



Former Marine Ken Korkow opened up his S. Dak. ranch as a retreat for veterans. It has a 25-ft. tower with a hot tub and an awesome view.

Ranch Offers Vets A Place To Heal

By Dee Goerge, Contributing Editor

Rolling hills, tree-bordered fields and an inviting homestead are all part of what attracts visitors to “The Ranch” in South Dakota, which is dedicated to veterans, especially those with PTSD.

World-class pheasant hunting is also a big draw for veterans, but owner Ken Korkow knows there is more at work at his South Dakota ranch.

“The Holy Spirit is there,” says the former Marine who survived the 77-day siege of the Khe Sanh Combat Base during the Vietnam war. The Navy Cross and Purple Heart recipient was seriously wounded while rescuing wounded men during the siege. He nearly died, and when he survived was told he would never walk.

Korkow not only walked, but was driven to work hard and became a successful land broker. But joy and hope in his life were elusive as he anguished over survivor’s guilt.

“I was a real jerk,” he says of his behavior for many years. “I am amazed that my wife Liz stuck with me.”

Whether it’s being a driven-workaholic or addicted to alcohol, drugs or risky behavior, veterans “medicate” themselves to fight off the demons of war, Korkow says.

After hitting rock-bottom, a Bible study mentor helped lead him to surrender control to Jesus, he says.

Since then, Korkow trademarked the quote that “God doesn’t waste pain.” He adds, “You’ve gotta feel it to heal it.”

His surrender led to opening up the 540-acre ranch he inherited about 20 miles southeast of Pierre, A.K., as a retreat for veterans.

Veterans pay nothing; the Korkows invest their own resources along with donations they receive, to keep the ranch operating.

With an extended pheasant hunting season granted by the state, veterans come for the



Ranch accommodates up to 28 people at a time, some staying in this remodeled grain bin.

hunt, but discover much more. With a bunkhouse and remodeled grain bin, the ranch accommodates up to 28 people at a time, with 4 rooms that are wheelchair accessible. Liz cooks meals for guests. There’s a shooting range, a track for high-speed ATV racing, horse therapy, and a 25-ft. tower with a hot tub that has an awesome view.

The Ranch shares materials Ken has developed, which have been approved by the Marine Corps commandant, though there’s no set program, Korkow says. But between activities, guests share stories and their deepest emotions. There are giant bonfires and walks around the ranch that pass sculptures, including an Iwo Jima statue, giant shotgun, and a wooden cross.

He believes that whenever people contact him it’s a “divine appointment,” that he must answer.

For more about the ranch, check out the video and information on the website.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ken Korkow, 1905 S. 113th Ave., Omaha, Neb. 68144 (ph 402 677-7082; www.theranchministries.com; kkorkow@cblmc.com).



Photo shows Army vet, who lost both legs and an arm to an I.E.D., just after he shot his first pheasant.

FARM SHOW



Jim Heitkamp serves up beverages out of a pair of converted Deere fertilizer hoppers. Stands with wheels were welded to the bottom of hoppers, which are lined with styrofoam.

Fertilizer Hoppers Converted To Handy Beverage Coolers

Jim Heitkamp looked for several years for some fertilizer hoppers in good enough shape to use as coolers. He finally came across a pair of John Deere 494A hoppers at auction and put them to good use.

Prep work included sandblasting inside and out, and cutting and welding the old hardware and holes. “Finding hoppers that are not rusted out is the hard part,” says Heitkamp.

He used 1/2-in. styrofoam cut into 1-in. strips and glued them to the inside of the hoppers for insulation. Flex Seal coating was used to waterproof the inside using two coats brushed on 24 hrs. apart.

Stands with wheels were welded together and a drain was added to the bottom of each

using a petcock. Chrome screws and hardware were added for the lid and handles. He cut diamond plate and polished it to cover the holes from where the shafts ran. After paint and clearcoat, he had decals made at a local shop to finish off the project.

“I had about 6 hrs. of time in each for prep, welding and finishing. I had them painted by Chris Heitkamp of Heitkamp Restorations in Botkins, Ohio. Each finished cooler can hold up to 10 cases of cans with about 6 in. of ice on top.”

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup Jim Heitkamp, 07120 Kettler Road, New Bremen, Ohio 45869 (ph 419 733-4506).

“Gatsby” Mobility Scooter Loaded With Bells And Whistles

If you want an electric mobility scooter that’ll get you somewhere in true style, check out this one that’s made to look like a Model T Ford.

Modeled after the most popular car of the roaring 1920’s, it features a padded, leather captain’s seat that swivels up to 180 degrees and can be locked at 45 degree intervals, and adjusted forward or back. The seat comes with an adjustable headrest and adjustable, flip-up armrests.

The scooter rides on large 13-in. pneumatic tires. It comes with user-friendly controls including a wrap-around style handle that makes it easy to drive with one hand. A backlit battery gauge and speedometer on the digital dashboard let you monitor your battery life and speed. Top speed is 10 mph.

The scooter comes with two 12-volt batteries that power a 950-watt electric motor. It has an 8-hr. charging time via an AC adapter and a travel range of up to 25 miles.

Sells for \$3,495 on the company website.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup: (https://



Model T Ford mobility scooter features a padded, leather captain’s seat that swivels up to 180 degrees.

www.topmobility.com/gatsby-vintage-mobility-scooter.htm; ph 888 364-3813).