Golf cart trip supports wounded warriors

By Eugene Curtin
Leader Staff Writer

Five guys and a golf cart rolled into Bellevue May 14 on the 16th day of a 3,900-mile cross-country journey.

All five are active-duty members of the U.S. Coast Guard. They took vacation time to become the first to drive an electric golf cart across the United States.

Coast Guard Chief Petty Officer Ray Rohrbach said he and his colleagues hit on the idea about a year ago and decided the trip should double as a fundraiser for the Wounded Warrior Project.

The goal is to raise $50,000 for the national organization, which advocates for and provides direct aid and services for wounded members of the armed forces. Rohrbach said about 25 percent of that amount has been raised.

The long journey began April 29 in Petaluma, Calif., and is planned to conclude May 26 at the Coast Guard Training Center in Yorktown, Va.

Nebraska is one of 13 states the group will traverse as it journeys across the nation’s midsection. After pit stops in McCook and Grand Island they stopped for a final time at Bellevue University on May 14 before crossing into Iowa.

At about 3:30 p.m., accompanied by a motorcycle escort from the Omaha chapter of the Patriot Guard, the men arrived at Bellevue University’s Military Veterans Service Center on Harvell Drive.

They were greeted by applause, food provided by Chick-fil-A and a night’s rest at Offutt Air Force Base.

The men have a three-vehicle caravan to make the trip. In addition to the golf cart, which is powered by batteries and solar cells, they have a Smart Car and a Ryder truck with supplies.

Their trip can be tracked, and donations made, at cartingforcause.org.

100% of the net profit will be donated to kids health & education initiatives nationwide

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