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

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.

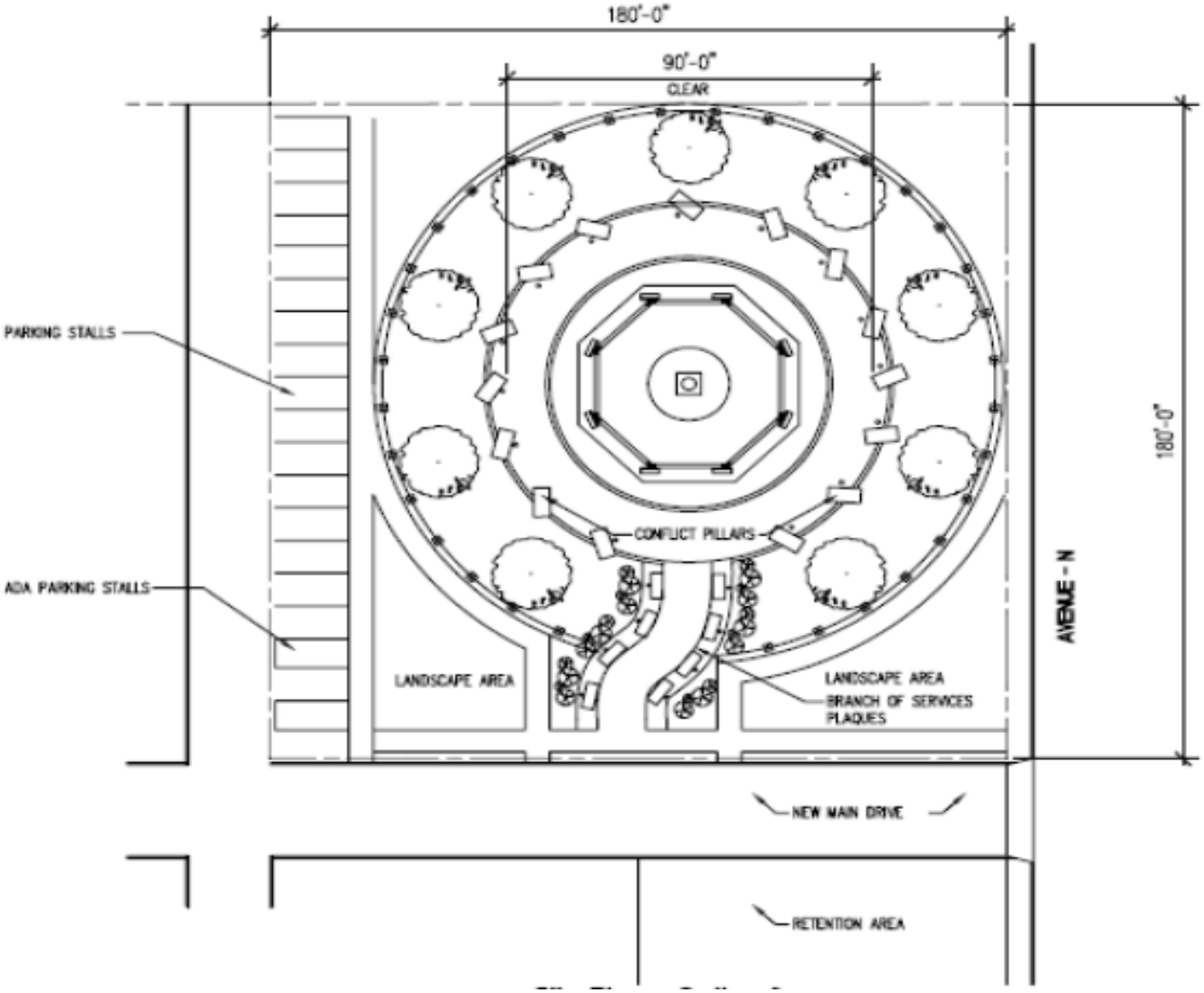
Together, American Legion Post 52 and the Board of Directors for the Veterans Memorial at Kearney propose to develop a powerful and inspiring veterans memorial. This memorial will commemorate all conflicts since the inception of the Kearney area.

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.

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 casulties. 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

Kearney Area Chamber of Commerce
1007 2nd Ave • PO Box 607 • Kearney, Nebraska 68848-0607
800.227.8340 • 308.237.3101 • Fax: 308.237.3103 • www.kearneycoc.org

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

Kearney Area Chamber of Commerce
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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.

Marion McDermott

Marion McDermott
Executive Director
Kearney Area Chamber of Commerce

KEARNEY
visitors bureau

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,

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.

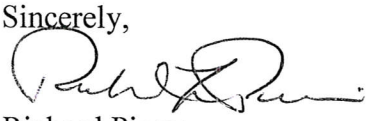
The WWII Hero Flights were conducted to honor the grandest generation and the sacrifices those men and women made when the country needed them most. We raised funds and took a total of eight flights of WWII Heroes to Washington DC to see the memorials and be recognized at banquets in their honor at the 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

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

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

ESGR 110 7/08

9.b.. Community Support Factors – County Board Resolution of Support for Veterans Home

Provide certified copy of County Board Resolution of Support for Veterans Home program in accord with principles outlined in Exhibit D.

See Attached Resolution

RESOLUTION 2013-

WHEREAS, on or about June 11, 2013, the Economic Development Council of Buffalo County has requested from the County Board of Supervisors certain resolutions to assist in the proposal to be presented for the replacement of the Central Nebraska Veterans Home.

