year-old World War II U.S. Army Air Corps Veteran, trains with his team at the Martinsburg, West Virginia, VA and has competed in air rifle, cycling and bowling at several past games.



Courtesy Photo

In August 2015, more than 800 athletes such as Sparkes will head to Omaha for the 29th Annual National Veterans Golden Age Games, one of seven national events hosted by VA to promote health and wellness.

"I enjoy the thrill of competing and meeting old friends. Age is just a number," said Sparkes, winner of the 2013 George Gangi Inspiration Award.

Veterans age 55 and older who receive care through VA are eligible to participate. Events are divided by age groups, and include sports for wheelchair-bound and visually impaired athletes. Registration for athletes will open online later this year.

Staff at Nebraska-Western Iowa Health Care System have already begun to plan the 2015 games and will be hosting events throughout the year to sign-up volunteers and raise funds for the event. Those interested in volunteering or sponsoring events should contact, Anna Morelock, local coordinator, at 402-651-9583 or [VHANWIGoldenAgeGames@va.gov](mailto:VHANWIGoldenAgeGames@va.gov).

“Age is just a number.”

Robert "Sparky" Sparkes  
World War II U.S. Army Air Corps Veteran

## 2015 Golden Age Games Events

Air Rifle  
Bowling  
Checkers  
Cycling  
Dominoes  
Track and Field  
Golf  
Horseshoes  
Nineball  
Shuffleboard  
Swimming  
Table Tennis  
Exhibition Events

For more information about the games, visit [www.veteransgoldenagegames.va.gov](http://www.veteransgoldenagegames.va.gov).



# CLC RESIDENT COUNCIL: GETTING INPUT TO WHAT VETERANS WANT

Will Ackerman | Public Affairs

**H**aving a voice in their health care and recreational activities while living as residents at the VA Nebraska-Western Iowa Health Care System's Community Living Center in Grand Island, Neb., is important to Veterans.

At the CLC, they have a partnership with staff through a resident council.

“It provides a communication tool for the residents to voice how the CLC is run, and an opportunity to offer input and feedback about suggested improvements in services and treatment.”

Ken Ward | CLC Recreation Therapist

Any of the CLC residents can participate in the council, which meets each month. In addition to the Veterans, staff participants include Ward, social worker Heidi Swenson, patient advocate Kent Englehardt, nutritionist Heather Siemers and recreation therapist Jodi Powers. Family members of residents are also welcome.

“It gives staff an understanding of the Veterans’ needs,” said Swenson. Minutes from the meeting are sent to all CLC employees so they learn the Veterans’ needs better.

Don L. (the Veterans last names were withheld by request), a CLC resident, said the council allows the staff to “get down and talk to Veterans on their level.”

“Sometimes it’s hard to get people to understand us,” Mr. L said. Through the council, “we all understand each other.”



Members of the Community Living Center Resident Council: back row: Heidi Swensen, VA social worker, and Ken Ward, VA recreation therapist. Front row: Don M., Eugene B., Craig W., Albert E., and Don L.

Recent council meetings focused on topics that included requests to hire a barber onsite, menu variety suggestions and recreational activities.

Some recent activities that residents participated in included attending an indoor professional football game, an outing to a restaurant and fishing at Sherman Reservoir.

“I enjoyed our trip to the Texas Road House,” said Eugene B., a CLC resident.

The most-important benefit of the council is that it provides a venue where VA staff gets to know the residents by first name, according to Albert E.

“It’s important to deal with people as people on an individual basis versus just a group basis,” Mr. E. said. “Then the staff knows you when they see you on the CLC.”

Some recent improvements that resulted from council suggestions include repairing the parking lot and tilting the mirrors down in the elevators for Veterans in wheelchairs.

There are thousands of health information websites...



But only one designed for you.

[www.veteranshealthlibrary.org](http://www.veteranshealthlibrary.org)



employees | NEW | LEAVING

## HELLO

April 20 to May 31

- JASON ACTAGGART**, Surgery
- CYNTHIA AREHART**, Pharmacy
- DENIS BIRGENHEIR**, Mental Health
- TONYARAE BOUVIER**, Mental Health
- CRYSTAL BELL**, Police Services
- LATISHA BLACK**, Nursing
- ALYSSA BOTTGER**, Imaging
- PATRICIA BURLING**, Nursing
- NICHOLE CARMAN**, Nursing
- GARY CLINTON**, Laboratory
- CHRISTINE CONNOLLY**, Human Resources
- AMY CORREZ**, Surgery
- MARY DANIELSON**, Extended Care and Rehabilitation
- JEFFREY DAUBACH**, Surgery
- AGNES DAVIDSON**, Environmental Management Services
- MINDY FISHER**, Laboratory
- MONCARM FOUCHE**, Primary Care and Specialty Medicine
- BETTINA GUGAT**, Nursing
- ROY HARGROVE, JR.**, Veterans Canteen Service
- Kayla HALLBERG**, Nursing
- VERA SOMADO-HEMAZRO**, Mental Health
- ANDRIA HOLLINGSHEAD**, Mental Health
- COLLEEN JAMESON**, Veterans Canteen Service

