

## **History of the Norfolk Veterans' Home**

The Norfolk Veterans' Home was established in 1963 as an annex to the Grand Island Veterans' Home. It was initially known as the Soldiers and Sailors Annex and located in one building on the Norfolk Regional Center grounds.

In the late 60s, the name Soldier and Sailors Home changed to the Nebraska Veterans' Home to better reflect the care being offered to veterans of all branches of military service.

In 1972, the Nebraska Veterans' Home expanded and one more building was acquired from Norfolk Regional Center. At this time, the name changed to the Norfolk Veterans' Home.

Plans for a new home began in 1990. In 1998, construction began on a new 159 bed facility costing \$16.5 million. Veterans moved into the new home in 2001.

The Norfolk Veterans' Home is operated by the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services and is one of four homes across the state.

The home has 130,000 square feet and is located at 600 East Benjamin Ave. The complex includes seven buildings which are connected by corridors. There are six family rooms and several spacious areas so there is always ample room for members to entertain friends and family.

There's an on-site canteen as well as a beauty and barber shop, computer-equipped library and individual mailboxes. Medical and dental services, physical therapy and speech therapy are also available at the home.

One of the unique features of Norfolk Veterans' Home is that on an almost daily basis there are volunteers coming to the home for various group events and/or members are going out into the community. Organizations from all over northeast Nebraska come to the home to sponsor events or members go to events in the Norfolk Veterans' Home bus keeping community ties strong.