



May 2018

NDVS Veterans Voice Newsletter

Message from the Director

Greetings and Welcome to May!

Memorial Day will be here before you know it. Thank you for sharing your activities and events! With your help, we have been able to put together a very full calendar for this month.

We're getting a lot of interest early on about Memorial Day events. This year Governor Sandoval will be in Fernley for the annual Memorial Day Ceremony at the Northern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery on Monday, May 28 at 11:00 a.m. In Southern Nevada, I will be attending the ceremony in Boulder City, also scheduled on Monday, May 28 at 1:00 p.m.

Don't forget the "Flag-In" events at both cemeteries! This ensures an American flag is placed on each gravesite. This year, the "Flag-In" events will be held on Saturday, May 26.

I also want to thank everyone in southern Nevada who turned out for our free, two-day Nevada Veterans Advocate (NVA) workshop in Henderson! There was such record-breaking interest; we're already planning the next free event. It will be held sometime in October in Elko. We will share times, dates, location as soon as this information is firmed up and becomes available.

As an NVA, you are a specially trained volunteer who can be of tremendous help to veterans or military members. The training allows you to assist in connecting these individuals to earned benefits, resources or programs. If you cannot attend the next free training, you are always welcome to become an NVA by taking our online course! Go here to learn more:

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

Speaking of advocates, the United Veterans Legislative Council is ramping up to take the concerns and issues identified in our recent Veterans Legislative Symposia in Reno and Las Vegas to Nevada lawmakers. Go here for the full report: <http://veterans.nv.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Report-to-the-Veteran-Community-on-the-79th-Legislative-Session.pdf>

Finally, we received very positive news from the federal government recently regarding construction funding for our new Northern Nevada State Veterans Home! We learned we will receive more than \$33-million dollars in a new VA construction grant this year! Click the link below to find out why a federal rule change, championed by Senator Dean Heller and supported by our Congressional delegation, made all the difference in the world!

The new veterans' home is being built in Sparks, Nevada. Its completion remains on schedule, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony set for December 2018! It's my belief this project would have never happened without the leadership of Governor Sandoval, all our elected leaders and you!

Respectfully,
Kat Miller

Honoring Nevada's Heroes

Share Your Memorial Day Event!

If you know of a Memorial Day event going on in and around your community, please share it with us. The Nevada Department of Veterans Services will place Memorial Day events on the front page of our website: www.veterans.nv.gov

Send your event to: hendryt@veterans.nv.gov

We will help you "spread the word!"

A Closer Look at Memorial Day

By Terri Hendry

Memorial Day falls on the last Monday of May. The day is set aside each year to remember the men and women who died while serving in the U.S. military. It became an annual day of remembrance a few years after the Civil War ended in 1871. That war was known as the "War Between the States," ending in 1865 with a tremendous loss of life: among the bloodiest conflicts in U.S. history.

By the late 1860's, Americans began holding tributes to the fallen soldiers, decorating their graves with flowers, reciting prayers. Historians have a tough time determining exactly when this tradition occurred but in 1966, the federal government declared Waterloo, New York the "official" birthplace of Memorial Day. That city was chosen because it hosted an annual, community-wide event, one in which businesses closed and residents decorated the graves of soldiers with flowers and flags, which is why Initially, the day become known as Decoration Day.

After World War I, Decoration Day evolved into a day to commemorate the deaths of all American military members who died in all wars. In 1968, Congress passed the Uniform Monday Holiday Act, establishing Memorial Day as the last Monday in May.

Memorial Day is a solemn observance that stands in stark contrast to its significance by some as the unofficial start of summer. When lawmakers set aside the last Monday of May for a day of national remembrance, they also declared that Monday a federal holiday, giving federal employees a three-day holiday weekend.

The annual Memorial Day ceremony at the Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Boulder City will be held on Monday, May 28, 2018 beginning at 1:00 p.m. The Flag-In event to place flags on each gravesite will be held on Saturday, May 26, 2018. Please arrive before 7:00 a.m.

In northern Nevada the Memorial Day ceremony will be held at the Northern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Fernley on Monday, May 28, 2018 beginning at 11:00 a.m. The Flag-In event will be held on Saturday, May 26, 2018 beginning at 9:00 a.m.

The day is observed in many ways. Some visit a cemetery or memorial or participate in parades, while others host gatherings of family and friends. If you're wondering what events or gatherings are happening in your community, we've asked around the entire State for activities and events this Memorial Day.

Purple and Humble Were Colors of the Day

By Chuck N. Baker

(Las Vegas) — Veterans from different military services come in all shapes and sizes and have many levels of expertise. Some have families and jobs that take up their time. Others have disabilities that sometimes limit their mobility. Still, many feel a sense of duty and commitment to helping others who may be less fortunate or just require one simple helping hand to get back on their feet and become solid members of society. Enter Raymond P. Warren, who received the honor of being named April's Veteran of the Month by Governor Brian Sandoval in a ceremony at the Grant Sawyer building in Las Vegas.

