

9.a.. Community Support Factors – Community Support Funding

Provide information of funding support from Community Sources.

For community support, the City of Kearney will match private funding to build a new Veterans Memorial. The memorial was originally anticipated at Kearney Cemetery. The group behind the project has willingly agreed the best fit would be next to the new Central Nebraska Veterans Home if the home locates in Kearney.

Private funding \$500,000

City of Kearney match funding \$500,000

Total support \$1,000,000

Additional support, the following pages include more information on the memorial as well as other support provided by area organizations to ensure the new Central Nebraska Veterans Home is pleased with selecting Kearney for years to come.

## ***Veterans Memorial at Kearney***

A close-up photograph of the American flag, showing the stars and stripes in detail. The flag is slightly wrinkled and the colors are vibrant. The stars are white on a dark blue field, and the stripes are red and white.

***“A nation reveals itself not only by the citizens it produces, but also by the citizens it honors, the citizens it remembers.”***

***President John F. Kennedy***

**Project Vision:**

The community of Kearney and the surrounding area holds a rich history of service and sacrifice for our nation. This memorial is designed to honor all men and women who have served our country in the military. Now is our time to reflect and remember those who so courageously committed themselves to defending our freedom.

Together, American Legion Post 52 and the Board of Directors for the Veterans Memorial at Kearney propose to develop a powerful and inspiring veterans memorial. This memorial will commemorate all conflicts since the inception of the Kearney area.

It is envisioned this memorial will be a destination for reflection, not only by area residents but for travelers and students of all ages. It will provide a powerful opportunity to educate about each branch of service and the conflicts endured throughout our nation’s history.



