



September 2018

NDVS Veterans Voice Newsletter

Message from the Director

Let's Talk about Suicide

Last month I was researching the lives veterans we were interring at the State Veterans Cemetery in Fernley. Why? Because I think it is important to bring our unaccompanied veterans "to life;" to show that just because they were unaccompanied does not mean that they were not loved. For this ceremony, I researched the life of "Margareta," a WWII veteran who joined the Women's Army Corps in 1942. What I discovered in my research was a complete shock. For you see, Margareta ended her life in 1982; while traveling on a train she calmly removed her glasses, set them down, and flung herself out of a window onto the tracks. Because of the attention being paid to veteran suicide in the past few years, I really had not expected, or considered, that the same factors that lead to suicide today have likely always affected some veterans.

After the memorial ceremony, I placed my hand on the beautiful wooden container containing Margareta's ashes and thought, "I wish I could have been there for you." It seemed such a tragic waste; her life snuffed out years before her time. Since then, I have been thinking about that wish. How many people do I interact with, pass by, or nod to every day that may need help? And what about the people I know that have already died by suicide—what could I have done differently that might have helped? It is too late to help Margareta, but it is not too late to help others struggling with personal demons.

What can you do? Here are some ideas:

1. Put the National Crisis Line telephone number in your phone. Right now. Pull out your phone and enter this number: **1-800-273-8255**.
2. Take the free S.A.V.E. training offered by the PsychArmor Institute. This 25-minute course can help you support a veteran struggling with thoughts of suicide. The link is: <https://psycharmor.org/courses/s-a-v-e/>
3. Become a Nevada Veterans Advocate and help provide veterans and their families' information about resources and benefits that can enrich their lives. While half of all veteran suicides result from mental health illnesses, the other half are attributed to stress associated with life (relationships, finances, illness, grief, etc.). NVA's can help navigate veterans to these needed resources. Learn more, go to: <http://veterans.nv.gov/community/veterans-advocacy/>
4. If you see a person who is struggling, grab them and go get a cup of coffee. Ask if they are OK. Listen to them...really listen. Make sure they know that you **hear** them. Listen and allow the veteran to talk in a non-judgmental atmosphere. A recent survey of veterans who attempted suicide revealed on common factor: they felt like no one heard them. Provide the veteran with reassurance that help is available and that you can and will help them connect with the services needed to include the telephone number to the crisis line: **1-800-273-8255**. Also, follow up with them later, encouraging them to make that call.

In this "Special Edition" that highlights Suicide Prevention, please read more under Health and Wellness about what is being done to prevent suicide and what you can do to help others.

In closing, I did not share Margareta's story during the unaccompanied ceremony because I did not want her tragic ending to overshadow the lives of the other veterans being honored. I share her story today because it needs to be told. I tell it in hopes that you might feel better prepared to help a veteran who needs that help. While most veterans will never need this help, we can be there for those that do. Let's honor Margareta for her service—but also, in her name, join the fight to end veteran suicide.

Honoring Nevada's Heroes

Nevada's Heroes Honored in August

By Chuck N. Baker

Navy veteran Peggy Randale and the Work for Warriors program were selected in August 2018 to receive a special award and recognition by Governor Brian Sandoval. In a special ceremony hosted by the Nevada Department of Veterans Services (NDVS), Peggy Randale was named Veteran of the Month and Work for Warriors received the Veteran Supporter of the Month award and honor.

Peggy Randale served in the Navy from 1955 to 1957 and in the Naval Reserve until 1968. She is a member of the Veterans Cemetery Committee and a supporter of the Patriot Guard Riders. She also donates many hours of her time with Nevada Veterans Assistance League. NDVS Deputy Director Wendy Simons said Randale's volunteerism at the Nevada State Veterans Home is invaluable noting Randale also volunteers to visit smaller private assisted living homes around the State. Randale assists in Veteran in Care ceremonies, which are designed to recognize and honor veterans living in skilled care or assisted living facilities. Randale helps present certificates to veterans who reside in those facilities. "She is a giving, caring, wonderful person," said Simons.

Work For Warriors is a free, federally funded employment program open to all National Guardsmen, Reservists and their immediate families, as well as Gold Star families and veterans in need. When it comes to employment assistance, candidates are taken through an entire employment process, from beginning to end. The organization has coordinators located in four offices in both the Las Vegas and Reno metro areas. The group was nominated by Juan Rangel, the veterans advocate at Las Vegas PBS. The two organizations often work together to find employment for veterans. To contact Work for Warriors, go to info@workforwarriorsNV.org.

Secretary of State Barbara Cegavske attended the ceremony and assisted in the presentations. Blake Boles, the veterans' representative for Congresswoman Jackie Rosen, presented a certificate to Randale on Rosen's behalf. He prefaced his presentation by noting that as nice as kind words and certificates are, they pale in comparison to all the great work done by Randale and Work for Warriors. Bruno Moya, the regional representative for Senator Dean Heller, also took to the front and presented a certificate to Randale and Work for Warriors on behalf of the Senator.

Today, being in the military is a choice. It means that men and women who want to do right by their country enlist in one of the services and stay for one hitch or for 20 years or more. It means that once they become civilians again they can go where they please and do what they want, keeping the military in the distance, never again to think about saluting or reciting "Yes Sir!" or "Yes Ma'm!" That is unless they care to do so. And the fact is, veterans by the thousands care to do so.

These unselfish veterans continue their service as volunteers for the military, and for other charities. And those who never were in the military but who also want to help where they can proudly give of themselves to veterans organizations. They offer their time, their efforts and in many cases their treasure. Together both groups number in the thousands nationwide. Their work is appreciated in all cases. But in Nevada the Silver State feels it is only fitting that in addition to saying "Thank you," and maybe taking them to lunch or giving them a frosted cupcake, when more recognition is called for. Since the awards were established in 2011, they have focused a bright light on those who go the extra mile to help veterans and their families.

To nominate a Veteran of the Month, go here: <https://veterans.nv.gov/benefits-and-services/veteran-of-the-month-program/>

To nominate a Veteran Supporter of the Month, go here: <https://veterans.nv.gov/benefits-and-services/veteran-supporter-of-the-month/>

Every Veteran has a Story

By Terri Hendry

Every month the Nevada Veterans Coalition performs a military service to honor the unclaimed remains of men and women who have served in the military. The remains of some of these veterans have been sitting on a mortuary shelf for decades. The volunteers with the Nevada Veterans Coalition have vowed to make sure a promise made to those who have served is kept. Coalition President Brett Palmer insists, "No veteran should ever have to make that final walk alone."

Last August, the Coalition conducted another mission and buried 16 people that included 15 veterans and the spouse of a veteran at the Northern Nevada Veterans Memorial Ceremony in Fernley.

The guests learned more about a World War I soldier, buried with military honors, with the others. Nevada Appeal reporter Steve Ranson captures the story in this heart moving story; <https://www.nevadappeal.com/news/local/every-veteran-has-a-story/>

Below is Director Kat Miller's remarks in their entirety:

"Good Afternoon. It is my honor to welcome you to our Cemetery. Today, we are interring 16 amazing people—15 Veterans and, the spouse of a veteran. All of the veterans served during WWII except Army Privates Earl Anderson and Edward Cooley, both who served overseas during WWI. It is baffling that during the 100th Anniversary of WWI we are just now interring the remains of two WWI veterans. I need to start by saying a very big THANK YOU to the Nevada Veterans Coalition (and others) for finding these veterans so that they may receive long overdue honors. Thanks also to the Patriot Guard and others who have made this ceremony so special.