The list of Warren's accomplishments and volunteer work is too long to fully recap here. But a few highlights include his duties as serving as chaplain for both the Purple Heart Chapter 730 and Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 93. He also volunteers for the Disabled American Veterans Black Mountain Chapter 12. He can be found most days at the front desk of the Henderson Veterans Center where he greets individuals who walk in seeking information. Warren was a Marine Corps Lance Corporal in Iraq and was wounded outside of Fallujah.

Warren was nominated for the monthly honor by fellow Purple Heart recipient Richard Keirn, who was present along with many fellow post members who were all wearing their Purple Heart shirts. Keirn has nominated six of the past veterans selected to receive the honor. When asked about his dedication to finding deserving candidates, he said, "It's a national past time for me!"

In remarks from the podium, Governor Sandoval praised Warren, saying, "I appreciate your sacrifice and all you've done. It's a compliment to where your heart is and where your soul is." He also took a moment to announce that construction of the Veterans Home being built in the Northern part of the State is on schedule and a ribbon cutting ceremony will be held later this year.

The Governor presented the Veteran of the Month certificate to Warren, who was wearing his own Purple Heart membership shirt. The quiet and humble individual thanked Keirn for nominating him. Secretary of State Barbara Cegavske took part in the ceremony by attaching the Veteran of the Month pin to Warren's collar. All in all, it was a "Purposeful" Purple Day!

U.S Marine Corps Veteran Raymond Warran III receives award and recognition from Governor for selfless service

(Las Vegas, NV) – Congratulations to U.S Marine Corps veteran Raymond Warran III! On April 16, 2018 he was recognized and honored for his service and support of Nevada's veterans. Governor Brian Sandoval named Warran *Veteran of the Month* during a special ceremony held inside the Grant Sawyer Building in Las Vegas.

Warran is affiliated with the Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH) Chapter 730, Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 983 and the Marine Corps League Black Mountain (MCLBM) Chapter 12.

Warran spends hours volunteering at the Henderson Veterans Center manning the front desk, answering the phone and helping the Veterans Counselors. He also provides veterans with any information they require. Additionally, Warran is very active in the MOPH and VFW chapters also serving as chaplain to both organizations. Warran has also participated in numerous community and veteran projects within the MCLBM.

In addition to helping veterans, Warran also supports active duty military members by participating activities and events involving Retiree Day, the Air Show at Nellis Air Force Base, the local National Guard and Reserve Center and the MOPH Family Support Center. If there is a veterans' activity taking place in Henderson, Warran is always available to help with parades, the community Veterans Day ceremony and more.

The Veteran of the Month award and Veteran Supporter of the Month awards were established to recognize those who have gone above and beyond the call of duty in volunteer work in support of veterans and the military.

If you would like to nominate someone to receive this recognition and honor, click here to get started: <http://www.veterans.nv.gov/page/veteran-of-the-month-program>

Vietnam Veterans of America Sierra Nevada Chapter 989 receives Veteran Supporter of the Month Recognition and Honor

By Terri Hendry

(Carson City, NV) – Most of the seats were full inside the Old Assembly Chambers, located on the second floor of the Capitol Building, above the Governor's Office.

Members of the Vietnam Veterans of America Sierra Nevada Chapter 989 had to save the Governor a front row seat. He slid into his chair just as Nevada Department of Nevada Services Director Kat Miller began joking about having to adjust the podium before the ceremony could begin. Her smiles and jokes quickly took a serious turn when she began highlighting just a few of the reasons this Reno VVA Chapter was selected to receive *Veteran Supporter of the Month*.

"This group shares a bond and a commitment that never again will one generation of veterans abandon another," Miller said. Before introducing Governor Sandoval, she read a lengthy list of ways this group provides support to the veteran community ranging from assisting those with PTSD, to supporting non-profits like the Veterans Guest House or championing veteran-friendly legislation during the Nevada Legislature.

The Governor told the group how much he respects their military service, explaining his father served in WWII. He spoke about his visits while serving as Governor to Nevada military members serving overseas and what a lasting impression that made on him. In closing, he motioned to a giant circular seal in the middle of the chamber that features the head of former President Abraham Lincoln. Sandoval said, "In the shadow of Abraham Lincoln I want to paraphrase one of his famous quotes; I like to see a man proud of the place in which he lives, so that his place is proud of him."

VVA Chapter 989 President, Linda Dickinson noted the group was relatively new, having formed in 2006. She said, "We started with just 25 members and have grown to more than 150 members in the Reno and Sparks area."

For more information on the VVA Chapter 989: <https://vvareno989.org/>

To nominate a *Veteran of the Month*:

<http://www.veterans.nv.gov/page/veteran-of-the-month-program>

To nominate a *Veteran Supporter of the Month*:

<http://www.veterans.nv.gov/page/Veteran-Supporter-of-the-Month>

U.S.S. Corvina Model Will Soon Have a Permanent Place of Remembrance

(Carson City, NV) – The WWII submarine, The U.S.S. Corvina, will soon have a permanent home where the service and sacrifice of its crew members will be forever honored and remembered. That new home will be in the lobby of the State of Nevada Library, located in the Capitol Complex in Carson City.

A new clear, plexi glass display case is being specially designed and built to protect and house, as well as display a 10- foot model replica of the fated submarine. The new case will also display memorabilia from the Corvina and its crew members.