Kearney Cemetery

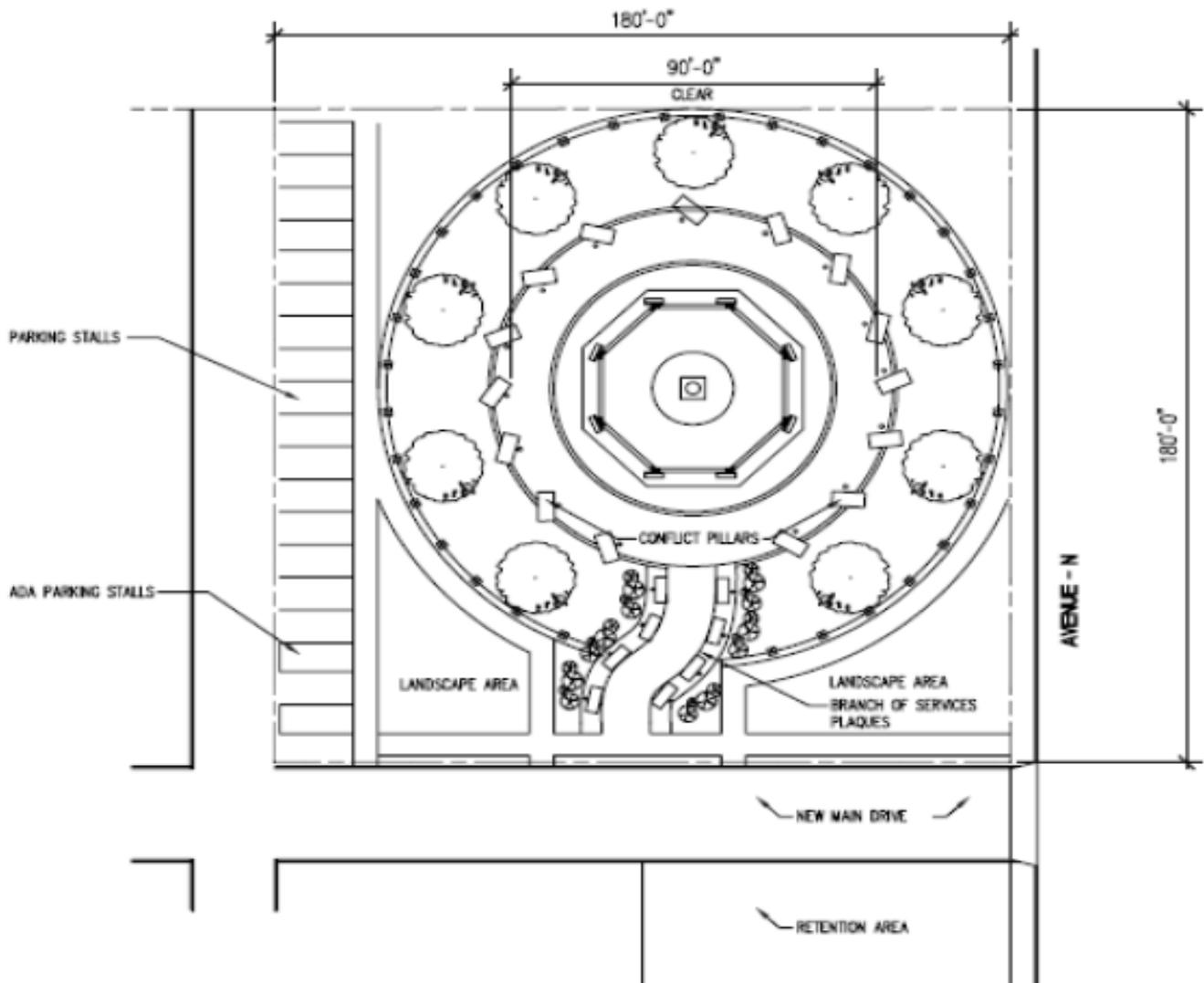


**Project Description:**

The design of the memorial includes a walkway that will be lined on both sides with seven columns that will denote each branch of service (Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, Coast Guard, Merchant Marine and National Guard). Those seven columns will also provide a brief history of each branch of service. One additional column will provide the definition of a Veteran and recognize Prisoners of War, Missing in Action (POW/MIA).

The interior of the memorial will be circular in design, and lined clockwise with columns denoting each conflict since the inception of the Kearney area, beginning with the Civil War. The columns will also detail the history of each conflict and the total number of casualties. The conflicts included will be the Civil War, Pawnee Scouts, Spanish-American War, World War I, World War II, Korean War, Vietnam War, Grenada, Panama, The Gulf War, The Cold War, Afghanistan and Iraq. An open walled gazebo will also be included within the interior of the memorial.

Beautiful landscaping will surround the memorial with trees, annuals and biannuals. It will be encircled with a wrought iron and stone exterior fence.



***Project Details:***

This powerful and important veterans memorial will leave a lasting impression on our area now, and far into the future. As confident as we are in our mission and vision, we know we cannot do it alone. This project will be entirely funded by private and corporate donations as well as public grants. It is estimated the project will cost *\$1.5 million* to complete, which does include a fund for its ongoing maintenance.

Through a gracious and generous gift the City of Kearney has donated the land for the project, and offered to care for the grounds of the memorial once completed. Also, the Veterans Memorial at Kearney is now affiliated with the Kearney Area Community Foundation for its funds management and non-profit affiliation.

It is time to honor those who have served before us, served with us, and will serve our nation in the future. It is time for a meaningful place to remember. It is time for the Veterans Memorial at Kearney.

***The Veteran***

***“A Veteran is someone who, at one point in his/her life, wrote a blank check made payable to “The United States of America,” for an amount of “up to and including my life.” Whether serving in combat or not, each veteran took the vow to uphold and defend the Constitution of these United States of America against all enemies both foreign and domestic, thus signing that blank check. They did this not for themselves, but for their families, their Country, their communities, and for you the citizens of this Great Nation. Let their sacrifices and dedication never be forgotten.”***

***Author Unknown***

## VETERANS MEMORIAL AT KEARNEY

Board Meeting minutes: May 20, 2013, via electronic correspondence

### Board Members:

**Present:** Robert Harpst, Tom Smith, Dale Simpson, Gary Zaruba, Joel Bean, Dick Pierce, John Moore

**Absent:** Rich Weiss

Quorum present? Yes

**Others Present:** None

### DISCUSSION AND MOTIONS:

1. DISCUSSION: The following issues were discussed.
  - Discussion concerning location and the possibility of locating the Veterans Memorial at Kearney with the Central Nebraska Veterans Home. Location would be dependent upon proposal by the City of Kearney being accepted by approving authority to locate the Central Nebraska Veterans Home in Kearney, Nebraska.
2. MOTIONS:
  - Motion by Harpst to locate the Veterans Memorial at Kearney with the Central Nebraska Veterans Home, contingent upon the City of Kearney acquiring said site location. Should the City of Kearney not be the approved site of the Veterans Home, current plans as to site location for the Veterans Memorial at Kearney remain in effect. Motion Second by Zaruba. Motion carried unanimously.

**OTHER BUSINESS:** Next scheduled meeting is June 10, 2013, 5:30p.m., American Legion Post 52.

Minutes submitted by Board Chair,

  
Robert W. Harpst



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*Assimilation Plan for the  
Central Nebraska Veteran's Home in Kearney*

Prepared by  
Marion McDermott, Executive Director  
Kearney Area Chamber of Commerce  
06/07/2013

"Promoting the success and profitability of members through involvement, education, advocacy and marketing of the Kearney area business community."