As I have mentioned in the past, when I first attended one of these events, I assumed that the veterans being interred had sad, lonely lives, and that they had been abandoned by friends and family. However, research has shown me that many of them had exciting and vibrant lives, full of family & friends who loved them. Admittedly, there are also stories of sadness & tragedy—but what well-lived life does not have doses of both joy and grief? So—why are they unaccompanied? There are many reasons, among them this—some of us simply will outlive those we love. But while unaccompanied by family, they are not alone—for we are here to honor them. Let me tell you about one of the veterans we honor today. This veteran is no more special than any of these

extraordinary people; however, I want to bring one of them, "To Life" to remind us that those before us are not simply urns-of-ashes.

Edward Daniells Cooley was born in 1896, the son of a store manager and homemaker in Watertown, Michigan. He loved music—but there was no money in playing the saxophone, coronet, flute, or drum; all of which he played extraordinarily well. He enlisted in the American Expeditionary Force in 1918, becoming a member of Truck Company #7 of the 23rd Engineer Regiment. Along with other companies of the Regiment, Edward's unit sailed out of Hoboken, NJ on the USS George Washington on a 14-day journey to France. The George Washington was the third-largest ship in the world at the time, built for comfort over speed. She has an interesting historical footnote; on 14 April 1912, as a luxury liner, the George Washington passed a particularly large iceberg south of Newfoundland and radioed a warning to all ships in the area, including White Star Line ocean liner Titanic. Unfortunately, as we know, the Titanic did not make good use of this intelligence. When we entered into WWI, the U.S. seized the George Washington for use as a troop transport ship. On the trip to France, those aboard her were very lucky—no German U-Boat attacks, no outbreaks of Spanish Influenza, no shipboard accidents. Oh, there were a few fights between the Soldiers and Sailors, but that was "all in good fun" according to a witness.

One of Edward's mates wrote this about the ship's departure, "No one will forget the hour of departure—shrouded in darkness, we left our pier at 8 PM Saturday March 30, 1918 and moved quietly down the river and out the bay bidding a fond, if silent, farewell to New York and our Lady Liberty." Once in France, the regiment rebuilt roads and terminals; no trench warfare for them—but there was enough enemy artillery action to keep them from being bored. Then, an interesting turn—Edward's talents as a musician were discovered, and he was transferred to the Regimental Band, where he served until the war's end.

Returning home in 1919, he got a job as a truck driver, then as a salesman, and married his sweetheart, Mabel. He never lost his love of music, and volunteered as a conductor and member of several local bands. But, at age 40, Edward decided to go to college, and as the oldest "Kid" on the campus of Michigan State College, he earned a Degree with honors in Public School Music. He went to work as a music teacher, continuing to perform locally. Tragedy struck in 1949 when Mabel died, and in 1950, Edward married Ida. Then—my research hit a wall. I know that in 1973 Ida passed away in Sparks, and that in 1982, Edward passed way in Walnut Creek, CA. Perhaps he moved to CA to be closer to his children who lived there (both whom have passed away). We may never know why Edward is not accompanied by family today, but what we DO know is that his is a life worth remembering.

Each of these containers hold a person with lives as full and interesting as Edward's was. But, without the determination of the Nevada Veterans Coalition and others, these patriots would be forgotten. Today, we make the final walk with them—to honor their service, and to say "Good-bye comrade." We did not know you, but you are one of us.
We remember.

Major Steve Long Dies

In case you missed the obituary in the Las Vegas Review Journal, below is the write up on Major Stephen Long of Las Vegas.

Stephen Long, 74, of Las Vegas, flew west for the last time August 10, 2018. He died from complications arising from Parkinson's Disease.

Steve graduated from Willamette University in 1966 and entered the U.S. Air Force March 13, 1967. He trained as a fighter pilot, was selected for O-2 Forward Air Controller operations and was sent to Thailand in November 1968. Steve was shot down by enemy fire Feb 28, 1969 over the Ho Chi Minh Trail inside Laos. He spent 1,490 days in captivity as a Prisoner of War.

After repatriation, he was lucky enough to fly the fighter planes of his dreams, the F-4, F-105 and F-16 Falcon and retired from the Air Force in 1987. He became an instructor in Nevada's classified F-117 Stealth program from 1987 to 1992.

In 2000, he became the Deputy Director for Veteran's Affairs for the State of Nevada and oversaw the construction of the Nevada State Veterans Home in Boulder City. Steve had a quick wit and enjoyed fishing, hiking, hunting, and spending time with family and friends. Steve loved flying and had flown fighter jets as recently as 2008.

Long was a huge fan of the performer, Tony Orlando and the feeling was mutual. Upon Long's death, Orlando tweeted about Long and the late Senator John McCain.

The family was very gracious in thanking staff at the Nevada State Veterans Home in Boulder City writing, "Thank you for all the kindness and compassion he received at the Nevada State Veteran's Home."

Steve was born February 16, 1944, in Hastings, Nebraska. Steve is survived by his loving wife, of 45 years, Katherine; son, Shannon Long; daughter, Katie Long Silvia; grandchild, Glen Silvia; sisters, Bonnie Werner of Medford, Oregon, and Shirley Hammer of North Bend, Oregon; two stepsisters; two stepbrothers; and several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, Nina Barnhart and Daniel Long; and stepfather, Hank Barnhart.

A memorial service in his honor was held on Friday, August 24, 2018 at Palm Mortuary in Las Vegas. In lieu of flowers, the family asked donations to be made to the Nevada State Veterans Home in Steve's honor. The home is located at 100 Veterans Memorial Drive, Boulder City, Nevada 89005.

Model of U.S.S Corvina Submarine Receives Permanent Home and Honor

Life aboard submarines during World War II was not for the weak. Submarine duty tested the resolve of thousands of sailors who spent tireless days disrupting the enemy's navy and maritime shipping. Many sailors who served aboard U.S. submarines knew the dangers of the grueling duty with inside temperatures soaring above 100 degrees affecting 80 to 90 men onboard; the inside air slowly growing foul with a combination of cooking, sewage, cigarette smoke, diesel and body odor, due to a shortage of water for bathing.

Nevada Appeal reporter Steve Ranson captures the essence of life aboard a submarine and the ceremony honoring the crew of the ill-fated U.S.S. Corvina submarine, hit by Japanese torpedo.

Read more in Ranson's story below!

<https://www.nevadaappeal.com/news/lahontan-valley/sunk-wwii-sub-honored-in-carson-city/>

Sully De Fontaine Receives OSS Congressional Gold Medal

Congressman Ruben J. Kihuen presented the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) Congressional Gold Medal to Colonel Sully de Fontaine for his service to the United States. Colonel de Fontaine served in the OSS during World War II. The OSS is the organization which preceded the CIA and the United States Special Operations Command.