At one time, the Corvina model was on display at the Reno's Veterans Administration Medical Center (VA Sierra Nevada Health Care System), but after a remodeling project at the VA facility, the model was moved for safe keeping and has since been sitting in a private garage. Aside from its appearances in parades or other public venues, the model has been out of daily sight from the public. In the months ahead, that will change.

With support from the Nevada Department of Veterans Services, a unique partnership has formed between Nevada's U.S. Submarine Veterans Inc., Corvina Base, the Nevada Department of Administration and State Public Works. Since the beginning of this year, work has been underway to find the replica a new home. Mary Woods, with the Nevada Department of Administration said, "The plan for the display is perfect! The back door of the lobby of the State Library leads right out to the Veteran's Wall, which is right behind the Capitol Building."

For now, there are tentative plans for a formal dedication ceremony on August 6, 2018, with additional details that still need to be determined. That date was selected because is it the submarine's 75th Commission Anniversary.

The Corvina was assigned to Nevada and is one of 52 American submarines lost at sea. For more about the Nevada veterans group visit the Corvina website: <http://usscorvinabase.org/>)

For more on the Corvina history and its fallen, visit here: <https://www.oneternalpatrol.com/uss-corvina-226.htm>

A look back on National Vietnam War Veterans Day in Las Vegas

By Terri Hendry

(Las Vegas) — In case you missed it, the 1st Anniversary of the National Vietnam War Veterans Day was honored in Las Vegas on March 29th, the national day set aside in legislation signed by the President in 2017.

NDVS writer Chuck Baker attended the event. One thing he said stood out was the stark contrast between the warm, sunny, peaceful sky during the ceremony and the steamy, humid, insect-filled jungles of Vietnam where war waged more than 50 years ago. As tribute to Vietnam veterans, Chuck shares the ceremony in his words below. We also share the sights of the day in a photo essay within this newsletter

The Ceremony – By Chuck N. Baker

Hundreds of veterans, their families and other supporters heard keynote speaker Lt. Gov. Mark Hutchison discuss how the federal government has recognized Vietnam veterans and “the great sacrifices they have made.” He noted the word “holiday” is a contraction of “holy day,” and it’s appropriate that a special holiday for Vietnam veterans has been established.

Hutchinson said many citizens today are not fully aware of the Vietnam-era generation that came before. Although individuals who fought in Asia in the 1960s may not be personally known, “Many of them are still with us,” and it was appropriate that the legislation for the holiday in question was unanimously passed by both houses of Congress. That is something that seldom occurs. When he said, “We recognize our Vietnam veterans today!,” the audience responded with spontaneous applause.

Hutchison also paid tribute to the fathers, sons, sisters and brothers of veterans by saying, “Serving in the military is a family sacrifice.” He said many today don’t know what it’s like to be drafted and sent to a far away land. The Lt. Governor also read a proclamation from Governor Brian Sandoval in which the State’s Chief Executive wrote of his profound respect for Nevada’s veterans.

There were 149 veterans from Nevada either MIA or KIA in Vietnam. Their names were shown on two large placards on the stage, and were also printed on the program. It was noted that they came from cities and towns all over Nevada. In honoring those individuals, Nevada Department of Veterans Services Deputy Director Fred Wagar read aloud the names of all of those locations.

The ceremony closed with the placing of a memorial wreath at the foot of a sculpture of a Vietnam veteran by Hutchison and Tom George, president of the Nevada State Council of Vietnam Veterans of America.

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!

Health and Wellness

Joshua Beal: Not Just a Statistic

By Taylor Pittman

(Reno, NV) - In the Tahoe wilderness, Joshua (Josh) Beal's truck sat idle as his wife filed a missing person's report, as a deep gnawing feeling about what had happened to her husband overwhelmed her.

On June 6, 2015, Justeen was working another shift at her parent's restaurant in Gardnerville. She usually worked the swing shift and would frequently stay at a friend's house overnight in order to make commuting easier. But this night was different. "I was on Facebook and I saw Josh had posted three words on his page, 'Just another statistic' and I knew what had happened," she said.

She called her sister-in-law to go check on her husband, a Marine veteran, who was supposed to be at home at the time. Soon, Justeen's sister-in-law called back, reporting both Josh and his truck were missing.

Around 1:00 a.m., Justeen came home to an empty house, only to find a note from Josh. He told his wife of four years; "this is not [her] fault" and "he loved her very much," but she "was better off without him."

As the hours passed, and a missing person's report was about to be filed, Josh was found. Justeen said he had driven his truck to Lake Tahoe, wrote her another goodbye note, before ending his life.

Justeen explained Josh began his military journey at age 17, joining the Marine Corps soon after finishing high school. By the time he met her, he had already been deployed to Iraq once, but that was just the start. After another three deployments to Afghanistan, Iraq and Norway, Justeen said Josh was beginning to show signs of suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

"I could see the change. He would get angry so quickly, and he never used to act that way. I remember when his doctors, through the Southern Nevada Veterans Administration Medical Center (VA) gave him these sleeping pills and he would have intense flashbacks that were basically vivid nightmares," said Justeen.

