



March 2018

NDVS Veterans Voice Newsletter

Message from the Director



Greetings!

Bet you noticed! March 2018 is bringing a new look to our NDVS newsletter! This month is also full of upcoming, exciting events for veterans and veteran advocates.

Before I get to all the events, the new newsletter design is meant to be more than just visually appealing. We hope it makes it easier for you to keep up-to-date, find information, and have more resources at your fingertips. Please let us know what you think of the design. With your feedback, this will be a "work in progress" so together we will get the monthly newsletter just the way you like it! As with the previous format, if you want a print out, you will have to print the individual stories. However, there are Facebook and other social media buttons on this new format making it much easier to share electronically with friends and

family. All those buttons, including the print, are located at the top of the page on the right hand side.

Now for those events! We have a number of them and we know you will want to attend. On March 3rd, we are hosting a Home Buying and Preparation Seminar. It will provide resources and information to veterans who want to buy a home. The event will be in the first floor auditorium of the Southern Nevada VA Medical Center. It starts Saturday, so save your seat by clicking here: <http://bit.ly/2EdoZfr>.

Also on March 3rd, the long awaited Korean War Memorial will be dedicated. The Korean War Veterans Association Las Vegas Chapter 329 has been working on this for quite some time. The ceremony will be held at 11:00 a.m. at the Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery at the Memory Garden.

At the end of the month, you won't want to miss the 2018 Nevada Veterans Legislative Symposia. It is held every other year, in between sessions of the Nevada legislature. It provides the opportunity for veterans to gather for the purpose of identifying and prioritizing issues and concerns so they may be legislatively addressed.

In Reno, the symposium will be held on Saturday, March 24th, at the Washoe County Senior Center. Coffee starts at 8:00 a.m. The event runs from 8:30 a.m. through 11:30 a.m. You may obtain more details and save your seat in Reno by clicking here: <http://bit.ly/2HoyBmf> .

In Vegas, the symposium will be held Saturday, March 31st in the first floor auditorium of the Southern Nevada VA Medical Center. Coffee starts at 8:00 a.m. The event also runs 8:30 a.m. through 11:30 a.m. For more details and to save your seat in Las Vegas click here: <http://bit.ly/2nB1SSn> .

On March 29th, the first annual National Vietnam War Veterans Day will be commemorated in several ceremonies held throughout Nevada. In Las Vegas, a wreath-laying ceremony will be held at the Las Vegas Veterans Memorial in front of the Grant Sawyer Building at 1:30 p.m. Click here to save your seat: <http://bit.ly/2EaXTFU> .

On Saturday, March 31st there will two additional ceremonies in honor of Vietnam War veterans. In Carson City the VVA-388 will hold a ceremony at the Veterans Memorial in Mills Park at 5:00 p.m. In Winnemucca, the ceremony will be held earlier in the day, at 10:00 a.m. at the Veterans Cemetery, again on March 31st.

Also, one last event to tell you about! NDVS will be hosting another free two-day training workshop to set you on the path to becoming a Nevada Veterans Advocate. This event will be the weekend of April 7th and 8th at the Sunset Station Hotel and Casino in Henderson. The event runs both days from 8:00 a.m. through 5:00 p.m. Seats are filling up fast! For more information or to pre-register click here: <http://bit.ly/2GUIMPi> .

Finally, in addition to the new newsletter format, the NDVS Annual Report 2017 is ready for your review. Check it out by clicking here: <http://bit.ly/2Dx6JOz> .

As you can see, there are a lot of changes and a lot going on! We hope this ensures we continue to serve you in the best way possible. You deserve no less!

Respectfully,

Kat Miller

Honoring Nevada's Heroes

First Annual Vietnam War Veterans Day



By Terri Hendry

(Las Vegas, Carson City, Winnemucca, NV) – March 29, 2018 is a national day set aside to honor the men and women who served in the Vietnam War.

There will be several ceremonies across Nevada to commemorate the occasion.

One of the biggest ceremonies is expected in Las Vegas. On Thursday, March 29, there will be a wreath-laying ceremony at the Las Vegas Veterans Memorial at 1:30 p.m. The Memorial is located in front of the Grant Sawyer Building, 555 East Washington Avenue. You are advised to park across the street at Cashman Center. The event is open to the public but you may save your seat by clicking on the link and pre-registering: <http://bit.ly/2EaXTFU>

There are two additional ceremonies planned on Saturday, March 31st in honor of National Vietnam War Veterans Day. In Carson City, the VVA-388 will hold a ceremony at the Veterans Memorial in Mills Park. The ceremony starts at 5:00 p.m. Earlier in the day, another ceremony is planned in Winnemucca. Vietnam veterans will be honored and remembered at the Veterans Cemetery beginning at 10:00 a.m., again, on March 31st.