During the ceremony, Kihuen said, "We are here today to honor Colonel Sully de Fontaine (Retired) for his dedicated and distinguished service career, which has earned him the prestigious OSS Congressional Gold Medal."

"In September 1944, Colonel de Fontaine bravely parachuted into occupied France to escort downed pilots to safety. In April 1957, Colonel de Fontaine completed his Special Forces Qualification Course at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. He then spent the next two years giving special instruction on Soviet intelligence, escape and evasion and counter-guerilla warfare."

During the course of his military career, Colonel de Fontaine was a member of the 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne), as well as the 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne), which is one of the most decorated Army Special Forces Groups in all of the United States Armed Forces.

Some of his U.S. and foreign decorations include: the Legion of Merit with Oak Leaf Cluster; Bronze Star with V Device; Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Cluster; Meritorious Service Medal; Joint Service Commendation Medal with V Device; Army Commendation Medal with V Device; Air Medal with V Device; Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal; Combat Infantryman's Badge; Master Parachutist Badge; and British Special Air Service Parachutist Badge.

Kihuen said, "The Congressional Gold Medal is the highest honor which can be bestowed upon a civilian, so it is with great pleasure that I present Colonel Sully de Fontaine with this medal for his selfless, exemplary service to the United States. Thank you for your countless sacrifices and contributions to our great Nation."

Two Las Vegas WWII Veterans Posthumously Receive Highest Honor by the French

Two highly decorated WWII U.S. Army veterans received yet another honor last month. Ahrez "Jim" Karim and Leroy Wagner received the insignia of Chevalier (Knight) of the National Order of the Legion of Honor. (Legion of Honor). The two WWII veterans were former residents of the Nevada State Veterans Home. This award is the highest presented from France.

Sergeant Ahzez "Jim" Karim was drafted in 1943. He parachuted at night behind German lines in preparation for the June 6th D-Day landings. On D-Day, he went from a Private First Class to platoon leader as his teams' Sergeant. Karim was awarded the Silver Star, two Bronze Stars and the WWII Victory Medal.

D-Day---On June 6, 1944, more than 160,000 Allied troops landed along a 50-mile stretch of heavily-fortified French coastline, to fight Nazi Germany on the beaches of Normandy, France. Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower declared, "we will accept nothing less than full victory." More than 5,000 Ships and 13,000 aircraft supported the D-Day invasion, and by day's end, the Allies gained a foot-hold in Continental Europe. The cost in lives on D-Day was high. More than 9,000 Allied Soldiers were killed or wounded. Their sacrifice allowed more than 100,000 Soldiers to begin the slow, hard slog across Europe, to defeat Adolf Hitler's army of troops.

Sergeant LeRoy Wagner enlisted in the U.S. Army on December 9, 1941, just two days after the attack on Pearl Harbor. During his enlistment, he became a Tech Sergeant with the 45th Infantry Division, known as the "Thunderbirds." The 45th Infantry Division served with General George S. Patton's U.S. 7th Army during the Sicilian campaign. When the fighting was done, the commander had this to say about the division; "Your division is one of the best, if not the best division in the history of American arms." Wagner also earned the Combat Infantry Badge, Good Conduct Medal, Bronze Star Medal and a Purple Heart.

The history of the National Order of the Legion Honor dates all the way back to the French Revolution. It was the wish of Napoleon Bonaparte, the First Consul, to create a reward to commend civilians and soldiers regardless of their stature in life. In 1802, a Légion d'Honneur (Legion of Honor) was established as the first modern order of merit. The Légion was open to individuals of all ranks and professions. The order is France's highest award and is conferred upon men and women, either French citizens or foreign nationals, for outstanding achievements in military or civilian life.

The Honorable Christophe Lemoine, Consul General of France in Los Angeles was extremely helpful in providing assistance in ensuring Karim and Wagner received this posthumous honor.

Their ceremony took place on Sunday, August 26 at the Nevada State Veterans Home.

Health and Wellness

Suicide Prevention: We Can and Must Do Better

By Kim Donohue, NDVS Suicide & Homelessness Prevention Program Manager

Veteran suicide has become an urgent issue for our nation and a top clinical priority for the Veterans Administration. Nevada communities and the Department of Veterans Services have made suicide-prevention and awareness priority number one across the state. Suicide is a national public health issue that affects people regardless of age, social economic status, race, gender or military service.

Hello, my name is Kim Donohue; I am the Suicide & Homelessness Prevention Program Manager for the State of Nevada, for The Nevada Department of Veterans Services.

I understand the power of the information you are reading and want to express that together, we can help prevent suicide!

I know this may be a cliché, but first I have to share some bad news before I can share some better news and reason for hope. Suicide is the 10th leading cause of death in the United States. In Nevada, suicide is the 7th leading cause of death and sadly, rates across populations continue to rise. Nevada's suicide rate has historically been 2-3 times that of the national average. There have been more suicide deaths by a firearm than traffic fatalities in Nevada. Even worse, our Nevada veterans are dying at a higher rate of self-inflicted gunshot wounds than seen in our civilian population.

Just as stunning, veterans make up 8.5% of the population and 20% of our nation's suicides. In Nevada, 50% of our veterans ranging in age from 25 to 34 years of age died by suicide between the years 2010 to 2014. The statistics from the older population is just as grim. Nevada has the highest elder suicide rate in the nation.

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention (OMSHSP) has stated 20 veterans a day die by suicide, only 6 of these veterans are under the care of the VA, the other 14 are receiving care from other facilities in our community.

Now I can share some more positive news. The VA and the Nevada Department of Veterans Services, along with stakeholders in our community, are working to ensure those "other 14" are receiving the benefits and services needed for the overall well-being of our Nevadan veterans and service members.

On January 9th of this year, President Donald Trump signed executive order 13822 enhancing mental health services available to veterans transitioning from service to civilian life, in order to help reduce the rate of suicide among our veteran population. This plan encompasses three Departments; The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), Department of Defense (DoD) and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). The three have been directed to collaboratively address the complex challenges our service members and veterans may endure as they are transitioning from uniform to civilian life.

“The Joint Action Plan” utilizes a prevention framework aimed at ensuring all veterans have knowledge of and access to mental health and suicide prevention services that can help buffer risks for suicide. (Joint Action Plan, April 18, 2018, p2).

The purpose of this executive order is to ensure mental health care is available to all eligible transitioning service members and veterans.

For more information on this executive order, please visit:
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=4064>.

Earlier this summer, in June 2018, the Centers for Disease Control released its Vital Signs statistical report. It shows suicide rates increased in nearly every state between

1999 to 2016 except for the State of Nevada! **Nevada was the ONLY state in the nation to decrease suicide rates by one percent!** I realize one death is one too many and I also realize one percent is not a large number, however; it is a step in the right direction. I strongly believe that with the continued collaboration of our community stakeholder's, governmental agencies and our Nevada veteran population, TOGETHER we can make a difference to help end suicide.

If you want to know more about the CDC Vital Signs report, click this link:
<https://www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/pdf/vs-0618-suicide-H.pdf>.

A unique and far reaching resource to support veterans and their families

By Terri Hendry

(Reno, NV) – If you're a veteran, or family member of a veteran, and you are facing challenges in your everyday life, there is free and valuable online tool designed specifically for you. It is an online site called, *Make the Connection*. It is a friendly, easy-to-use resource that puts information, even solutions to issues affecting your life, right at your fingertips.