Josh was only home for two years before his death. And within that time, Justeen said he was diagnosed with the most intense form of PTSD possible, thus labeling him as 100 percent disabled. She said at the time of his death, "Josh

was taking 44 pills a day, not just for his mental health, but also for his physical pain."

While there are programs and efforts underway to reduce veteran suicides, Justeen would like to see new approaches made available. "We have made people more aware, but we need something other than just a clinical option for these guys," Justeen said. "There are camps all over the U.S. where these guys can connect with their 'brothers' and they are able to see how much support is out there."

There is one camp Justeen favors. It is Veterans Transition Support (VTS), located in San Bernardino, California. (More on VTS:

<https://www.veteranstransitionsupport.org/about-us/>)

She said the camp is a 30-day experience for veterans, where they can talk about reintegrating into civilian life while also bonding with their families.

"In the military, emotions are considered a weakness, so these guys never get a chance to talk about what happened," she said. She also explained the comrade that comes with military service is very important. She added this bonding, particularly when dealing with strong emotions, can be missed when one becomes a civilian, which can lead to feelings of isolation.

She dreams of one day being able to provide new a new opportunity for Nevada veterans. She passionately said, "I want to bring a camp like that (VTS) to (Lake) Tahoe, I just need the funding. There needs to be a place in Nevada where vets can reconnect with their brothers, because that's the most important thing."

If you or a loved one is struggling, help is just a phone call away, call the Veteran Crisis Line at

1-800-273-8255. Or visit: https://activeheroes.org/get-help/?gclid=EAlalQobChMIvvv5tcPR2glVhspkCh09qAhSEAAYAiAAEgJXtfD_BwE

<https://www.nevadaappeal.com/news/local/veterans-suicide-prevention-discussed-at-carson-city-meeting/#>

<https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/docs/data-sheets/Suicide-Data-Sheet-Nevada.pdf>

Focus intensifies on veteran suicide prevention

According to the Veterans Administration, Nevada has one of the highest veteran suicide rates in the country, one that is significantly higher among veterans of all age groups compared to national averages. No one can really fully explain or answer the question, "why?" But the search for answers is well underway.

Las Vegas is one of eight municipalities nationwide to participate in the "Mayor's Challenge to Prevent Suicide among Service Members, Veterans and Families."

(Full Las Vegas news release:

https://www.lasvegas.va.gov/LASVEGAS/features/Las_Vegas_selected_for_Mayors_Challenge.asp)

The selection was made by the Veterans Administration and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. In March, team members from eight cities traveled to Washington D.C. to learn about innovative suicide prevention strategies, share best practices and develop action plans for their communities that could serve as models for other cities across the country.

Kim Donohue, with the Nevada Department of Veteran Services (NVDS), is participating in the Mayor's Challenge and traveled with the Las Vegas team to Washington D.C. Donohue will soon graduate from the University of Nevada, Reno and is using this experience to do more than gain college credit. She wants to solve a long standing, frustrating problem which is to provide a simple, one-stop, easy to navigate resource, where veterans, military members or their families can find the latest information about suicide prevention programs or get help, seven days a week, 24-hours a day. "While we found some of these resources currently exist on the internet, none are continually managed so information quickly becomes outdated," she said. Donohue is working with UNR to develop software that can address and solve this problem. (For more information contact Donohue at kdonohue@nevada.unr.edu)

Suicide prevention also very much remains a top of mind within the veterans' community. Veterans identified suicide prevention as an area needing more funding and support from Nevada lawmakers during the Nevada Veterans Legislative Symposia which was held last month in Reno and Las Vegas. Veterans and families are looking for more support and training. To see the 2018 Nevada Veterans Legislative Symposia report go here:

Programs like safeTALK, provide training to recognize risky behavior and to learn intervention skills in order to help veterans cope with suicidal thoughts. "Talking

about those thoughts is vitally important, as is removing any stigma associated with such a discussion," said Janett Massolo, Training and Outreach Facilitator at the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services.

She explained there are "invitations" veterans give their families when they are trying to request help. She said, "Invitations can be verbal. When veterans say things like, 'I'm done,' or 'I need to do my family a favor' or even 'I'm a burden,' are just a few examples," adding, "These are signs the veteran wants someone to ask how they are doing." Massolo said there are also behavioral invitations that can include drug use, withdrawal, isolation, risky behaviors, as well as issues with medication compliance.

For more information on safeTALK or suicide prevention go here:
<https://nvsuicideprevention.org/>

For immediate help call: 1-800-273-TALK (8255).

Mental Health Summit in Reno

By Terri Hendry

(Reno, NV) – The Veterans Administration has assembled key stakeholders from northern Nevada to provide a unique health care opportunity for veterans and their family members.

Mark your calendar for Wednesday, June 20, 2018 to attend the Sixth Annual Mental Health Summit. It will be held from 8:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. at Renown Health's Mack Auditorium, located at 1155 Mill Street, Reno.

This Summit is a forum for discussion and dialogue to support active engagement between the VA and community-based colleagues. There will be several opportunities for networking, so if you are a health care provider, please bring information about your programs you would like to share with others.