To read more about National Vietnam War Veterans Day click here:

<http://www.holidayscalendar.com/event/national-vietnam-war-veterans-day/>

into the forest, they are interviewed about their experiences and an unexpected friendship develops between OD and a southerner, with the nickname, "Cracker."

The movie was first released in 1989 receiving praise and acclaim. It received nominations for the Independent Spirit Award for Best First Feature and the Independent Spirit Award for Best Screenwriting.

Duncan is also known for his work on the movies, *Courage Under Fire* (1996), *Mr. Holland's Opus* (1995) and the television mini-series, *Vietnam War Story* (1987).

Additionally, Duncan is a novelist who also knows how to create riveting fiction. His most recent work is a Gothic fantasy entitled, *Dracula vs. Hitler*. Duncan imagines the legendary Count Dracula is revived at the start of World War II to do battle against Adolf Hitler and Hitler's monstrous Nazi machine. His book was released in 2016 to rave reviews.

Duncan served with the 173rd Airborne Brigade during the Vietnam War. The movie, *84 Charlie MoPic* is available on YouTube. (Profanity Advisory!) Just click the link to watch: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XNfPkh6C5Zo>

Korean War Memorial Dedication



Long-awaited Korean War Memorial to be dedicated at the Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Boulder City on March 3rd at 11:00 a.m. Read more about it here: <https://www.veteransreporternews.com/dedication-ceremony-scheduled-for-long-awaited-korean-war-memorial/>

Health and Wellness

Eli Pick Facility Leadership Award Earned Again by Nevada State Veterans Home



By Terri Hendry

(Boulder City, NV) The American College of Health Care Administrators is once again identifying the Nevada State Veterans Home in Boulder City as one of the nation's "top performers!"

Each year, the organization recognizes the leaders of America's top performing skilled nursing facilities through its Eli Pick Facility Leadership Award. This award is a distinction of significance with only 11% of facilities nationwide qualifying. The award is determined by a review of Minimum Data Set Quality Indicators or Quality Measures, occupancy and three years of survey data.

Congratulations to the Nevada State Veterans Home leadership and staff for providing excellent and exceptional care to our veterans.

For more on the Eli Pick Facility Leadership Award go here:

<https://achca.memberclicks.net/assets/docs/about%20the%20eli%20pick%20facility%20leadership%20award.pdf>

For more on the American College of Health Care Administrators go here:

<https://achca.memberclicks.net/>

U.S News and World Report Gives Nevada State Veterans Home Highest Rating



By Terri Hendry

(Boulder City, NV) The Nevada State Veterans Home recently received a 5-Star rating, the highest score possible, in the U.S. News & World Report's "Best Nursing Homes" ratings.

The U.S. News & World Report evaluated more than 15,000 homes nationwide. Of that number, 2,005 received an overall rating of 4.5 to 5-Stars. Also, of the 54 nursing homes in Nevada, only nine received an overall 5-Star, top performing rating based on health inspections, nurse staffing, and measures of medical quality of care.

This 5-Star rating is different than the Quality Rating System from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). CMS has a similar star ranking system. The Nevada State Veterans Home has also received a 5-Star rating from CMS and today still maintains the highest score possible from the federal agency.

This high mark by U.S. News & World Report joins a long list of accomplishments, awards and high rankings for the Boulder City skilled nursing facility. The staff is also award winning and remains dedicated to providing exceptional care.

One final note, this doesn't happen often but the Nevada State Veterans Home is now accepting applications for new residents. The facility cares for eligible veterans, their spouse, and Gold Star Parents. Click the link below for more information and to obtain an application package:

<http://www.veterans.nv.gov/page/veterans-home>

To read more on the U.S. News & World Report ratings, click here:

<https://health.usnews.com/best-nursing-homes/area/nv/nevada-state-veterans-home-boulder-city-295081>

Programs and Services for You

Air Force Competitions Include Army and Foreign Nationals



By Chuck N. Baker

(Nellis Air Force Base) — It was a clear, crisp and somewhat windy Friday morning. Music by the Air Force Wings of Blue (a part of the Air National Guard Band of the West Coast) gracefully filtered through the air as participants in the Air Force Trials filed into the outdoor pop-up arena.

