

Nebraska

# Bill Would Let Lawmakers Step In On Vets Home

BY GRANT SCHULTE  
Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. — Lawmakers would step into an ongoing dispute over the new Central Nebraska Veterans Home, if one state senator says he plans to introduce a bill in January that would require legislative approval before the state could relocate major buildings or services. The bill would

apply to facilities that cost more than \$15 million. Gloor said including the Legislature would make the process more transparent and serve as a check against unilateral decisions to move a major state building. He said he also is concerned that the current open bidding process pits Nebraska cities against one another in a fight for resources. "I'm just uncomfortable with this win-lose scenario," Gloor said. "The argument is

that it saves a couple million dollars. But you're leaving a hole in another community." Gov. Dave Heineman announced in July that the 126-year-old veterans home would move to Kearney from its longtime home in Grand Island. Heineman made the decision after receiving a recommendation from a committee of three state department heads appointed by the governor. Grand Island, Kearney, Hastings and North Platte

competed for the project to replace the outdated, 225-bed Grand Island facility. The current home has about 375 employees, and the new project is expected to generate millions in economic activity. Kearney residents welcomed the decision, but Grand Island and Hall County officials have responded with outrage. Kearney officials have agreed to commit millions in local aid to the project, which will include walking trails, a wood and ceramic shop, a library, garden areas

and a veterans' memorial. Gloor said his proposal could apply to state-run facilities such as Kearney's Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Center, which lawmakers considered closing earlier this year, or state call centers for the Department of Health and Human Services. He said the bill wouldn't apply to local courthouses, state colleges or the University of Nebraska. A spokeswoman for Heineman didn't immediately respond to a request for comment on the proposal.

Nebraska officials have said they are moving forward with plans to build the new veterans' home in Kearney, although design and construction work won't begin until the federal government approves funding. Last month, they held a meeting with 26 architectural and design firms that expressed interest in the \$121 million facility. The state sent its proposal to Washington in August, asking the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to pay 65 percent of the cost.

In September, a Grand Island-based veterans' service officer sent a letter to the department, urging it to withhold funding on the Kearney project until further study was completed. Donald Shuda said renovations could help the home stay in Grand Island, an argument rejected by state officials. Heineman has said the mixed signals could jeopardize federal funding for the project.

The Department of Veterans Affairs has said it will respect Heineman's right to choose the facility's location, as long as the state can demonstrate that a new facility will serve the current veteran population's needs while meeting VA standards.

Lawmakers already have to approve state funding for major building projects, and they did so for the veterans home earlier this year, before the new location was announced.

Gloor said the move was akin to taking the nonprofit Boys Town in Omaha — with a history dating to 1917 — and moving it to Lincoln.

The veterans' home in Grand Island "is part of the culture of the community," Gloor said. "If the decision was made to move Boys Town, people in Omaha would say, 'How can Boys Town not be located in Omaha?'"

OBITUARIES

## Marion Roth

Marion Roth, age 97 of Menno passed away early Saturday, December 7, 2013 at the Menno-Olivet Care Center, Menno surrounded by her family.

Funeral services will be 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, December 10, 2013 at the Grace Lutheran Church, Menno, with Rev. Theresa Jacobson officiating. Burial will be in the Unity Lutheran Cemetery, rural Clayton, SD at approximately 12:30 p.m.

Visitations will be from 5-7 p.m. Monday, December 9, 2013 at the Aisenbrey-Op-sahl-Kostel Memorial Chapel, Menno, with the family present. Visitations will resume one hour prior to the service at the church.

Pallbearers will be her great-grandsons, Trent Chance, Cameron VanBeek, and Jaron VanBeek, her grandsons-in-law, Kevin VanBeek, Brian McKinney, and nephew, Warren Mitchell.

Marion was born on August 15, 1916 in Dixon



Roth

County, NE to Argo and Julia (Nelson) Dixon. She married Ferdinand J. Roth on October 1, 1937 in Mitchell, SD and was

later baptized and confirmed at the Unity Lutheran Church in Clayton, SD in 1938. Two children were born to this union, Roger and Carol. Marion and Ferd farmed for 17 years in the Clayton area and then owned/operated the Wolf Creek Store for 4 years. After becoming townies in 1958, they owned/operated Roth Insurance Agency for 13 years.

Marion was a wonderful mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother and her family always came first in her life. She loved to dance, play cards, do crossword puzzles and make her homemade chocolate pudding. It wasn't a holiday until her pumpkin and peach pies were on the table. Marion belonged to

the Ladies Aid and was a member of the Moose Lodge.