The topics will include:

- Access/Discharge Follow-Up (Improvements made after 2017 MH Summit)
- Suicide Prevention
- Whole Health Initiative
- Pain Management

If you have questions about the Summit or would like to be a speaker, contact Robi McMordie, LCSW at ROBERTA.MCMORDIE@VA.GOV

Heroes with Hearing Loss Program

Supporters of the program, *Heroes with Hearing Loss*, note for millions of veterans, hearing loss is a very personal, solitary challenge. This is why the group is bringing together veterans, their families and hearing healthcare professionals to share proven, lifestyle-focused solutions that make a life-changing difference.

The founders of the program explain those who have served in the military share an unshakable bond. The camaraderie, compassion and credibility instantly transform strangers into brothers and sisters. That bond sets up one of the founding principles of the Heroes with Hearing Loss program. They are asking veterans with hearing loss to face this challenge head-on and realize they don't have to go this alone.

For more information about the Heroes with Hearing Loss Program call 702-498-9311 or email abby.magtoto@hamiltonrelay.com

Heroes with Hearing Loss website: www.HeroesWithHearingLoss.org

Did You Know About the VA's Dental Insurance Program Or Its Extension?

The Veterans Administration (VA) is announcing the Veterans Affairs Dental Insurance Program (Delta Dental VADIP) will be extended through December 31, 2021!

Still, despite the success of the program, there are many veterans who have never heard of this dental benefits program. Below are some helpful links to learn more about Delta Dental VADIP:

- [Delta Dental VADIP Article](#) in Ameriforce
- [Find Your Monthly Premium and View the Plan Options](#)
- [Find a Network Dentist](#)
- [Fact Sheet](#)
- [Online Enrollment](#)
- VADIP Video <https://youtu.be/6K2bHbbjHl0>

Programs and Services for You

What You Should Know If You Are a Spouse of a Veteran

Barbara Rodgick is the widow of an Army veteran. After the death of her husband Bill, she has made it her life's mission to spread the word about earned benefits that you or your spouse may have never considered or even known about! She insists this knowledge may greatly enhance the life of a veteran or their spouse. Chuck N. Baker has more in the article from the Boulder City Review:

<https://bouldercityreview.com/opinion/widow-seeks-greater-awareness-of-military-illnesses/>

We Want to Hear From Women Who Have Served in the U.S. Armed Forces

By Terri Hendry

Are you a woman who has served in the U.S. Armed Forces? Even if you don't consider yourself a veteran, we would like to hear from you! Janel Gibson with the Nevada Department of Veterans Services is conducting "listening sessions" across the Silver State. She is receiving input in order to address the needs and desires of women who have served their country, whether during times of peace or conflict.

If you would like to participate in a session to share your voice or you simply want to share your voice, contact Janel Gibson at gibsonj@veterans.nv.gov or call her at (702) 486-5627.

News You Can Use

Veterans Heard by Nevada Lawmakers

By Terri Hendry and Chuck N. Baker

(Las Vegas and Reno, NV) – The 2018 Nevada Veterans Legislative Symposia is held every other year the Nevada Legislature is in between sessions. During these "off" years, one symposium held in northern Nevada, the other in southern Nevada.

The events provide an opportunity for participants to identify and prioritize key areas in the veterans' community in preparation for the 2019 session of the Nevada Legislature. Federal issues are brought before Nevada's Congressional delegation for review and consideration.

On March 24th approximately 100 people packed the room at the Washoe County Senior Center. They heard from State Senator Julia Ratti and Assemblyman Jim Wheeler along with Nevada's Congressional delegation representatives.

United Veteran Legislative Council Chairman Tony Yarbrough and Cesar Melgarejo, with the Legislative Counsel Bureau outlined the legislative process. Both stressed the importance of participation during the legislative session. Visibility of veteran service organization hats or pins during hearings makes a difference.

There were 23 issues identified. The top five were as follows:

1. Continue funding the Adopt-A-Vet Dental Program
2. Enhance the women veteran coordinator position to include being a
Veteran Service Officer
3. Improve support and training to veteran caregivers
4. Provide more programs to educate families about suicide prevention
5. Expand affordable or low cost mortgage housing opportunities for veterans and military

The following weekend in North Las Vegas, it was standing room only as approximately 130 participants packed the auditorium of the Southern Nevada VA Medical Center. The dais included Tony Yarborough, co-chair of the United Veterans Council; Richard Carreon of the Veterans Council and Jose Torres-Landeros, research policy analyst at the Legislative Council Bureau. A cross-section of Federal and State elected officials were also in attendance, adding bi-partisan support to the identification and prioritizing of issues specific to Nevada's veterans. During his remarks Yarborough put his finger on the overriding atmosphere of the gathering when he told the audience of veterans and supporters, "This is about you and your concerns."

Of the dozens of issues brought to the floor, the top five were as follows:

1. Post-service training to inform veterans to use the G.I. Bill.
2. Waiving of vehicle registration fees for active-duty military who are residents, and those who are non-residents, but who are stationed in Nevada.
3. Provide job training for homeless veterans.
4. Property tax and vehicle registration exemptions for disabled veterans.
5. Reciprocal licensing and waiving of start-up fees for active-duty spouses for select businesses.