Some had canes to help them walk, some relied on service dogs, and at least one woman was assisted by a proud little girl. The marchers were participating in the 2018 Air Force Trials, a paralympic event for wounded warriors. Several carried touches to light a large edifice in the center of the arena. Of particular note, local Senior Airman Hannah Stolberg and her service dog received heartfelt applause for her efforts.

The annual event is an important factor in the ongoing work that provides life-changing and lifesaving support to wounded, ill and injured airmen. There was an international flavor to the event. In addition to American airmen, there were U.S. Army athletes and veterans from the United Kingdom and Australia.

At one point the emcee directed attention to the sky above. Moments later airmen representing the Air Force Wings of Blue Parachute Team jumped from aircraft under the leadership of Jump Master, Master Sergeant Josh Pickering.

Air Force Major General John Kelly took to the podium and told the hundreds in the assembled audience the military was proud of all the participants. "We admire your strength and the ability to move yourself up," he said. He added in addition to participating in the events, he encouraged all of them to "build bonds" with each other adding, "Share stories on the field ... (and) we look forward to seeing you in action!"

Receiving an award for his efforts in promoting the Federal government's Invisible Wounds Initiative was civilian Air Force executive (Ret.) Edmundo Gonsales. He told of how efforts to help active duty, veterans, and families have greatly improved since the Vietnam era.

Today Air Force Wounded Warriors have access to several programs including Adaptive and Rehabilitative Sports, Recovering Airman Mentorship Program, and Caregiver Support, among others. The programs provide an environment of understanding, trust and open discourse. The goal is to eliminate real and perceived barriers that afflict some individuals.

It is known unfortunately, some warriors are reluctant to seek care. In addition to Air Force and other military service efforts, some challenges are addressed by the VA, the Department of Defense, and community-based groups. Although most service members return from Iraq and Afghanistan without physical injuries, some return with symptoms of PTSD or depression.

It was explained by several speakers the majority of paralympians, taking part in the Nellis event, have suffered or are still suffering from PTSD and traumatic brain injuries. Participation in the annual Air Force Trials goes a long way to helping them recover. The watchwords are, "Care Beyond Duty."

Munchies 4 the Military Provides Cake, Candy, and Comfort



By Chuck N. Baker

(Henderson) — Despite the challenges of supplying healthy food to the desert, American servicemen and women in the Middle East can pretty much count on having healthy food to eat. But combatants do not necessarily want to live by government meals alone and at least one Nevadan works tirelessly to see they don't have to rely solely on those meals. She works to provide snacks, cakes and other comfort goodies to the U.S. fighters serving in the hot desert.

Such goodies are not normally the standard fare of the Army, Air Force or Marine Corps. But those wanting something "more" can't just walk to the corner convenience stores because they don't exist in the desert, except in dreams or as a mirage. After the death of her Army son in Kandahar, Gold Star mom Suni Chabrow established the Douglas J. Green Memorial Foundation to assemble and ship packages full of goodies to the military serving in Afghanistan.

Last month, Chabrow held her fifth annual Munchies 4 the Military event and she had a lot of help. The event was held at Liberty High School, where hundreds of students and others showed up on a weekend to help assemble the packages. Chabrow calls them "care packages" after the WWII efforts that sent upper case CARE packages to G.I.'s overseas. Her boxes are filled with breakfast items, snack foods, beef jerky, nuts, dried fruit, protein, and granola bars. The packages even include some non-edible items such as wet wipes, soap and toothpaste.

In addition to the students, she was aided by several airmen from Nellis AFB and executives from the nearby Inspirada neighborhood. Communications

Coordinator Kevin Taylor and official Brian Kunec were on hand to help keep things in order. Taylor said his company's charitable committee has a history of helping veterans. Last year the firm donated food to a local Veterans of Foreign Wars post to feed the homeless.

Chabrow said individuals from Inspirada approached her about holding her event at the high school. Kunec said because of its proximity to Inspirada homes, "It's our high school!" Because the school is called Liberty, when it was suggested Chabrow use it as the location to collect and pack items for the military, her response was, "It's just natural!"