The Kearney Area Chamber of Commerce plans to be actively involved in the assimilation of the Central Nebraska Veteran's Home (CNVH) in Kearney, Nebraska. To facilitate support of the home, the Chamber will dedicate a part-time employee to the Central Nebraska Veteran's Home. This position will work with CNVH Administration and Activities Coordinator(s) as well as Kearney's numerous service clubs, organizations, educational institutions and private businesses to ensure the Central Nebraska Veteran's Home is a beloved part of the Kearney area community. The Chamber employee will coordinate volunteers, projects, activities in whatever capacity is required, as directed by the Central Nebraska Veteran's Home, to ensure our Veterans have a full and rewarding experience in Kearney.

The Kearney Area Chamber of Commerce plans to assist the Central Nebraska Veterans Home in the positive promotion of services, programs, activities & initiatives. Kearney has a very active group of civic clubs and organizations that are eager to support Veterans, spouses of Veterans and Gold Star parents. These organizations include: the American Legion; VFW; Eagles and the Does; Elks; Boy Scouts of America; Girl Scouts; Optimists; Kiwanis; Rotary; Sertoma; Cosmos; various 4-H Clubs; and the Buffalo County Extension Office. These various groups are willing to help in a number of ways to reduce the maintenance and operating costs to the Central Nebraska Veterans Home as well as assist in social programming, volunteer work and recognition activities. These groups will also be involved in programs and services to engage and include Veterans in the Kearney community. Some of the ways the Kearney area service clubs and civic organizations will help include:

- Grounds maintenance & gardening assistance
- Volunteering for repair projects
- Services to honor Veterans, spouse and Gold Star parents such as the presentation of Gold Star license plates
- Sponsorships of Gold Star license plates
- Sponsorship of magazine subscriptions
- Sponsorships of admission to community activities, i.e.: Legion Baseball Games, UNK Loper Football, Basketball, Volleyball, Wrestling & Track; Merryman Performing Arts Center
- Sponsorship of admissions to area attractions such as Classic Car Museum, Great Platte River Road Archway Monument, Firefighter's Museum, Rails & Trails Museum and many more
- Participate in annual Memorial Day and Veteran's Day Services

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- Assist with Volunteer Appreciation activities
- Eagle Scout projects
- Badge earning programs
- Participation in “Join a Member for a Meal” programs
- Participation in flag placement at grave site services

In addition, the Kearney Area Chamber of Commerce plans to provide positive and supportive communication between Veterans programs and school and civic events by engaging Kearney Catholic, Kearney Public Schools, Kearney Area Daycares and Preschools, Kearney Area Animal Shelter, Kearney Public Library, UNK, Veterans Memorial Group, YMCA, and the Peterson Senior Center in the assimilation plan.

These entities will be able to partner with the Central Nebraska Veteran’s Home and the Chamber and provide a variety of services and opportunities for residents, at the direction and discretion of CNVH, such as:

- Regular Visits from the Bookmobile
- Book Drives (organize, catalog, stock the shelves)
- Adopt a grandparent program
- Resident reading programs
- Student volunteer programs
- Shop class cooperative programs
- College Internships
- UNK Senior College
- Pet visitations
- On site fitness classes
- On site guest entertainment (vocal concerts, band concerts, dance recitals, one act plays, poetry readings, etc.)

Private businesses and non-profit organizations in Kearney will also assist by providing positive community relationship building programs and services to serve Veterans, spouses of Veterans and Gold Star parents. These entities include the Kearney Visitors Bureau, RYDE, UNK Horticultural Department, UNK Art Department, Local Churches, Joseph’s School of Beauty and various private businesses. These businesses and organizations have a wide variety of specialties that can partner with the Central Nebraska Veteran’s Home to provide many amenities including:

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- Inclusion in area events and happenings
- Providing Horticulture classes
- Teaching art classes and workshops
- Various religious services
- Transportation to and from activities, appointments, events, and shopping at no charge
- On site haircuts, manicures, shaves and other personal services
- Coordination of Veteran events such as parades, socials, & Veteran displays
- Providing seasonal plants such as Poinsettias and Easter Lilies
- Participation in "Hiring Our Heroes" program

The Kearney Veteran's Memorial Group has recognized that Kearney and the surrounding area holds a rich history of service to our nation and have been working diligently to build a memorial to honor our Veterans. They have in place a comprehensive strategic plan to make their vision of an educational memorial a reality. The group has made a commitment to build the memorial on site at the Central Nebraska Veteran's Home in Kearney. This will allow easy access to all residents and staff of the home, as well as the community and visitors to the area. The memorial will honor our Veterans for visitors from all across the world to experience.

To help ensure the availability of trained nurses, the Kearney Area Chamber of Commerce also intends to provide a scholarship program for area high school students who plan to pursue nursing education. The Chamber will provide grant writing assistance to the Central Nebraska Veteran's Home staff and letters of support as needed for grants relating to the Central Nebraska Veteran's Home.