Visit *MakeTheConnection.net* or click the link to visit the website:

<https://maketheconnection.net/whats-new>

The online program addresses every challenge a veteran or their family may face as they go through life. Whether it is a death in the family, transitioning from military service, dealing with challenging relationships or health issues, even spirituality, the online program navigates you to safe ground as well as solutions. No topic is out of bounds.

The program places emphasis on letting you know you are not alone. It is from the perspective of one vet talking to another. It is also designed to help clinicians' better work with the veteran community providing toolkits, materials and information.

Make the Connection is a national campaign from the VA's Mental Health Services program office within the Veterans Health Administration.

You can find more information and additional programs as well as campaigns from the office online by clicking here: <http://www.mentalhealth.va.gov>

The videos below provide examples of the many videos available through *Make the Connection*.

<https://maketheconnection.net/stories-of-connection>

<https://maketheconnection.net/events/death-family-friends>

Another Important Resource: PsychArmor

In addition to Make the Connection, there is another online tool available anytime you need it. It is called PsychArmor and it provides resources at your fingertips, free of charge!

Some of the featured courses include Military Culture, Invisible Wounds, Caregiver Self-Care and Supporting Veterans. You can sign up for their newsletter or even participate in a live chat, right on the website.

Just visit the link below and explore all the options and resources PsychArmor provides:

<https://psycharmor.org/>

Attend safeTALK Training

By the Nevada Office of Suicide Prevention

Why should I come to safeTALK?

In only a few hours, you will learn how to provide practical help to persons with thoughts of suicide. You can expect to leave safeTALK more willing and able to perform an important helping role for persons with thoughts of suicide.

How does safeTALK help prevent suicide?

safeTALK prepares you to be a suicide alert helper. You are aware that opportunities to help a person with thoughts of suicide are sometimes missed, dismissed and avoided. You want persons with thoughts to invite your help. You know the TALK steps (Tell, Ask, Listen and KeepSafe) and can activate a suicide alert. As a part of the KeepSafe step, you connect persons with thoughts to persons trained in suicide intervention. Helpers trained in suicide intervention complete the helping process or connect the person with more specialized help.

Why use safeTALK to learn to become alert?

A carefully crafted set of helping steps and the use of creative educational processes make it possible for you and up to 30 others in your community to leave safeTALK willing and able to be suicide alert helpers. safeTALK is the result of some twenty years of work at learning how to develop useful suicide prevention abilities in a short program.

What happens at safeTALK training?

Expect to be challenged. Expect to have feelings. Expect to be hopeful. See powerful reminders of why it is important to be suicide alert. See how to activate an alert. Ask questions and enter discussions. Learn clear and practical information on what to do. Practice the TALK steps. Conclude with practice in activating a suicide alert.

Why is safeTALK for everyone?

Most persons with thoughts of suicide go unrecognized even though most are directly or indirectly requesting help. Without safeTALK training, these invitations to help are too rarely accepted, or even noticed. With more suicide alert helpers, more people with thoughts of suicide will get connected to the

intervention help they want. Suicide alert helpers are part of a suicide-safer community.

For Nevada Veterans Advocates

If you are a Nevada Veterans Advocate and you are interested in attending safeTALK training, let us know. Email loftisj@veterans.nv.gov.

For more information on safeTALK training or suicide prevention contact Kim Donohue at donohuek@veterans.nv.gov.

Contacts for the Nevada Office of Suicide Prevention:

Rick Egan
(702) 486-8225 - Regan@health.nv.gov for Southern Events

Janett Massolo
(775) 687-0847 - JMassolo@health.nv.gov for Northern Events

ASIST Training for Caregivers

By the Nevada Office of Suicide Prevention

ASIST is designed to help all caregivers become more willing, ready and able to help persons at risk. Suicide can be prevented with the help of prepared caregivers.

Just as "CPR" skills make physical first aid possible, training in suicide intervention develops the skills used in suicide first aid. ASIST is a two-day intensive, interactive and practice-dominated course designed to help caregivers recognize risk and learn how to intervene to prevent the immediate risk of suicide.

The workshop is for all caregivers (any person in a position of trust). This includes professionals, paraprofessionals and lay people. It is suitable for mental health professionals, nurses, physicians, pharmacists, teachers, counselors, youth workers, police and correctional staff, school support staff, clergy, and community volunteers.

ASIST has five learning sections:

Preparing: sets the tone, norms, and expectations of the learning experience.

Connecting: sensitizes participants to their own attitudes towards suicide. It creates an understanding of the impact, which attitudes have on the intervention process.

Understanding: overviews the intervention needs of a person at risk. It focuses on providing participants with the knowledge and skills to recognize risk and develop safe plans to reduce the risk of suicide.

Assisting: presents a model for effective suicide intervention. Participants develop their skills through observation and supervised simulation experiences in large and small groups.

Networking: generates information about resources in the local community. It promotes a commitment by participants to transform local resources into helping networks.

Emphasizing structured small-group discussions and practice; the course uses a 20-page workbook and two award-winning audiovisuals. Participants receive a 152-page Suicide Intervention Handbook and a full color, tear-resistant wallet card featuring intervention, and risk review and safe plan development principles. They serve as living refreshers of the workshop learning.

ASIST is designed to help all caregivers become more ready, willing and able to help persons at risk. Prepared caregivers can help prevent suicide.

Unprepared caregivers tend to deny, avoid, even stigmatize and punish persons at risk. That is what society has traditionally done. All evidence indicates that unprepared caregivers continue this dangerous tradition. Training is required to turn denial, avoidance and stigmatization into vigilance, understanding and help.

Join the more than one million caregivers and participate in a LivingWorks ASIST workshop. You will learn to recognize and estimate risk, and become more effective at helping people at risk. The benefits will live on. To sponsor a workshop or have questions regarding the ASIST training please contact the Nevada Office of Suicide Prevention:

Contact Rick Egan

(702) 486-8225 - Regan@health.nv.gov for Southern Events

Contact Janett Massolo

(775) 687-0847 - JMassolo@health.nv.gov for Northern Events

More Awards and Congratulations to the Nevada State Veterans Home

By Robert Kidd, Perry Foundation President

The Perry Foundation Endeavor Awards recently recognized the state's top-performing health care facilities and health care professionals working in Nursing Homes and Assisted Living Communities. The Endeavor Awards honor and recognize individuals who excel in providing outstanding care.

Poppy Helgren, Director of Nursing Services at the Nevada State Veterans Home was named Outstanding Nurse Leader!

Linda Gelinger, Administrator for the Nevada State Veterans Home was named Administrator of the Year!

As President of the Perry Foundation, I believe it is important to recognize the people who take care of our loved ones and work tirelessly in doing so. They often work hard with little or no recognition because they are passionate about caregiving.

Just recently, the Nevada State Veterans Home also learned it has maintained the highest rating possible by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS); a Five-Star Quality Rating. CMS created the Five-Star Quality Rating System to help consumers, their families and caregivers compare nursing homes more easily and to help identify areas about which you may want to ask questions.

Nursing homes with the Five-Star rating are considered to have above average quality in care.

