



**Veterans Health
Administration**
VA NEBRASKA-WESTERN IOWA HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

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NEWS RELEASE

**NEW VA NEBRASKA-WESTERN IOWA HEALTH CARE
SYSTEM AMBULATORY CARE CENTER OPENS
ON OMAHA VA MEDICAL CENTER CAMPUS**

**RELEASED BY
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OMAHA, Neb. – The eagerly-awaited \$86 million Veterans Affairs Nebraska-Western Iowa Health Care System Ambulatory Care Center (ACC) opened today on the Omaha VA Medical Center campus, ushering in a new era of providing health care to area Veterans.

“Today marks a milestone in the history of our health care system as we open the doors of this fantastic ambulatory care center and provide the best possible medical care that our Veterans have so deeply earned,” said B. Don Burman, director of the VA Nebraska-Western Iowa Health Care System.

The new ACC was built with a combination of public and private funds made possible by the revolutionary “CHIP-In for Veterans Act of 2016.” Sponsored by Nebraska U.S. Senator Deb Fischer and then-U.S. Representative Brad Ashford, the act paved the way for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to provide \$56 million to the project while local donors donated the remaining \$30 million.

The result is a three-story, 157,000-square-foot expansion to the current Omaha VA Medical Center, representing the largest addition in the history of the facility. The new center combines three primary medical clinics with additional specialty clinics, radiology facilities, and five new dedicated ambulatory surgical suites.

The ACC also includes the first fully-dedicated Women’s Health Clinic in the history of VA NWIHCS. The new Women’s Health Clinic is located directly through the main door of the ACC in an exclusive, separate clinic space that includes a separate entrance and a separate waiting room. The Women’s Health Clinic will specialize in specialty gynecological services while also providing women Veterans with access to mental health, social work, whole health, maternity care coordination and pharmacy services.

“When our Veterans step through the doors of this new ambulatory care center, they will know that they have come to a place designed to meet their special and specific needs,” Burman said. “This ambulatory care center was designed with our Veterans in mind. And I think the final results shows that attention to detail.”

“We are deeply indebted to our Nebraska and Iowa Congressional delegation, our local community leaders and all of those men and women who all came together and, through their combined talents and generosity, have made this state-of-the art medical center a reality. Our area Veterans will be the beneficiaries of their collaborative efforts for generations into the future,” Burman added.

Along with the medical services provided at the ACC, the center was designed as a special

place for area Veterans and includes numerous examples of Veteran-themed features. For example, the connector hallway to the main hospital was designed with multi-colored glass panes that represent the various ribbons worn by members of the military, while the front glass was designed to mimic an American flag being unfurled. Additionally, the ACC features Veteran-themed art, the five seals of the U.S. military (Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Coast Guard) as well as a new “Healing Garden that can be accessed via an outdoor path around the west side of the ACC.

Those Veterans who have already been in the new center are extremely impressed.

“It’s really a dream come true,” said Fred Barnes, a U.S. Army and Nebraska Army National Guard Veteran who has been receiving his care from the VA in Omaha since 1969. “This is something that we’ve needed for some time. I think it’s going to be exciting for our Veterans.”

Barnes serves of the Omaha VA Veterans Advisory Group, which gave him a chance to get a sneak peek inside the ACC in late July. “It is just an amazing building,” he said, adding that he was especially impressed by the new ‘Healing Garden’ located behind the ACC. “It’s really a special place.”

Due to the current ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, a dedication ceremony has been postponed until a future date.

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(Public Affairs Note: Photos and video b-roll of the new ambulatory care center are available upon request.)