The Kearney Area Chamber's goal is to help provide a wide variety of programs, services, and amenities that will allow members to participate in activities that fit their needs. We plan to provide all residents of the Central Nebraska Veteran's Home in Kearney with an array of opportunities that will allow them to live their lives to the fullest. The residents will know that Kearney is their home and they are a beloved part of the community.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Marion McDermott".

Marion McDermott  
Executive Director  
Kearney Area Chamber of Commerce

"Promoting the success and profitability of members through involvement, education, advocacy and marketing of the Kearney area business community."



June 10, 2013

Central Nebraska Veterans Home

Dear Mr. Robinson,

The Kearney Visitors Bureau would like to offer support for the new Central Nebraska Veterans Home to be located in Kearney. Kearney offers a variety of amenities, ranging from historical attractions and multiple shopping and dining outlets for the enjoyment of various visitors. With Kearney's central location and easy accessibility we are a perfect fit!

The Kearney Visitors Bureau will work with the Central Nebraska Veterans Home, at the direction of administration, to promote the home to visitors and local residents. In addition, the Kearney Visitors Bureau will actively promote the much anticipated \$1.5M Veterans Memorial which would locate next to the home if Kearney is selected.

We will work with our 21 hotel partners which total 1,600 rooms, soon to be 1,700 to create a Veterans Family Rate. Participating hotels would offer an affordable rate to family members visiting loved ones and would be specified in promotion materials and websites. Additionally, we would provide a visitor information display within the facility which would have maps, dining and attraction brochures along with other requested information.

The Kearney hospitality industry embraces the opportunity to be the future site of the Central Nebraska Veterans Home. Thank you for your consideration. I can be reached at 308-237-3161 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Roger Jasnoch'.

Roger Jasnoch  
Director

## Buffalo County World War II Hero Flight

Richard Pierce, Chair

33560 Hwy 183

Miller, NE 68858

Phone 308-440-2489

Darrin Robinson  
Economic Development Council  
POB 607  
Kearney, NE 68848

RE: The Proposal for the Central Nebraska Veterans Home

Dear Mr. Robinson:

On behalf of the World War II Hero Flight committee and staff I would like to voice our support for locating the Central Nebraska Veterans Home in Kearney, Nebraska.

The WWII Hero Flights were conducted to honor the grandest generation and the sacrifices those men and women made when the country needed them most. We raised funds and took a total of eight flights of WWII Heroes to Washington DC to see the memorials and be recognized at banquets in their honor at the WWII Hero Flight Banquet and at the exclusive Army Navy Club. Then we helped Hall County start their Hero Flights and I believe they have taken a total of four flights at this time. A flight consists of 25 veterans and their escorts per flight. Buffalo County's support in starting and maintaining the Hero Flights was crucial and thorough! We easily raised the \$200,000.00 necessary for the four Buffalo County flights and the committee generously assisted Phelps, Dawson and Hall Counties as they arranged their own WWII Hero Flights.

The City of Kearney and Buffalo County, the Kearney American Legion, Kearney VFW, American Legion Ladies Auxiliary, and American Legion Riders all supported our efforts by giving us cash donations, building space, volunteers and help with fundraising. Almost two dozen volunteers in Kearney and throughout Buffalo County volunteered to help with fundraising, organizing, and creating huge send-off parties for the veterans. The level of support we received is indicative of the respect and gratitude people in Buffalo County feel for veterans.

We feel this is the perfect spot for the Central Nebraska Veterans home. Buffalo County and the City of Kearney have a heart to help and support veterans and they have the capacity to maintain a top-notch Veterans Home. The medical community in Kearney is large enough to support a Veterans Home of this size and other amenities such as public transportation are available.

We support the location of the Central Nebraska Veterans Home in Kearney and do hope you will agree that it is the right decision for our veterans.

Sincerely,



Richard Pierce  
World War II Hero Flight Chair and Flight Chief  
33560 Hwy 183  
Miller, NE 68858

# THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR EMPLOYER SUPPORT OF THE GUARD AND RESERVE

RECOGNIZES

**Michael W. Morgan**  
City of Kearney



AS A

**PATRIOTIC EMPLOYER**

FOR CONTRIBUTING TO NATIONAL SECURITY AND PROTECTING  
LIBERTY AND FREEDOM BY SUPPORTING EMPLOYEE PARTICIPATION  
IN AMERICA'S NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVE FORCE



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P.K. Brunelli".

P.K. BRUNELLI  
ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR  
EMPLOYER SUPPORT OF THE GUARD AND RESERVE

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James G. Reibelz".

JAMES G. REIBELZ  
CHAIRMAN  
NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR  
EMPLOYER SUPPORT OF THE GUARD AND RESERVE