For more information on the CMS Five-Star quality Rating System visit:

<https://www.cms.gov/medicare/provider-enrollment-and-certification/certificationandcompliance/fsqrs.html>

Congratulations and We Will Miss You Dottie!

We are happy for her, but sad to report Dorothy "Dottie" Campain has retired following 15 years of service at the Nevada State Veterans Home. Dottie started as a Therapeutic Recreation Specialist on November 18, 2002!

Her job was to oversee the arrangement of all outings for residents. She also was responsible for planning, directing and implementing the activities department based on the needs, strengths, likes and interests of the residents.

Dottie was certified by the National Certification Council for Activity Professionals. NSVH Administrator Linda Gelinger said, "She was a great leader and quality care was always her focus." During all of her time at the home, *she never received a deficiency in any survey!*

Aside from her professionalism, Dottie was absolutely adored by both staff and residents alike. We wish her the very best in her retirement!

Programs and Services

Gold Star Mother's Group Began During WWI

By Chuck N. Baker

Gold Star Mother's Day is observed in the United States on the last Sunday of September each year. This year the day is September 29, a day for individuals to recognize and honor those who have lost children in the service of the United States Armed Forces.

American Gold Star Mothers, Inc. is an organization of mothers whose sons and daughters served and died, while on duty, in times of war or conflict. The national organization puts together major events on or around Gold Star Mother's Day each year. Although it is not a designated public holiday, government buildings are required to display the flag.

The name, Gold Star Mothers, dates back from the WWI custom of military families who placed service flags near their front window. The flags would feature a blue star for each family member serving their country. Gold stars were reserved for families who lost a loved one in the line of duty.

In Southern Nevada, there was a chapter of the Gold Star Mothers, but it disbanded several years ago. Resident Marina Vance was active in the chapter. Her son, Army soldier Ignacio Ramirez lost his life in Iraq in 2006. He was laid to rest at the veterans' cemetery in Boulder City. "The group used to have a service every year on Gold Star Mother's Day," she said adding, "If there is no service this year, I will just go to the cemetery on my own."

She said her son was nicknamed Nacho and had a great sense of humor. In 2016 during a memorial service for Nacho at the cemetery, the sprinklers came on and showered an area where family and friends were standing. Nacho wouldn't have cared, telling everyone, "It made people laugh. My boy was a happy boy, a smiling boy."

American Gold Star Mothers, Inc. was incorporated in 1929, obtaining a federal charter from the United States Congress. It began with 25 mothers living in the Washington, D.C. area and soon expanded to include affiliated groups throughout the nation. On June 23, 1936, a joint congressional resolution designated the last Sunday in September as Gold Star Mother's Day, a holiday that has been observed each year by a presidential proclamation.

In 2016, President Barack Obama proclaimed Gold Star Mother's Day to be known as Gold Star Mother's and Family's Day, an expansion of the long-

standing tradition. He wrote, "I call upon all Government officials to display the flag of the United States over Government buildings on this special day. I also encourage the American people to display the flag and hold appropriate ceremonies as a public expression of our Nation's gratitude and respect for our Gold Star Mothers and Families."

In Southern Nevada, the Gold Star Mothers Memorial is located in the parking lot of the Las Vegas Senior Center on Las Vegas Boulevard and Bonanza. It was erected in 1952 by the organization's Desert Chapter. A marker lists the names of those from Clark County who died in WWI, WWII and Korea, defending the nation during wartime. It also has the names of the Gold Star Mothers who dedicated the memorial. It includes the text, "Our hearts hold these names of our heroic dead from Clark County in honored memory. They gave their lives in the service in the wars that peace and freedom might come to all men. God grant them eternal rest."

Blinded Veterans Association Holds Conference in Reno-Sparks

By Chuck N. Baker

Male and female veterans of various ages and with little or no eyesight at all gather once each year to develop new ideas and discuss areas of concern to assist and protect their lifestyles. Someone once told me that just because an individual is blind, it doesn't mean they've lost the inner feeling to be great. And these veterans are definitely great. Several members of the Blind Veterans Association (BVA) from Las Vegas attended the convention, including Joe Tasby, who heads the Southern Nevada chapter of the organization, and Richard D. Metric, the 1st Vice President and Secretary of the local regional group.

The convention not only draws BVA members, but it also includes manufacturers, suppliers, distributors and vendors who market cutting edge products that assist those with little or no sight. A couple of the items will be discussed below.

Sparks Mayor Geno Martini got things rolling: "We welcome you to the State of Nevada. We thank the BVA for selecting us once again. I know you've been here before. We're honored that the State of Nevada was chosen as your host." He encouraged members to visit "The largest sports store in the world" in Sparks. "If you get a chance, go there." He plugged the Nugget as the greatest convention hotel in Sparks and told the audience, "What a great group. I hope you have a great convention." He added, "Gaming is legal here, drop a few bucks in the slots, the poker machines." That remark created a roar of laughter from the crowd.

Congressman Ruben Kihuen was a keynote speaker. He congratulated the BVA for its 73rd national convention and noted that 60 years ago on August 23, the 85th Congress and President Dwight D. Eisenhower chartered the BVA. So he said two anniversaries are to be celebrated — 70 years for BVA and 60 years since being incorporated. "I thank each and every one of you for the sacrifices you made ... you do serve our country, you are our heroes."

When he related how he came to the U.S.A. from Mexico as a child with his parents and is now a United States Congressman, he received sustained applause. And when he praised America and the "American Dream," the audience again applauded.

Away from the convention floor and taking in the exhibitor area, Rhys Filmer represented the Orcam Company. It makes myEye 2.0. It's a wearable device, mounted on a pair of eye glasses. When the device while being worn, it reads the words and speaks them into the ear of the wearer via an attached earbud

when pointed at text or print. Steven Hamilton is a blinded Air Force veteran and a Orcam supporter. He said it was very emotional when he first used myEye and found he was able to identify his mail and read the ingredients on food containers. He praised the BVA for its resources. Orcam can be contacted at (347) 321-6340.

"Patti" represented Guide Dogs for the Blind and conducts outreach in Nevada, California and Arizona. "We have programs to provide training for veterans and civilians who qualify," she said. Qualifications include good health and mobility skills. "Our service is totally free, including transportation and training at one of our two West Coast campuses near San Francisco and Portland. "We spread the word about guide dogs and help veterans change their lives as well." Either campus can be reached by calling (800) 295-4050.

Darryl Goldsmith is a Florida resident who has nothing but praise for the BVA. "I had vision when I got out of the service," he explained. "But my sight slowly regressed." With his sight partially blocked by "floaters," he said it was as if he were looking through wax paper. As his sight worsened, he was let go from his job, and he said he lost his home and his wife. "I was 24 years old and was about to blow my brains out when my mom called and said she didn't want me to do that, and Jesus didn't either." Gradually he began going to church, and then signed up for several different rehab programs. He took up drumming, he joined a gospel group as a vocalist and then learned how to play the guitar. When he learned about VA benefits for blinded veterans, he applied and later joined the BVA to take advantage of its resources. Today he said he competes in downhill skiing, trout fishing contests, hot air ballooning, scuba diving, rock wall climbing and other sports. He said that after successfully skiing and rushing downhill with the cold air biting his face, "You feel like you can do anything." And he is adamant about getting others to join the BVA. "The BVA goes to Congress to get legislation passed for blinded veterans. The squawky wheels get the grease. We have to speak up for ourselves. We're blind ambassadors."