- CHRISTINA JENSEN**, Primary Care and Specialty Medicine
- MICHELLE JOHNSON**, Primary Care and Specialty Medicine
- SANDRA KKRIZ**, Veterans Canteen Service
- KIMBER KRAJEWSKI CLARK**, Mental Health
- ANN LACY**, Nursing
- DAWN LEE**, Veterans Canteen Service
- AMYE LIGHTFOOT**, Nursing
- KEVIN LLOYD**, Environmental Management Services
- KRIS LOYD**, Surgery
- MICHAEL LOPEZ**, Environmental Management Services
- MYRON MASON**, Environmental Management Services
- AMY MILNER**, Laboratory
- TRUDY MULLINS**, Nursing
- MERCY OKOYE**, Primary Care and Specialty Medicine
- WILLIAM PECINA**, Mental Health
- JODY PEDERSEN**, Surgery
- MATTHIAS PETSCH**, Environmental Management Services
- MARY PHILLIPS**, Nursing
- KIMBERLY REDD**, Primary Care and Specialty Medicine
- JEFFREY SCHRADER**, Surgery
- JOHNNY SCHMIDTHORST**, Environmental Management Services
- JULIE SYNOVEC**, Nursing
- MARCUS TIPPERY**, Nursing

- KRISTIN TURNER**, Learning Resources
- RACHEL UNICK**, Extended Care and Rehabilitation
- ALAN WOODS**, Nursing

## GOODBYE

- HELEN BAKER**, Human Resources
- CHERIE BARTON**, Nursing
- BRIAN BEST**, Logistics
- ASHLEY BRACEY**, Nursing
- ANDREW BUETTNER**, Nursing
- MATTHEW CLARK**, Business Office
- SEAN COLLINS**, Nursing
- BRIAN CRYTZER**, Police Services
- CHARLES DOAN**, Pharmacy
- MARK EASON**, Information Technology
- ASH ERICKSON-STANLEY**, Nursing
- TIFFANY FELDER**, Nursing
- MICHELLE GEARHEART**, Supply, Processing and Distribution
- SHAWNA GORMAN**, Business Office
- PATRICK GREENWOOD**, Environmental Management Services
- JAMES HALL**, Human Resources
- MITCHELL HANSEN**, Veterans Canteen Service
- LINDA HEDRICK**, Nurse Executives Office
- SHIRLEY HOLM**, Mental Health

- SHERRIE JOHNSTON**, Human Resources
- CLAIRE KOROLCHUK**, Nursing
- JARVIS LEE**, Environmental Management Services
- ASHLEY MARKEL**, Pharmacy
- BYRON MILLER**, Logistics
- JESIKA NUSSBAUM**, Nursing
- TAMI OSBURN**, Mental Health
- ROBERT PHAIAH**, Social Work
- TRACY ROUSSARD**, Mental Health
- DONNA SMITH**, Mental Health
- ROBERT STANTON**, Research
- SHANTEL WEBSTER**, Nursing
- SARAH WEATHERLY**, Social Work
- JESSICA WOLTERS**, Nursing

## RETIRING

- KATHLEEN BERGGREN**, Extended Care and Rehabilitation
- FREDERIC ECHTERNACHT**, Primary Care and Specialty Medicine
- JACK EDMONDSON**, Engineering
- FRANCES HOWARD**, Primary Care and Specialty Medicine
- PATRICIA KIELION**, Fiscal
- EUNITTA PAYTON**, Imaging
- LEROY SCHOEN**, Lincoln Vet Center
- SUSAN TRAVIS**, Surgery
- JAMES VANSICKLE**, Engineering

# Show & Shine Car Show

Veterans were invited to show off their classic rides and newer cars at a Show and Shine car show at the Lincoln VA clinic May 14.

The event was sponsored by the Lincoln Veterans Advisory Council as a different venue to attract Veterans and the community to visit the VA. It also served as an opportunity for VAC members and VA staff to talk to Veterans about Veterans' benefits and services.



Photos by Bruce Thiel

events

## WHAT'S GOING ON?

June 28 – July 3

*National Veterans Golden Age Games -- Fayetteville, AK*

July 2

*U.S. Constitution took effect (1788)*

*VA Pantry, Community Resource & Referral Center (Omaha)*

July 4

*Independence Day*

July 7

*VA Pantry, Lincoln VA*

July 9

*Book Club, Omaha VAMC*

July 16

*VA Pantry, Community Resource & Referral Center (Omaha)*

July 18

*VA CoffeeHaus, Lincoln VA*

July 19 – 20

*Defenders of Freedom Open House & Air Show (Offutt AFB)*

July 21

*Original Veterans Administration created (1930)*

July 22

*PACT Open House, Omaha VAMC*

July 23

*Community Book Club, Lincoln VA*

July 27

*Korean War Armistice Day (1953)*

July 28

*World War I began (1914)*

July 30

*Diversity Fair, Omaha VAMC*

Aug. 4

*VA Pantry, Lincoln VA*

Aug. 5

*Diversity Fair, Lincoln VA*

Aug. 6

*VA Pantry, Community Resource & Referral Center (Omaha)*

Aug. 7

*Desert Shield Anniversary (1990)*

Aug. 12 – 17

*National Veterans Wheelchair Games – Philadelphia*

Aug. 14

*Diversity Fair, Grand Island VA  
Veterans Info Forum, Lincoln VA*

Aug. 15

*VA CoffeeHaus, Lincoln VA*

Aug. 20

*VA Pantry, Community Resource & Referral Center (Omaha)*

Aug. 22

*Vietnam Conflict began (1945)*

For more information  
about VA NWIHCS events,  
visit [www.nebraska.va.gov](http://www.nebraska.va.gov).



# VA Nebraska-Western Iowa Health Care System

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