She added when her son was stationed at a remote outpost in Kandahar in 2011, the men were only guaranteed one meal a day. She got in the habit of sending him care packages, which he shared with others in his unit. After his death, she decided to start the foundation in his name, and begin sending packages to units overseas.

All of the items and labor are donated to the non-profit foundation, and her group is always in need of financial donations in order to purchase postage. In a hand-out explaining her mission she wrote; "The foundation is dedicated to providing comfort and support to service members and their families through sending thoughtful and useful care packages during their deployment. Until every one of them is back home and safe, we will continue to be here, supporting our men and women so that they will NEVER be forgotten."

To donate, or for more information, the foundation's phone is (702) 845-9171. Or email, suni@DJGMF.org.

Free NVA Training in Southern Nevada



By Terri Hendry

(Henderson, NV) – The Nevada Department of Veterans Services is hosting a free, two-day training workshop to set you on the path to becoming a Nevada Veterans Advocate (NVA). What do NVA's do? Simply put, they are volunteers who help connect veterans to earned benefits and resources.

The workshop will help introduce, train, and update those interested in becoming an NVA. Certificates will be provided to those who complete the two-day course.

The workshop will take place over the weekend of April 7th through April 8th at the Sunset Station Hotel and Casino. The sessions run from 8:00 a.m. through 5:00 p.m. each day.

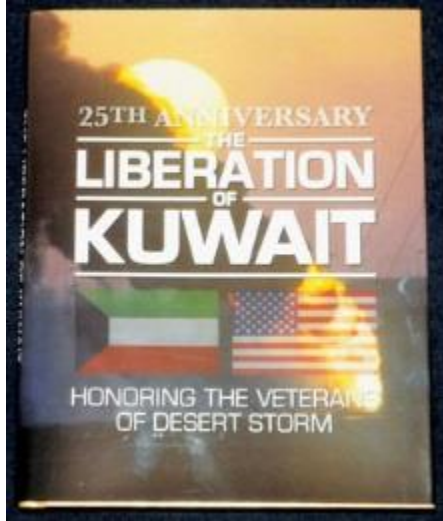
A complimentary continental breakfast will be provided each day as well as snacks and beverages. Vouchers are available for southern Nevada attendees who will be traveling in excess of 60 miles, but to qualify, you must be pre-approved by contacting McKensie King at 775-321-4708 or kingm@veterans.nv.gov.

You may save a seat for the workshop by pre-registering here:

<http://bit.ly/2GUIMPi>

Registration is also available on Saturday, April 7th beginning at 7:00 a.m. at the sign-in table in front of the event.

Gulf War Veteran? Free Gift for You!



The State of Kuwait is providing a special "thank you" to the men and women who served in Operation Desert Storm. Gulf War veterans may receive a free commemorative, first-edition book, *The Liberation of Kuwait*. It includes a companion, feature-length documentary on DVD. The set retails for \$49.95 but is yours, free, because of your service.

The high quality book was published in 2016 by Remember My Service Productions. It is full color, printed on heavy glossy paper. The 9" X 11" book has a hardcover and dust jacket.

We regret we cannot mail the free book sets due to cost. But you may arrange to pick up your free copy by emailing hendryt@veterans.nv.gov. We can make arrangements for you to pick up your copy from the nearest NDVS office. Thank you for your service!

News You Can Use

Don't Miss the 2018 Nevada Veterans Legislative Symposia



By Terri Hendry

(Reno and Las Vegas, NV) – The Nevada Veterans Legislative Symposia is one of the best vehicles for Nevada's veterans to air their issues and concerns to have them legislatively addressed.

It is held every other year, in between sessions of the Nevada legislature. In those "off" years, the symposia consist of two separate events with one symposium being held in southern Nevada and the other in the northern part of the state.

The Nevada Department of Veterans Services hosts both events in partnership with the United Veterans Legislative Council (UVLC), which is a lobbying arm for veterans.

In each symposium, participating veterans provide input and discuss issues they believe need to be addressed. The veterans themselves then prioritize the identified issues, which helps in drafting bills to be taken before Nevada lawmakers. In 2017 Governor Brian Sandoval signed 26 veteran-friendly bills into law. The symposia held the year before played a big role in this legislative success.