The Blinded Veterans Association can be contacted at (202) 371-8880.

The Nevada Department of Veterans Services: What We Do

By Josh Loftis

Nevada's connection to its military community and veterans is steeped in its heritage. It goes all the way back to Nevada's induction into the Union in 1864 during the Civil War. President Abraham Lincoln was facing a tough reelection battle. He needed more votes, so he encouraged the adoption of the Nevada Territory to officially become the 36th State of the Union. That induction during the Civil War is where Nevada's State motto "Battle Born" originated. Today, Nevadans remain proud of their military heritage.

It is estimated more than 300,000 veterans call Nevada their home. For more than 75 years, The Nevada Department of Veterans Services (NDVS) has been dedicated to helping veterans - as well as their spouse, dependents, and/or survivors - get the services, benefits and quality of life they deserve and have earned through military service.

NDVS offers several programs and services. To connect veterans to earned benefits, NDVS offers the skilled services of [Veterans Service Officers](#) (VSOs). These certified individuals through the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), can assist veterans in filing claims with the VA. This service is free of charge. No appointment is necessary. Our VSOs can help cut through what can be a complicated system. For example, a veteran may be eligible for a pension or compensation and not know where to begin, much less navigate through the paperwork and system. Our VSOs are located in offices throughout the state. To find one nearest you, click [here](#).

NDVS also maintain two state veteran cemeteries - [Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery](#) in Boulder City, and the [Northern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery](#) in Fernley. A veteran, their spouse or dependent, may be eligible for interment in our cemeteries. Eligibility for burial is similar to the criteria used by the Department of Veterans Affairs National Cemetery Administration. However, the cemetery is responsible for verifying eligibility and should be contacted directly for specifics. At our cemeteries, veterans are buried at no charge. This includes the cemetery plot, opening and closing, concrete vault, headstone and perpetual care. A \$450 fee (subject to change) is charged for the burial of a spouse or eligible dependent. Mortuary fees are not included.

NDVS also maintains the award winning, [Nevada State Veterans Home](#), which is a skilled nursing care facility in Boulder City. Among the many awards, this facility maintains a 5-Star rating, the highest possible, by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid. The home has received the HealthInsight Quality Award for excellence and exceptional quality care five years in a row. In 2018,

U.S. News and World Report Best Nursing Homes awarded our home with its highest rating possible, 5-Stars, Top Performing.

We are very excited for the completion of the construction on our new, [Northern Nevada State Veterans Home](#) located in Sparks. A ribbon cutting ceremony is set for December 17, 2018. The Governor's presentation will begin at 6:00 p.m. with tours of the facility starting at 4:30 p.m. and running through 7:30 p.m. The facility is located at 36 Battle Born Way, which is near the intersection of Kietzke Lane and Galletti Way. The public is encouraged to attend! Click [here](#) to RSVP.

In addition to overseeing the above mentioned facilities, NDVS conducts outreach to assist in identifying and connecting to veterans. These outreach efforts include attending community events across the state where we set up a table and chat with attendees who may be curious or want more information. Our VSOs also travel to rural areas of the state to connect to veterans, making it more convenient for you to reach a VSO. Click [here](#) for events and scroll to the bottom of the page to find locations and schedule for rural outreach known as ROVER.

Part of our outreach includes the assistance of trained volunteers, known as Nevada Veterans Advocates (NVA). Anyone with the desire to learn and help veterans is encouraged to attend one of our two-day workshops or take the online course to get certified. The trainings are all free! The next NVA workshop will be held in Elko on October 21-22, 2018 at the Red Lion Hotel & Casino Elko, 2065 Idaho Street, Elko, Nevada. Click [here](#) for more information including the times and to register!

We would like to invite you to visit our website at <http://veterans.nv.gov/> where you will find more information about our department and what we do, as well as resources – Federal, State, and private – available to you to cover a multitude of needs on our Benefits and Services page, found here: <http://veterans.nv.gov/benefits-and-services/>.

Lastly, we would like to invite you to join the online veteran community on NV VetNet, where you can post up news, conversations, questions, search for jobs, or connect with local community supporters. You can set up your free registration here: http://veterans.nv.gov/login/?redirect_to

We are very encouraged and humbled by the numerous community organizations and partners who are always ready, willing, and able to show their support for, and assist, the veterans of this great State. Our mission is to "Provide vital and efficient service to and advocacy on behalf of veterans, their dependents, and survivors; and provide our community and partners the opportunity to contribute in these endeavors." We are honored to have this opportunity to serve Nevada's Heroes.

Team Red, White and Blue

Team RWB's mission is to enrich the lives of America's veterans by connecting them to their community through physical and social activity. We deliver low cost, highly effective, community-based intervention that welcomes family members and community supporters as part of the team. At over 130,000 members, operating in 220 communities, Team RWB assists veterans seeking connection to develop authentic relationships to support better mental, emotional and physical health.

These strengthened social relationships mitigate against challenges resulting from lack of connection (such as depression or suicide) and provide veterans the inclusive opportunities to participate and serve their communities through physical fitness activities; volunteer service projects offer the opportunity to strengthen civilian-military ties to foster greater understanding between veterans and the American public.

Our Enrichment Equation of Health + People + Purpose lays the foundation for our programs:

- "People" relies on creating authentic connections (defined as genuine, quality, supportive relationships that generate mutual trust and accountability), reflected in an increased number of close relationships and improvements in teammates' sense of belonging, purpose, and community engagement.
- "Health" focus creates frequent opportunities for team members to connect through fitness, sports, and recreation to improve physical, mental, and emotional well-being.
- Team RWB also enhances members' "Purpose" by engaging them in meaningful team and community-based experiences such as leadership and service, that they create, lead and get others involved in.

We deliver life enriching opportunities through our two unique programs, the Chapter and Community Program (CCP) and the Eagle Leadership Development Program (ELDP). The CCP delivers consistent, local opportunities for veterans to connect through physical and social activity. They host weekly fitness workouts (running, biking, yoga, hiking, functional fitness, etc.), monthly social events and participate in volunteer service projects in their community. The ELDP enables us to strengthen our veterans by refining the leadership skills they learned while in the military through experience, education and

mentorship. Experience consists of leading and being led, education includes the enhancement of knowledge and mentorship pulls the program together through guidance and application.

Team RWB is committed to fiscal transparency and responsibility, where .86 cents out of every \$1 donated to Team RWB goes directly to our life changing programs. To learn more about our impact, please go to Team RWB Annual Report.

News You Can Use

Happy Birthday to the U.S. Air Force

By Chuck N Baker

The famous Wright Brothers, Wilber and Orville, are credited with inventing the airplane. While there are some who report a European or two were actually the first to develop a workable flying machine, it's the brothers who are celebrated as having done so first, in 1903. It wasn't long before the U.S. military picked up on the advantages of defending the nation from the clouds, and it began purchasing and using airplanes in WWI. Fast forward to September 18, 1947, and the Army Air Force was ordered to divest itself of its sky bound responsibilities and turn over aircraft challenges to a newly formed United States Air Force. Every year since, the Air Force has honored that date with birthday events across the nation.