All of the official speakers and others who presented remarks were encouraging and inspiring regarding the ability of veterans to direct positive change. Of particular note, Assemblyman Chris Edwards advised on methods of communicating with elected officials in order to effect the most impact. The watchwords were courtesy, being well-manned, showing respect and being prepared with details of the issue to be discussed.

A report, outlining all the identified issues and priorities, will be available within 30 days. We will post the information on the front page our website at www.veterans.nv.gov

You can also stay up-to-date on bills or legislation of significance to veterans by going to the same place once the session begins.

Arlington Launches Second 'Future of the Cemetery' Survey

Only 1 percent of all veterans are buried or inurned at Arlington National Cemetery, but the cemetery is still projected to run out of space in two decades unless new land is obtained, eligibility requirements change, or some combination of both. That's why Congress asked the Department of the Army to consider what could be done to preserve Arlington as an active military cemetery well into the future.

This is the reason why Arlington has launched a second survey to hear from its stakeholders. The first survey was conducted in July 2017 in partnership with the Veterans of Foreign Wars and other organizations. [Those results can be found here.](#)

This new survey further refines the first. Finding new land that is adjacent to the cemetery would be extremely difficult in an urban environment, but would closing Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall be a solution or just prolong the inevitable, since one acre extends the service life of the cemetery by only three months? Others are asking if Arlington should be reserved for active-duty deaths, combat deaths, former POWs, high heroism medal recipients only.

"Your opinion matters — not only to us, but to our military and civilian leaders as they face a difficult future for our hallowed national shrine," said Executive Director of Army National Military Cemeteries Karen Durham-Aguilera. [Take the new survey here.](#)

Northern Nevada State Veterans Home Receives \$33.5-million Federal VA Grant

See the full news release here:

<http://www.kolotv.com/content/news/Northern-Nevada-Veterans-Home-480072693.html>

<http://www.ktvn.com/story/37971432/northern-nevada-state-veterans-home-receives-335-million-grant>

<http://mynews4.com/news/local/us-department-of-veterans-affairs-awards-335-million-to-new-veteran-home-in-nevada>

<http://foxreno.com/news/local/us-department-of-veterans-affairs-awards-335-million-to-new-veteran-home-in-nevada>

Funding comes through!

<https://thenevadaindependent.com/article/about-last-week-veterans-home-funding-comes-through-sandoval-calls-for-sporting-events-commission>

Employment and Education

Become a Patriot Employer!

By Terri Hendry

(Las Vegas, NV) – Depending on your skill set, landing a good-paying job can be a challenge, particularly for military members transitioning from service to civilian life. That's in part what the Patriot Employer Program seeks to address.

The Patriot Employer Program provides employers with the tools and knowledge to hire and retain veterans. Just as important, it also demonstrates to Nevada businesses the benefits of utilizing men and women who have served in the Armed Forces.

The benefit of hiring veterans goes far beyond tax breaks and incentives. Anyone who has served in the military is familiar with discipline and teamwork. They have respect for policies and procedures and they know the importance of overcoming adversity to complete the mission.

Most former military are comfortable with technology and have been in positions where they have had to learn new skills or adapt quickly. They also come with a set of values that include integrity, honesty, and trustworthiness that would make any business or company proud. They know what it means to put in a "good, honest day of work."

The Patriot Employer Program provides businesses with a toolkit. Employers also receive knowledge through an online course. Upon completion of the course, that business is eligible to receive a decal and certificate, signed by the Governor, and presented in a ceremony, and then proudly displayed.

For more information on the Patriot Employer Program click here:

<http://www.veterans.nv.gov/page/Patriot-Employer-Program>

Hosting a Job Fair? Let us Know!

If you're hosting a job fair, let us know so we can spread the word! Recently there have been a couple of job fairs that have opened their doors exclusively to veterans and their families for several hours prior to opening to the public. These events have been amazingly success and we want to make sure we support you!

Send the name of the organization hosting the job fair along with the date, time, location, with address as well as contact information to hendryt@veterans.nv.gov

DAV Recruit Military will be hosting ONE BIG Job Fair in Las Vegas this December

It takes a lot of planning and preparation to host a big event. That is why DAV Recruit Military is already putting out feelers and spreading the word about its upcoming December 6, 2018 Job Fair in Las Vegas! The event will be held from 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. in the Conference Center of Las Vegas, 6590 Bermuda Road, Las Vegas, NV.

Click on the link before for more details and to search the job board:

<https://events.recruitmilitary.com/events/las-vegas-veterans-job-fair-december-6-2018>

Always Remember, Never Forget

Mexican-American War (Apr 25, 1846 – Feb 2, 1848)

The Mexican-American War is considered the first U.S. armed conflict fought on foreign soil. Read more about it here: <https://www.history.com/topics/mexican-american-war>

10 Things You May Not Know About the Mexican-American War

Take the challenge if you are a military history buff! Did you know these 10 things about the Mexican-American War? <https://www.history.com/news/10-things-you-may-not-know-about-the-mexican-american-war>

Civil War (Apr 12, 1861 – May 9, 1865)

The Civil War forever changed the United States. It is considered one of the bloodiest American conflicts with a death toll of 620,000, along with millions more wounded. Videos, articles, Generals, battles, and more can be found here: <https://www.history.com/topics/american-civil-war>

Mark Your Calendar

Armed Forces Day is in May!