In Reno, the symposium will be held on Saturday, March 24th at the Washoe Senior Center located at 1155 East 9th Street. Coffee begins at 8:00 a.m. with the event running from 8:30 a.m. through 11:30 a.m. You may pre-register and save your seat in Reno by clicking this link: <http://bit.ly/2HoyBmf>

The North Las Vegas symposium will be held on Saturday, March 31st in the first floor auditorium of the Southern Nevada VA Medical Center located at 6900 Pecos Road in North Las Vegas. Join us for coffee at 8:00 a.m. with the event running from 8:30 a.m. through 11:30 a.m. Click the link to pre-register for the Las Vegas event: <http://bit.ly/2nB1SSn>

NDVS will provide follow-up information on the issues identified and prioritized through the symposia. To stay up-to-date, visit our website at www.veterans.nv.gov and click on the Nevada Legislative Information tab on the front page. Also, "like" our Facebook page to receive information of importance to veterans regarding the upcoming session of the Nevada legislature.

America Legion National Commander Visits the Silver State



By Chuck N. Baker

(Henderson) — Abraham Lincoln died a half-century before the American Legion was born. But according to current Legion Commander Denise Rohan, Lincoln anticipated the government's obligation to care for those injured during the war and to provide for the families of those who perished. In his second inaugural address, Lincoln words, "To care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan," became the motto of the Veterans Administration and a pillar of the American Legion.

Rohan, the first female National Commander of the Legion (coincidentally sworn in during the group's National Convention in Sparks in 2017) toured Southern Nevada in February 2018. During a visit to Post 40 of the Legion in Henderson, she said too often individuals think it's "all bad news" when they hear the "VA." That's an incorrect assumption, she explained. "The Secretary of the VA (David J. Shulkin) is doing amazing things." She added that veterans issues are non-partisan and "lots of bills are being passed" in Washington D.C. to help veterans. She also noted the recently passed Accountability Act, that allows for speedier dismissal of VA employees found to be derelict in their duties, has made a major difference in VA staffing.

Rohan acknowledged that the VA has long had difficulty in bringing in doctors and other health care professionals due to pay scales. "I will be testifying in Washington D.C. about compensation and will bring up that topic," she said.

As an Army veteran, the Iowa native initially attempted to join an American Legion post when she lived in Wisconsin. But she was incorrectly told in 1982 that women could only join the auxiliary. Not knowing that she was eligible to become a Legion member, she declined the auxiliary offer. She said several years earlier she had joined the Army because, "I didn't really know what I wanted to do when I grew up." She laughed when she added that after she left the service, "I still didn't know what I wanted to do!" But as time went on she was approached by another Legionnaire who knew the rules, and he asked her to join the organization as a full-fledged member. She became the Post Commander and then was elected to the Adjutant's post. She continued to move up, reaching the peak in 2017 when she was elected National Commander.

Rohan was welcomed at Post 40 by local American Legion Committeeman Ron Michalski, Jeanette Rae-Evans, Alternate Committeeman and Yvette Weigold, Commander of the Legion's Department of Nevada. Weigold commented that it is important to get the word out to veterans that they are eligible to apply for VA benefits. The Legion supports Veteran Service Officers who provide legal representation to veterans to apply to the VA at no cost. Also at the event was Nevada Legion Adjutant Lionel Motta, who discussed a new program called, "Hear Today, Learn Tomorrow." The program provides financial assistance to elementary school children with hearing problems so they can gain access to medical care.

During her visit to Southern Nevada, Rohan also paid visits to Post 76 in Las Vegas, and the Nevada State Veterans Home in Boulder City, where she was given a tour by Administrator Linda Gellinger.

Need Your Help to Commemorate Nevada Men Who Died at Sea in WWII



By Terri Hendry

(Carson City, NV) – Work is underway in Carson City to build a display case that will house a ten foot model of the U.S.S. Corvina. Members of the U.S. Submarine Veterans Inc., Corvina Base are working with the State as well as the Nevada State Museum to place the display in the lobby of the State Library.

The submarine veterans are also planning on a second display case, next to the model, to show other artifacts from the Corvina. This second case is where these veterans are asking for your help. They want to find photos of Nevada men who died at sea aboard submarines during WWII.