In 1907, the Army created the Aeronautical Division of the Signal Corps. Then it became the Aviation Section of the Signal Corps. In 1918, the names kept coming — printers and sign painters were kept busy morphing the agency into the U.S. Army Air Service. In 1941 it became the Army Air Force. Finally in 1947, the National Security Act created the separate Air Force. It turned out to be a banner piece of legislation, also forming the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the National Security Council and the Central Intelligence Agency. But wait, there's more!

On the 17th, the U.S. Constitution was adopted in 1787. In 1952 President Harry Truman officially declared that day Citizenship Day. In 1956 President Dwight Eisenhower declared the entire week beginning on the 17th as Constitution Week. In 2004, Congress determined that the 17th would also be known as Constitution Day in addition to the Citizenship Day designation, which remains the law of the land today.

The birthday of the Air Force is celebrated during Constitution Week. And to further honor those who served not only in the Air Force but also in the other branches of the military, Nellis AFB has scheduled Retiree Day on Sept. 21. All Americans, and Southern Nevadans in particular, will have several concurrent reasons to trumpet U.S. history during that one week in September.

In Southern Nevada, the Air Force will hold its 71st Annual Ball on September 15 at the South Point Hotel in Las Vegas. It's being hosted by Colonel Julian C. Cheater, Commander of the 432nd Air Wing at Creech AFB. The event will include airmen from that facility, as well as individuals from Nellis AFB, the Nevada Test & Training Range their families and community leaders.

The guest speaker will be Brigadier General Craig "Bluto" Baker. He is a '92 West Point graduate and F-16 pilot. He is the Vice Commander of the 12th Air Force, which commands the 432nd Wing at Creech. The 12th Air Force is the air and space component to the U.S. Southern Command, providing air, space and cyberspace capabilities throughout Latin America and the Caribbean.

With the national conversation surrounding the potential formation of a Space Force, separate from the Air Force, it is timely to note, General Baker commands a unit that is responsible for defending outer space.

When it was first proposed the Air Force should be separate and independent from the Army, not everyone was on board. Many books and articles have been written about General Billy Mitchell, the "Father of the United States Air Force." He served in France during WWI and by war's end, he commanded all American air combat units in that nation.

After the war he argued strenuously for a separate air corps command. He preached that the U.S. required air superiority, and argued that bombers should take the place of battleships. As his protests became more pointed, he was court-martialed and found guilty of insubordination. He resigned his commission and as a civilian continued to promote the importance of air power.

As WWII unfolded the successful use of air combat by the U.S. was obvious to all. Mitchell died in 1936. Two years after WWII ended, the separate Air Force was born, and Mitchell was hailed as a hero.

Today young men and women enlist in the Air Force for many reasons: Out of patriotism to serve the nation, to gain college education benefits or to learn a trade. Airman Hannah Thormahlen is an example. A graduate of Indian Springs High School in Indian Springs, like others she was taught basic warfare principals and skills when she enlisted. But her training also included military discipline and studies, Air Force core values and physical fitness. She also earned four credits toward an associate degree in applied science through the Community College of the Air Force. The opportunities for career training are too many to list. Areas such as aircraft and flight, arts and humanities, computers, health and medicine, law enforcement and engineering are but a handful of opportunities.

Bobi Oates is an Air Force veteran who remains active helping organizations that serve veterans, be they airmen or those who were in other branches. A dynamic and well-spoken representative, she knows full well the benefits the Air Force offers. "Some folks say we have the best food and golf courses. But we have some of the most dedicated individuals," she said. Through thick and thin, patriotic Americans continue to serve in the Air Force. "We have been continually at war since Desert Storm/Shield, and continue to defend our nation

across the world," she pointed out. Further, she noted, "The Air Force is the only branch of service that awards college credits for job skills towards an associate degree through its own Community College. We're on the cutting edge of technology, so what better place to learn those skills?" She is proud to note that the Air Force takes care of its own being "Airmen for Life." So let's light the candles, hoist our glasses and sing "Happy Birthday" to Wilbur and Orville and Billy, and 70 years of airborne success!

The Legend of 1000 Combat Paper Cranes

And Your Help is Needed!

Want to join a community wide art project? DJD Foundation and City of Sparks need your help folding and decorating origami cranes! The Legend of 1000 Combat Paper Cranes now has completed 367 cranes, thanks to July volunteers! Our goal is to complete 1000 before September 2018 ends! Join us for one or more of the following venues:

- 39 North, Sparks Farmers Market, Thursday Evening, August 16, Victorian Avenue, 4-7PM
- Potentialist Workshop, 836 E. 2nd Street, Reno, Tuesdays and Saturdays between 1-4 PM (the following Saturdays Only: 8/11, 8/18, 8/25, 9/15, & 9/22).
- Sparks Library, 2-5:30 PM, August 20, 1125 12th St, Sparks, NV 89431
- Do you have an upcoming meeting or party that you'd like to include the activity of decorating and folding cranes? Contact Tina Drakulich for scheduling.
- Don't know how to fold an origami crane? Don't worry, we will teach you!
- For more information
- <http://www.arthealswarwounds.com>
- <https://www.combatpaper.org/>

What is the Legend of 1000 Combat Paper Cranes?

The Legend of 1000 Combat Paper Cranes is a community art project that will be installed in the City of Sparks, through a series of workshops designed to bring the community together through the arts. Derived from the Japanese legend of the origami cranes which eludes that the folding of 1000 cranes will result in good fortune and answers to prayers. These workshops explore a tactile experience and enlightening dialogue, culminating in artwork that honors our local veterans and their community through the creation and placement of cranes, folded of paper made from decommissioned military uniforms, known as Combat Paper. DJD Foundation joins City of Sparks and is grateful for financial assistance from Nevada Humanities, National Endowment for Humanities, Dog Tag Brewing, and our community of private donors.

DJD Foundation has been making Combat Paper since 2011. Combat Paper is paper made through the process of deconstructing military uniforms, beating the parts to a pulp with a hollander beater, then forming sheets from the resulting slurry. Since then, 1000 Combat Paper have been enjoyed at Reno Little Theater and Northwest Reno Library, along with many other unique and innovative art forms made with Combat Paper.

About DJD Foundation

David J. Drakulich Foundation For Freedom of Expression's mission is to provide art programming to the military connected community, aiding reintegration, assisting with wellness and informing the civilian community of military service and related issues through the arts. DJD Foundation knows that the arts enrich communities and raise quality of life.

We empower and showcase the wellness of veterans. We create art, recreation and social resources that support individuals as they improve and develop the quality of their own lives, one veteran at a time, one community at a time because ART HEALS WAR WOUNDS!

Homeless Veteran Stand Down

Every year, the Homeless Veterans Stand Down draws hundreds of people. It brings together organizations and resources to help veterans without roofs over their heads.

These events connect men and women veterans to the medical and mental health care as well as housing resources they need.

There are many success stories that come from these annual events. Last year, veteran Terry Crone said he was able to obtain Section 8 housing through the assistance he received.