Mineral County's 68th Annual Armed Forces Day Celebration has events all month long. Go here for events, dates, times and locations:

<https://www.facebook.com/AFDHawthorneNv/>

Buying a Mobile Home Presentation - Dayton

When: Wednesday, May 2, 2018, from 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM

Where: Dayton Valley Branch Library, 321 Old Dayton Valley Rd., Dayton, NV

Contact: 775-284-3491 or 1-800-323-8666

Purple Heart Proclamation Day as TMCC in Reno becomes first campus in Nevada to become a Purple Heart College!

When: Wednesday, May 2, 2018 beginning at 10:00 AM

Where: Red Mountain Police Parking Lot on the Truckee Meadows Community College Campus

Contact: Veterans Resources Center at 775-337-5612

Habitability Disputes - Reno

When: Thursday, May 3, 2018, from 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM

Where: 204 Marsh Ave. Reno, NV

Contact: 775-284-3491 ext 210

Fourth Annual Veterans Suicide Awareness March – Carson City

When: Saturday, May 5, 2018, starting at 10:00 AM

Where: Participants will walk from the corner of U.S. Highway 395 (Bully's parking lot) and West College Parkway to the WNC campus, 2201 West College Parkway, and back, which is approximately 2.3 miles round trip.

Contact: For more information contact Rick or Kyle at 775-445-3301 or email wncveterans@gmail.com

Bravo Zulu Training in Las Vegas for health care workers who care for veterans

When: Monday & Tuesday, May 7-8, 2018 from 9:00 AM – 4:30 PM

Where: UNLV's Clark County Cooperative Extension, Paradise Rd. Las Vegas, NV

Contact: Sandi TenBoer at tenboers@veterans.nv.gov or call 775 737-8642

Truckee Meadows Veterans Community Collaborative

When: Wednesday, May 9, 2018 from 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

Where: 5460 Corporate Drive, 2nd floor conference room inside the Federal Building, Reno, NV

Contact: Cathy Yates at yatesc@veterans.nv.gov or call (702) 830-2000

[Ask a Lawyer - Elko](#)

When: Tuesday, May 8, 2018, from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Where: Great Basin College Veterans Resource Center, 1500 College Parkway, McMullen Hall- Room 2201500, Elko, NV

Contact: 775-284-3491 ext 234 or 1-800-323-8666

Diversity Fair

When: Tuesday, May 8, 2018 from 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Where: VA Sierra Nevada Health Care System, meet at the Flag Pole, 975 Kirman, Reno, NV

Contact: Rob Williams at williamsro@veterans.nv.gov or call 775-378-2959

Habitability Disputes – Fallon

When: Wednesday, May 9, 2018, from 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Where: Fallon Chamber of Commerce, 85 Taylor St. Fallon, NV

Contact: 775-284-3491 ext 234 or 1-800-323-8666

Sealing Criminal Records Presentation - Reno

When: Thursday, May 10, 2018, from 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM

Where: 204 Marsh Ave. Reno, NV

Contact: 775-284-3491 ext 210

Learn About Drones and Connect with Veterans!

When: Thursday, May 10, 2018, from 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Where: Upward Bound is located at 5270 Neil Road, Suite 303, Reno, NV

Contact: RSVP is appreciated at vub@tmcc.edu or 775-829-9007

Know Your Rights: Bankruptcy Basics - Winnemucca

When: Friday, May 11, 2018, from 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM

Where: County Commissioner's Building, 50 W. 5th St. Winnemucca, NV

Contact: 775-284-3491 ext 234 or 1-800-323-8666

Reno Veterans Baby Shower - Reno

When: Friday, May 11, 2018, from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM

Where: VA Sierra Nevada Health Care System, 975 Kirman Avenue, Room L 1927, Reno, NV (Parking available on Locust Street)

Contact: Francie Mahoney, Women Veterans Program Manager at 775-785-7225 or 775-842-6239 or email Frances.Mahoney@va.gov

Welcome All Veterans Everywhere (WAVE)

When: Monday, May 14, 2018 from 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Where: Douglas County Community & Senior Center, 1329 Waterloo Lane, Gardnerville, NV

Contact: Cathy Yates at yatesc@veterans.nv.gov or call 702-830-2000

Ask a Lawyer – Carson City

When: Wednesday, May 16, 2018, from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Where: Veterans Resource Center, 106 E Adams Street #203, Carson City, NV 89706

Contact: 775-284-3491 ext 234, or 1-800-323-8666

Bravo Zulu Training for health care providers who work with veterans

When: Thursday & Friday, May 17-18, 2018 from 9:00 AM – 4:30 PM

Where: Vassar-Cordone Nonprofit Building, 1301 Cordone Avenue, Reno, NV

Contact: Sandi TenBoer at tenboers@veterans.nv.gov or call 775 737-8642

[Sealing Criminal Records Presentation – Lovelock](#)

When: Thursday, May 17, 2018, from 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM

Where: Pershing County Community Center, 820 6th St. Lovelock, NV

Contact: 775-284-3491 ext 210

[See Indie Movie "Served Like A Girl" in FREE Screening](#)

When: Thursday, May 17, 2018, doors open at 5:00 PM. Film at 6:00 PM

Where: Big Springs Theater in the Origen Museum Springs Reserve, 333 South Valley View Blvd., Las Vegas, NV

Contact: RSVP requested. You may register through VegasPBS.org or call Melodie Phoenix at

702-799-1010 ext. 5374

Armed Forces Day is May 19, 2018!