Marion is survived by her son, Roger (Carole) of Ventura, IA, daughter, Carol (Bob) Harvey of Menno, granddaughters, Tabettha (Brian) of Sioux Falls, Tina (Kevin) VanBeek of Hudson, SD, 5 great-grandchildren: Trent (Jeni) Chance of Fargo, ND, Cameron (Ashley) VanBeek of Yankton, SD, Jaron (Kadee-special friend), Addisyn and Treyson VanBeek of Hudson, SD; sister, Muriel (Densel) Moseman of Emerson, NE and many nieces and nephews.

Marion was preceded in death by her husband, parents, 5 sisters and 5 brothers.

"\*Beautiful lady with a beautiful soul who will be truly missed\*\*"

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## Leona Muntefering

Leona Muntefering, 93, Mitchell, died Friday, December 6, 2013, at Avera Brady Health and Rehab in Mitchell.

Funeral services will be 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, December 10, at Holy Family Catholic Church. Burial will be in Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Cemetery at Dimock.

Visitation will be from 6-8:00 p.m. Monday at the church with a Scripture service at 7:00 p.m.

Arrangements are with the Bittner Funeral Chapel.

Leona was born July 21, 1920 on a farm near Dimock to John and Mary (Roth)



Muntefering

Koster. She grew up and attended school at Dimock. On February 6, 1939, she married Irvin Muntefering at Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church. They farmed west of Dimock until retiring and then moved to Mitchell in 1992.

She was a member of the Altar Society of Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church and Holy Family Catholic Church as well as a member of the Catholic Daughters Society. Leona was an avid homemaker, seamstress, gardener, and quilter and will be fondly

remembered by her family for her homemade bread.

She is survived by 3 daughters: Darlene (Dick) Branaugh, Mission Hill; Cheryl (Tom) Stirling, Ethan; Charlene (Doug) Moon, Lincoln, NE; 9 grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren, and 1 great-great-granddaughter; 1 sister, Wilma Boddicker of Mitchell; and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Irvin, in 2005; two sons, Charles and Bill; one grandson, Dave Muntefering; and a great grandson, Christian Schoenfelder; six sisters and two brothers.

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## Burnell Odens

Funeral services for Burnell Odens, 88, of Springfield are 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, December 11, 2013 at the Emmanuel Reformed Church in Springfield. Burial is in the church cemetery, rural Springfield, with Military Honors.

Visitation will be Tuesday from 5 to 7 p.m. with a Sharing of Memories at 6 p.m. at the Crosby-Jaeger Funeral Home in Springfield.

Burnell C. Odens was born December 10, 1924 on a farm northwest of Springfield. The son of Jerry and Grace (Kuiper) Odens, Burnell died Wednesday, December 4, 2013, at the Good Samaritan Home in Tyndall, SD. Burnell had attained the age of 88 years, 11 months and 24 days.

Burnell attended grade school at the Kirkwood Country School west of Springfield, and graduated



Odens

from Springfield High School, class of 1942. Burnell began farming northwest of Springfield and on June 6th, 1944, he joined the US Navy, serving as a Fire Control Man, Third Class on the aircraft carrier, USS Siboney.

Burnell married Georgia Anna DeRoos June 21, 1949. Together they farmed west of Springfield for over 50 years, moving into Springfield in February 1972.

Burnell made confession of his Christian faith and was a faithful member of the Emmanuel Reformed Church all of his life. Burnell served as a Deacon, an Elder and as the sixth grade Sunday School teacher for 52 years.

Burnell will be remembered for his strong faith, wisdom, kindness, dry wit

and a gentle soul. Burnell loved to be amongst family and friends, of which there are many.

Thankful for having shared his life are his son, Bruce, and wife, Nola (Nemeth) Odens of Roseville, CA; six grandchildren: Lynn and husband, Mark Owen, Omaha, NE; Brian Odens and Carley Werven, St Paul, MN; Jill Odens, Omaha, NE; Laura and Matt Ishmael, Omaha, NE; Adam Odens and Samantha Odens, Roseville, CA; great-grandchildren: Emmerleigh Odens and Harper Owen; brother, Jim and wife, Pat Odens of rural Springfield, along with many relatives and friends.

Burnell was preceded in death by his parents, Jerry and Grace; wife, Georgia Anna; infant daughter, Renae Inez, son, Loren and wife, Donna (Zweber) Odens.