In Reno, the upcoming Stand Down will be held on September 21st at the HCHV, located at 350 Capitol Hill St. from 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Participating organizations and vendors are asked to be there between 5:30-6:30 a.m. to set up before the gates are opened. You may contact Veterans Resource Centers of America, 419 W. Plumb Ln. Reno, NV 89509. Office: 775-360-2580 or email Shane Whitecloud at swhitecloud@vetsresource.org.

Dedications, Recognitions and Ribbon Cutting!

You are going to want to pull out your calendar and mark several dates down to attend three very significant events coming up in November and December!

On November 9, 2018, there will be a special dedication ceremony for Battle Born: Memorial to Nevada's Fallen Military! The event will take place on the Capitol Grounds in Carson City. The reception will begin at 9:00 a.m. inside the Nevada State Archives and Library Building, located at 100 North Stewart Street. At 10:00 a.m., join Governor Brian Sandoval for the dedication ceremony beside the memorial, just outside the Archives Building.

On Veterans Day, November 11, 2018, there will be a day-long event at the Nevada State Veterans Home honoring World War 1 veterans! It is the 100th Anniversary of the armistice ending WWI so it is very fitting to recognize and honor those who fought so bravely in "The Great War," and "War to End All Wars." The day starts at 9:00 a.m. There will be a book signing by historian and bestselling author, Patrick O'Donnell. He will be signing his latest work, "The Unknowns: The Untold Story of America's Unknown Soldier and WWI's Most Decorated Heroes Who Brought Him Home." There will be WWI memorabilia, music from the time period, food and WWI costumes! Of course there will be a Veterans Day Ceremony beginning at 1:30 p.m. You really won't want to miss this!

Finally, Governor Brian Sandoval invites you to a special celebration! On December 17, 2018 there will be a premiere (tours) and a ribbon cutting ceremony of the new Northern Nevada State Veterans Home in Sparks! Tours of the home begin at 4:30 p.m. and finish up by 7:30 p.m. The ribbon cutting ceremony will take place at 6:00 p.m. The veteran community has been waiting years for this very much needed skilled care facility in the northern part of Nevada! Now, they get to see the 96-bed facility that will serve eligible veterans, their spouse and Gold Star parents.

We hope to see you at these exciting events in the months ahead!

Education and Employment

Free Nevada Veterans Advocate Workshop in Elko

By Terri Hendry

Join us for a free two-day workshop that will set you on the path to becoming a Nevada Veterans Advocate (NVA)!

An NVA is a person who helps educate veterans, active duty military members, guard and guard reserve members, as well as their families about benefits and opportunities they may be eligible for and have earned through military service.

Simply put: Nevada Veterans Advocates are people who want to help others and take the time to learn how to do so!

To save your seat, register by going here: <http://bit.ly/2NnXQZ3>

Pre-registration will also be available at the venue on Saturday, October 20, beginning at 7:00 a.m. Continental breakfast is included both days. Afternoon snack and beverage also provided.

Travel reimbursement may be available to those who qualify. Must be traveling more than 75 miles from the event. Please contact kingm@veterans.nv.gov to learn more. ALL TRAVEL REQUESTS MUST BE PRE-APPROVED.

Become a Patriot Employer!

By Terri Hendry

(Statewide) – 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>

Always Remember, Never Forget

VJ Victory Day Over Japan!

On August 14, 1945, it was announced that Japan had surrendered unconditionally to the Allies, effectively ending World War II. Since then, both August 14 and August 15 have been known as "Victoryover Japan Day," or simply "V-J Day." The term has also been used for September 2, 1945, when Japan's formal surrender took place aboard the U.S.S. Missouri, anchored in Tokyo Bay. Coming several months after the surrender of Nazi Germany, Japan's capitulation in the Pacific brought six years of hostilities to a final and highly anticipated close.

To continue reading, click the link:

<https://www.history.com/topics/world-war-ii/v-j-day>

Mark Your Calendar

[Military, Veterans, And First Responders](#)

Sept 8, 11:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Craig Ranch Regional Park

628 West Craig Road

North Las Vegas, NV 89032

[Carson City Health Fair for Veterans and Caregivers](#)

Sept 8, 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Carson City Nugget

507 N Carson St

Carson City, NV 89701

[9/11 Memorial Events across Northern Nevada](#)

Several locations and times. See link for details.

[City of Reno Military Sports Camp](#)

Sept 10 – 14, all day

Locations changing every day, depending on event

[22 Warriors Foundation 2nd Tuesday of the month mixer](#)

Sept 11, 5:30 PM – 8:00 PM

Las Vegas Distillery

7330 Eastgate Road

Henderson, NV 89011

[VA Sierra Nevada HCS Stand Down for Homeless Veterans](#)

Sept 21, 7:00 AM – 1:00 PM

350 Capitol Hill

Reno, NV 89502

[Veterans Career Mixer – The Cosmopolitan of Las Vegas](#)

Sept 26, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Vendors, Space is limited. RSVP by email at:

lori.calderon@cosmopolitanlasvegas.com

3708 S Las Vegas Blvd

Las Vegas, NV

[Office of Military Legal Assistance Event](#)

Sept 21-21, see link for times

545 Mill St.

Ely, NV 89301

ROVER Dates

To see a Veterans Service Officer.

Walk-in appointments are welcome, but can only be seen as time permits.

To make appointments for ROVER, and for times:

in the south, contact Mary Alley at 702-224-6025

in the north, contact Melissa Wilson at 775-321-4777

To coordinate/request a ROVER event, contact Janel Gibson at 702-486-5627

Veterans are advised to bring a copy of their DD-214 discharge document, current VA paperwork, medical information and banking account information. If the claim involves dependants, bring birth certificates, current and prior marriage certificates, divorce decrees, and social security numbers.

[Pahrump \(South\)](#)

Every Monday and Friday

1981 E. Calvada Blvd. #110.

[Mesquite \(South\)](#)

Sept 4, 2018

840 Hafen Way.

[Ely \(North\), Interactive Video](#)

Sept 7, 2018

2155 Bobcat Dr.

Ely

[Silver Springs \(North\)](#)

Sept 11, 2018

2945 Fort Churchill St.

Silver Springs

[Hawthorne \(North\)](#)

Sept 12, 2018

775 Sierra Rd.

[Beatty \(South\)](#)

Sept 13, 2018

100 A Ave. South

Beatty

[Battle Mountain \(North\), Interactive Video](#)

Sept 14, 2018

835 N. 2nd St.

Battle Mountain

[Austin \(North\)](#)

Sept 19, 2018

122 Main St.

Austin

[Tonopah \(South\)](#)

Sept 20, 2018

1120 Globe Mallow Lane.

Tonopah

[Mesquite \(South\)](#)

Sept 20, 2018

840 Hafen Way.

[Winnemucca \(North\), Interactive Video](#)

Sept 21, 2018

5490 Kluncy Canyon Rd.

Battle Mountain

[Laughlin \(South\)](#)

Sept 25, 2018

1510 Bruce Woodbury Dr.

Laughlin

[Gardnerville \(North\)](#)

Sept 26, 2018

1329 Waterloo Lane.

Gardnerville

[Wendover \(North\), Interactive Video](#)

Sept 28, 2018

2000 Elko Ave.

Wendover