Check out Mineral County's events:

<https://www.facebook.com/AFDHawthorneNv/>

Nevada State Railroad Museum: FREE admission to veterans, their families, and veteran service organizations to the Nevada State Railroad Museum in Carson City on May 19th! Courtesy of the Friends of the Nevada State Railroad Museum!

Go here for more information:

<http://nvculture.org/nevadastaterailroadmuseumcarsoncity/events/armed-forces-day/>

Operation Battle Born: Ruck to Remember

When: May 20-28, 2018

What: The [Truckee Meadows Veterans Club of TMCC](#) is partnering with the University of Nevada, Las Vegas Rebel Veterans to execute the first statewide "Operation Battle Born: Ruck to Remember" march in honor of the fallen heroes from the Global War on Terrorism. Over the course of 8 days, veterans and volunteers from across the state will take turns carrying two rucksacks that share nearly 7,000 service member dog tags, including the 57 fallen Nevadans who made the ultimate sacrifice since September 11. In their honor, volunteers will march from the Las Vegas Veterans Memorial to Fernley Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Fernley, for a total of 370 miles. Participants will be asked to challenge themselves physically and mentally, facing the heat and the weight of the fallen heroes on their backs. If this is too strenuous, they are also asking for volunteers!

In southern Nevada, go here for more information:

<https://rebelraiser.unlv.edu/project/9963>

In northern Nevada, go here: <http://www.tmcc.edu/truckee-meadows-veterans-club/ruck-march/>

Family Stability Council in Winnemucca

When: Tuesday, May 22, 2018 beginning at 1:00 PM

Where: The National Guard Armory, 735 West 4th Street, Winnemucca, NV

Contact: Cathy Yates at yatesc@veterans.nv.gov or call 702-830-2000

NDVS Washoe County Community Veterans In Service Ceremony to honor veterans

When: Thursday, May, 24, 2018 at 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Where: Washoe County Senior Center, 1155 East 9th Street, Reno, NV

Contact: RSPV is requested. Contact Sandi TenBoer at tenboers@veterans.nv.gov or call 775 737-8642

[Buying a Mobile Home Presentation – Yerington](#)

When: Thursday, May 22, 2018, from 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM

Where: Walker River Justice Court, 911 Harvey Way, Suite 2, Yerington, NV

Contact: 775-284-3491 ext 234 or 1-800-323-8666

[Security Deposit Disputes – Reno](#)

When: Thursday, May 24, 2018, 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM

Where: 204 Marsh Ave. Reno, NV

Contact: 775-284-3491 ext 210

Flag-in Events

When: To prepare for Memorial Day, both the Northern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Fernley, NV and the Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Boulder City, NV will host flag-in events, on Saturday, May 26. The Northern Cemetery will start at 9:00 AM. The Southern Cemetery asks you to arrive before 7:00 AM.

Where: Northern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery, 14 Veterans Way, Fernley, NV and Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery, 1900 Veterans Memorial Drive. Boulder City, NV

Contact: NNVMC: 775-575-4441, SNVMC: 702-486-5920

Special Forces Memorial Day Ceremony

When: Sunday, May 27, 2018 at 10:00 AM

Where: Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Cemetery's Memorial Garden Area, 1900 Veterans Memorial Way, Boulder City, NV

Contact: SNVMC: 702-486-5920

Memorial Day at the Veterans Memorial Cemeteries

When: The Northern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery will begin its ceremony on Monday, May 28, 2018 at 11:00 AM. The Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery will begin its ceremony at 1:00 PM.

Where: Northern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery, 14 Veterans Way, Fernley, NV. Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery, 1900 Veterans Memorial Drive, Boulder City, NV

Contact: NNVMC: 775-575-4441. SNVMC: 702-486-5920

Please share your Memorial Day Events with us! We will do our best to get them posted to our website. Send your event to: hendryt@veterans.nv.gov

[Ask a Lawyer – Lockwood](#)

When: Tuesday, May 29, 2018 from 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Where: Lockwood Senior Center, 800 Peri Ranch Road, Lockwood, NV

Contact: 775-284-3491 ext 234 or 1-800-323-8666

[Security Deposit Disputes – Wadsworth](#)

When: Wednesday, May 30, 2018, from 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Where: Wadsworth Justice Court, 390 Main St. Wadsworth, NV

Contact: 775-284-3491 ext 234 or 1-800-323-8666