It is believed there are at least 14 Nevada men who perished in a submarine during WWII while serving their country. One veteran who mans the website, On Eternal Patrol, has photos of 12 of the men. He is missing three photos and was hoping to get the word out in Nevada to those who might know family members of the following men:

Claire Daniel Fellds – Believed to have family in Reno

<http://www.oneternalpatrol.com/fellds-c-d.htm>

Jerry Kenneth Davidson – Was born in Elko

<http://www.oneternalpatrol.com/davidson-j-k.htm>

William Kenneth Smiley – Believed his parents lived in Boulder City. Smiley was honored by the Boulder City Hometown Fiddlers on the WWII Memorial website. <http://www.oneternalpatrol.com/smiley-w-k.htm>

Corvina Base Commander, Steve Salzman is the point of contact and can be reached through the group's website: <http://usscorvinabase.org/>

According to the Naval History and Heritage Command, the Gato class submarine met her doom on November 16, 1943 by enemy action. Enemy records indicate she was sighted after surfacing in Latitude 5°-50'N, Longitude 151°-10'E. An enemy sub fired three torpedoes. Two were reported to have hit causing "a great explosion sound."

Things Have Changed for LGBTQ Veterans



By Rob Williams

(Statewide) – The Nevada Department of Veterans Services (NDVS) is currently conducting an Outreach Program to connect with LGBTQ veterans who were discharged under "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" (DADT) and previous Department of Defense policies.

Current statistics indicate approximately 14,500 LGBTQ service members were discharged under DADT. NDVS is working to connect with LGBTQ veterans who were discharged in an improper or inequitable manner without aggravating factors.

Veterans who were discharged less than honorably due to their LGBTQ orientation are encouraged to work with an NDVS Veteran Service Officer (VSO) to:

- Upgrade the character & narrative of their discharge
- Update the separation and reentry codes on their DD-214

Having a veteran's discharge upgraded can give access to benefits such as education, job and vocational training as well as VA home loans and health care. Such benefits may not have been available to veterans with less than honorable discharges.

NDVS has a team of Nevada Veterans Advocates (NVAs) who are located throughout Nevada. They can help answer general questions about veteran benefits and help get the paperwork organized for upgrade appeals.

Our VSOs will file the actual appeal and advocate for the LGBTQ veteran. The contact info for making an appointment with one of our VSOs is as follows:

Reno – (775) 321-4880

Las Vegas – (702) 224-6025

Elko- (775) 777-1000

News from the VA

VA partners with Cohen Veterans Network to Increase Access to Mental Health Resources

<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=4017>

VA Introduces New, Improved Modernized Leasing Program

<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=4016>

We want to connect with veterans before they know they need us

<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=4015>

VA partners with Deep Mind to build machine learning tools to identify health risks for veterans

<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=4013>

For Women's History Month, VA to showcase stories of 10 women veterans

<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=4008>

Employment/Education

Transition to Civilian Life Made Easier by Employer Support of Guard and Reserve



By Chuck N. Baker

(Las Vegas) — In 1946 William Wyler directed a post WWII film, “The Best Years of Our Lives.” Considered by most critics and film goers as one of the best movies ever produced, the Oscar winning story revolves around three servicemen returning home after the war. In one scene, actor Dana Andrews returns to the drugstore where he worked prior to the service. The manager asks Andrews if he gained any experience that could transfer to the drugstore. For example, was he a supervisor, did he work in the supply room, did he have purchasing skills? Andrews answers that all he did was pilot bombers over enemy territory. The manger shrugged and offered Andrews a job as a soda jerk, which he took. After all, employment was difficult to obtain after the war.

Today, real-life experiences like that are few and far between. Uniformed service members of the National Guard and Reserve have rights and responsibilities when they return from active duty, particularly when it comes to returning to their pre-deployment employment. And employers are also expected to adhere to laws that govern their actions. Mary Johnson is the local chairperson of the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR.) She oversees a large group of State-wide volunteers who help spread the word concerning smooth transitioning of Nevada residents who return to the workforce after serving the Nation.

“We’re fortunate to have support from Nevada’s employers,” Johnson said. She explained that ESGR circulates information under the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act that mandates obligations for

employers to rehire National Guard and Reservists. But she points out that those returning are required to act quickly as well. Upon returning, they must notify companies of the date they plan to go back to work, and they should seek to resolve any pay and compensation issues. Other details that will vary from employer to employer, such as reviewing 401k or other pension plans, discussing retirement and life insurance benefits, updating personal data such as addresses and phone numbers, and determining if training or retraining of job skills is necessary.

Companies are nominated each year to receive awards for their help in transitioning servicemen and women back to work. There are three categories. "We give awards to large firms, small companies and public sector firms," Johnson said.