WHEREAS, in November of 2011, Buffalo County received a letter written by the Nebraska Veterans Council stating a move of the Veterans home out of Hall County, and that Hall County dissolves their Veterans Home Committee and discharges the Hall County Veterans Service Officer.

WHEREAS, Buffalo County leaders and community members were contacted by various Veterans and Veterans groups requesting involvement in the relocation and rebuilding of the home.

WHEREAS, Buffalo County is centrally located with access to the Holdrege, Nebraska, United States Department of Veterans Affairs Community-Based Outpatient Clinic serving central Nebraska and north-central Kansas, and the Grand Island, Nebraska, United States Department of Veterans Affairs Community Living Center and Community Based Outpatient Clinic.

WHEREAS, Buffalo County is home to Good Samaritan Hospital which offers the only advanced cardiac services and open heart surgery between Lincoln and Denver. Good Samaritan Hospital offers state of the art cancer treatment as one of only a few selected treatment centers in the National Community Cancer Centers Program. And, as designated by the State of Nebraska, is the region's trauma center with a verified Level II trauma center and ground and air transport.

WHEREAS, Buffalo County is home to the University of Nebraska at Kearney, and the University of Nebraska Medical Center with enrollment from all 93 counties and over 700 students enrolled in pre-medical or nursing programs.

WHEREAS, Buffalo County and the Buffalo County – County Veterans Service Office has a history of supporting Veterans, and Veterans programs.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BUFFALO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS that the Economic Development Council of Buffalo County shall be authorized to pursue the project, locally named PROJECT HONOR, with the following commitments on behalf of the County of Buffalo County where Buffalo County will or already does:

Commit that Buffalo County and the Buffalo County – County Veterans Service Officer (CVSO) will not interfere or attempt to dictate any operational control or changes of the facility.

1. **Positively promote Veterans Home services, programs, activities and initiatives.**

Buffalo County and the Buffalo County CVSO will continue to encourage Veterans and their families to tour the Central Nebraska Veterans Home (CNVH) facilities. Promote involvement of volunteer work and programs at CNVH. Work closely, and as directed by, CNVH administration and activities coordinator(s) to ensure Buffalo County meets the CNVH objectives and to include CNVH in the many Veterans activities already occurring in Buffalo County.

2. **Assist with inquiries on service lines and with applications to the State Veterans Home programs.**

   Buffalo County and the Buffalo County CVSO will continue to support, and as directed by the Nebraska Department of Veterans Affairs, the completion of Veterans home applications and proactively assist the state in the collection of the proper documentation necessary for proof of eligibility. Buffalo County has and will continue to ensure the Buffalo County CVSO and staff, have thorough knowledge of the operation of the Veterans Homes, eligibility requirements, and the Veterans Home Board "Guidelines". The Buffalo County CVSO has and will continue to provide information to applicants and families regarding service lines any applicable fees directed by the state.

3. **Recognize that the State Veterans Homes must comply with regulations and standards of care and provide support and understanding to member families regarding compliance with these regulations and standards.**

   Buffalo County and the Buffalo County CVSO recognize and supports that CNVH must comply with both regulations and standards of care as set by Federal and State law. Buffalo County and the Buffalo County CVSO will assist CNVH administration, as directed by CNVH, with compliance of regulations and standards of care.

   The Buffalo County Veterans Service Committee shall cooperate and assist the Department of Veterans Affairs in the performance and discharge of its duties and functions, as directed by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

4. **Provide positive and supportive communication between Veterans programs and school and civic events.**

   Buffalo County and the Buffalo County CVSO encourage youth to be active in Veterans programs and will make every effort to inform the community, schools, and the local media of the achievements of CNVH, including distribution of the CNVH newsletter. Buffalo County and the Buffalo County CVSO, as directed by the CNVH administration and activities coordinator(s), will encourage visits by area schools and encourage community support and participation in civic events.

5. **Assist the Veterans Home with grant and donation enterprises to support the Home's long term goals and Veterans service functions.**

   Buffalo County and the Buffalo County CVSO have worked in conjunction with the Veterans service organizations to support activities which encourage donations and charitable events that promote good spirits and morale of the residents of the Grand Island Veterans Home. Buffalo

County and the Buffalo County CVSO will support CNVH administration with seeking donations for the CNVH. Buffalo County and the Buffalo County CVSO will provide letters of support and documentation to CNVH for any grant requests or foundation requests.

6. **Provide positive community relationship building programs to serve Veterans, spouses of Veterans and Gold Star parents.**

   Buffalo County and the Buffalo County CVSO are committed to introduction and support of the CNVH administration and residents to existing Veterans programs and community activities. And, with the support and approval of CNVH Administration, develop new programs that fit the needs of Veterans, spouses of Veterans and Gold Star parents.

7. **Promotion in serving member burial needs.**

   Buffalo County and the Buffalo County CVSO will continue to work with funeral directors to insure each Veteran, spouse, and family member(s) are treated with fairness, respect and dignity as they approach their final journey.

   Buffalo County and the Buffalo County CVSO will continue to support Veterans, and their families, with assistance in completing applications, if so required, for final assistance, burial amenity applications, and applications for benefits.

   Buffalo County and the Buffalo County CVSO will continue to insure Veterans receive military rites at their service, a bronze grave marker and flag, and that all grave markers remain in place.

   Buffalo County and the Buffalo County CVSO will support the CNVH administration, the Nebraska Department of Veterans Affairs, and the United States Department of Veterans with support of existing programs, or the development of new programs.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 11TH DAY OF JUNE, 2013.

ATTEST:

William McMullen, Chairman
Buffalo County Board of Supervisors

(SEAL)

Janice I. Giffin
Buffalo County Clerk