

Veterans of KING

by Erling Landsverk



It has been about two years this coming June that my wife and I became members. I have written about special events, celebrations, dedications and best of all, fellow veterans I have come to know. That brings me to the title of this column, members of The Wisconsin Veterans Home at King. I would like to suggest a slight change in the title. How does Wisconsin Veterans Community Center at King, Wisconsin sound folks?

First our population of nearly 700 members, a staff of several hundred, and volunteers numbering in the hundreds. Our sheer numbers make our community larger than many small towns in the area. We have a clean, well kept campus overlooking the beautiful Rainbow Lake providing nature trails, boat rides, water ski shows in the summer, excellent fishing and nearby golf courses. There is more, much more. We have our own post office, our own bank, an administrative department that provides help to members when needed. We have the Marden Center, a place filled with areas to relax and have fun. For example, we have a bowling alley, a pool room, a movie theater, a little bar, King Cafe where lunches are served along with coffee, soft drinks and snacks. Located on the third floor of the Center is a library which offers a wide selection of books and movie titles. In a room next to the library, members can take advantage of a computer lab that has internet access available.

A couple of blocks from the Campus we have a nice restaurant and club serving meals fit for a king. In fact it's called Kings Table, and members go there for a meal occasionally. Members can go visit relatives and friend or just take short vacations and if you have a car, are a qualified driver, you can drive yourself. Should a member

be unable to drive, other options for travel are available. Many other leisure options are here for the asking. For those who like to keep busy there are work therapy positions for anyone who qualifies, giving member an opportunity to earn some extra money. The activities I have described are paid for members by veteran's service organizations or charity groups. It doesn't get much better than that!

Many veterans consider our beautiful campus a great retirement home, and are somewhat vexed when they hear it referred to as a nursing home. Many renounce the term "nursing home," and point out some of the many advantages that I have listed above not found in other locations. I do not mean to slight the medical services we receive, because we have an excellent and dedicated medical staff here at King. My point is this: The King Veterans Home has been in existence for over 125 years as you all know. It has become a symbol of the sacrifice Wisconsin veterans have made throughout its history. It has grown from a group of small homes to today's collection of four large multi-storied halls, housing the services I have outlined.

Recently, our Home was honored by being chosen for the site of the memorial to United States Medal of Honor recipients from Wisconsin. Another symbol of respect from the military we served. Our great neighbors in Waupaca, King and the surrounding area have been kind and generous in their neighborly actions for which we are most grateful. The name of our great home may not be changed to my suggestion, no matter, let us all agree that we have the greatest Veterans home anywhere.