Work revolving around ESGR is accomplished by volunteers. Johnson, a resident of Southern Nevada, is a Navy Reservist who reports to the Fallon Naval Air Station. Her volunteer work is separate from her Reserve duties. She covers the entire State, but she is always seeking the services of new volunteers. She is especially interested in recruiting an area chairperson in the Las Vegas area. Johnson can be reached at (702) 371-9840, or by email at marytjohnson@yahoo.com. Volunteers can help ensure that motion picture scenes, like the one described above, remain in movies and not in real life.

Life After Active Duty? Absolutely!



By Chuck N. Baker

(Las Vegas) — There are numerous dedicated organizations that provide help to veterans. Each tends to specialize in select areas. The Disabled American Veterans, the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Paralyzed Veterans of America are but three groups that provide help to those who have left the service. But a local group that seeks to help veterans empower, explore and engage when they leave the military is a bit less known. Life After Active Duty has a mission to honor and assist veterans and families through the transition from active duty to building successful lives.

Founder and Executive Director Eva Secchiari explained the vision of the organization is, "To be an accessible streamline of collaborative veteran resources providing life enhancement programs, mentoring and coaching." Overall the group advances veterans as productive and contributing members of society through several programs.

Secchiari is a Navy brat whose brother is both a Navy and an Army veteran. Her son was in the Marine Corps serving in Afghanistan and he was the inspiration for her organization. "When he came back, he wasn't the same," she said. "He had PTSD and the system failed him." She observed that about other veterans as well and she found it unsettling.

Secchiari formed the non-profit group and notes that she actively stresses core values in her support of veterans. Some of those values include, "helping veterans to want to achieve their goals of a successful life, and giving veterans the tools to achieve those goals. We inspire them to believe in a better future for themselves, and ensure they are seen as having worth and value in their

communities," she said. Hers is an all-volunteer organization sans salaries. "We change lives and make it better for veterans. You can't put a price on that."

Secchiari said Life After Active Duty offers methods that strive to redefine and better the lives of those who reenter the civilian workplace. Programs offer stress and conflict resolution, education regarding VA benefits, pro bono legal services, alternative therapeutic modalities for PTSD and TBI and financial management and budgeting, among other topics.

On March 12 at 1:30 Secchiari said she is partnering with the Veterans Experience Service of the Education Department at the VA clinic in North Las Vegas for the screening of a documentary motion picture entitled "Almost Sunrise." She said it will explain positive pathways of transition. It is open to the public. To RSVP, call (702) 791-9000, ext. 14562.

Located in Las Vegas, Life After Active Duty can be reached at (702) 497-8744, or by email at eva@lifeafteractiveduty.org. It's a fact the great majority of those who leave the military lead successful, productive lives but some need a little help and support. Life After Active Duty is working to turn those numbers into 100 percent of Nevada's veterans.

Always Remember, Never Forget

March marks some anniversaries and milestones!

Spanish American War – Read all about it!

<http://www.history.com/topics/spanish-american-war>

The Navy Reserves marks a birthday on March 3rd. Learn more about the Navy Reserves here:

<https://www.navy.com/about/history.html>

The American Legion also marks a birthday March 15!

<https://www.legion.org/events/2018/03/15/american-legion-birthday>

March 25 is National Medal of Honor Day. Learn more here:

<https://nationaldaycalendar.com/national-medal-of-honor-day-march-25/>

Mark Your Calendar

March 3rd, Home Buying and Preparation Seminar. Learn about the programs and resources available to veterans who want to buy a home. Event will take place at in the first floor auditorium of the Southern Nevada VA Medical Center, 6900 Pecos Road, North Las Vegas from 9:00 a.m. through 3:00 p.m. Save your seat by going here: <http://bit.ly/2EdoZfr>

March 3rd, Dedication of Korean War Memorial. Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Boulder City. 11:00 a.m.

March 29th, National Vietnam Veterans Day with wreath-laying ceremony at the Las Vegas Veterans Memorial in front of the Grant Sawyer Building, 555 Washington Ave., Las Vegas. Park at Cashman Center across the street. Ceremony starts at 1:30 p.m. For more details and to save your seat: <http://bit.ly/2EaXTFU>

April 7th-April 8th, Free NVA Training Workshop at the Sunset Station Hotel and Casino. Sessions run from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. both days. For more information and to save your seat: <http://bit.ly/2GUIMPi>