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## Danny Barta

Danny P. Barta, 63, of Gayville died unexpectedly at his home on Saturday, Dec. 7, 2013.

Mass of Christian Burial is at 11 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 12, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Yankton, with the Rev. Mark Lichter officiating. Burial will be in the St. Boniface Catholic Cemetery, Menominee, Neb.

Visitations are 5-7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 11, at the Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home and Crematory, Yankton, with a 7 p.m. rosary followed by a video tribute and a Scripture service at 7:30 p.m. Visitations will resume one hour prior to the service at the church.

## Albert Schulte

Albert H. Schulte, 78 of Marysville, Calif., and formerly of Yankton, died Thursday, Dec. 5, 2013.

Arrangements are pending under the care of the Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home and Crematory, Yankton.

## Mable Sejnoha

Funeral services for Mable L. Sejnoha of Yankton and formerly of Tyndall will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, December 10 at the Tyndall Presbyterian Church with Dr. Richard Jensen, pastor of the United Church of Christ (Congregational), Yankton, officiating. Organist will be Becky Tycz. Interment will follow in the Czech National Cemetery, Tyndall. Casketbearers are George Bauder, Rich Fryda, Chuck Hovorka, Dennis Hovorka, Rick Novak, and Wayne Winckler.

Visitation will be held on Monday from 3:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m., with family present from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the Goglin Funeral Home in Tyndall.

Online condolences may be sent at www.goglinfh.com.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to the Tyndall Community Foundation, Inc. or the charity of the giver's choice.

Mable Louise Sejnoha was born on Friday, May 2, 1919 at Tyndall, South Dakota to Charles W. "Will" and Pauline (Kiehlbach) Ferguson. She attended country school and graduated from Tyndall High School in 1936. Mable received her secretarial training at St. Cloud Business College, then lived and worked in St. Paul, Minnesota. She worked primarily at the Farmer's Union Central Exchange and also for a coal company. She returned to Tyndall in the early 1940s and worked as a legal secretary for Ray Post. Mable was united in marriage to Emil J. Sejnoha on June 23, 1955 at Tyndall. Emil and Mable lived and worked on the family farm 8 miles north and 2 1/2 miles west of Tyndall. In 1970, she once again began working outside the home as a legal secretary for Elmer Gemar, and later as a secretary and receptionist for Royal Koch Insurance. Following her husband's death in February of 1987, Mable moved into Tyndall. She was a member of the



Mable Sejnoha

Tyndall Presbyterian Church where she faithfully published the church newsletter and women's fellowship book for many years. Prior to her marriage, she was a member of the Business and Professional Women. In later years, she was a longtime board member and treasurer for the Czech National Cemetery Assoc. She enjoyed quilting and other hobbies included knitting and crocheting. She moved to Yankton in April of 2007 to be near her son, Joseph. She lived first at Pine Lane (now Autumn Winds), later at the Avera Yankton Care Center, and died on Thursday, December 5, 2013 at the Avera Sister James Care Center in Yankton at the age of 94 years, 7 months and 3 days.

Mable is survived by her son, Joseph W. Sejnoha of Yankton; three nieces: Rose Novak of Tyndall, Helen Hovorka of Tyndall, and Evelyn Schuch of Sisseton, SD; a nephew, Adolph Joseph "Joe" Sejnoha of Yankton; and several extended family members.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Charles W. "Will" and Pauline Ferguson, her husband, Emil J. Sejnoha, a brother, William Ferguson, a nephew, Tim Ferguson, and two nieces, Emma Jones and Libby Hamberger.

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Honoring  
Their Memory  
Our Thoughts And  
Prayers Are With Them  
Our care and concern does not end with the funeral service. This week we remember with family and friends the anniversary of the deaths of:

Howard 'Tag' Wheeler  
who passed away on  
December 10, 2012

JoAnn Vesely  
who passed away on  
December 12, 2012

Bea Merrigan  
who passed away on  
December 14, 2010

Laddie Cimpl  
who passed away on  
December 4, 2002

This remembrance is brought to you free of charge. If you have a loved one you would like remembered, contact us at Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home & Crematory.



## Holiday Remembrance Program

All are welcome to join us on this special evening in memory of those who have died.

# Saturday, December 14th 5:00pm

## WINTZ & RAY

FUNERAL HOME and Cremation Service, Inc.  
Garden of Memories Cemetery

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605-665-3644  
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RSVPs are not required, but please call us at 665-3644 if you have any questions.

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