



July 2018

NDVS Veterans Voice Newsletter

Message from the Director

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Happy Independence Day! As we head into the heart of summer, we need your help to honor and recognize surviving family members of Nevada's fallen. These are the 894 men who died in combat. For a complete list of Nevada's fallen, please [Click Here](#).

We are planning a dedication ceremony of the long-awaited "Battle Born Memorial to Nevada's Fallen." We need your assistance in finding immediate family members of any of Nevada's 894 fallen. Immediate family members are spouses, fathers, mothers, brother, sisters, sons and daughters. We would like to make sure these family members receive a special invitation and information about travel assistance for the upcoming dedication ceremony of Nevada's Memorial.

The ceremony is scheduled for Friday, November 9, 2018 in Carson City. A reception hosted by the Governor will take place at the State Archives and Library Building at 9:00 a.m. The ceremony will begin at 10:00 a.m., outside on the Capitol Grounds.

The Nevada Department of Veterans Services (NDVS) will help fund travel for immediate family members who live 75 miles or more from the Capitol. Family members may be reimbursed for air fare or gas, whichever is less expensive and only travel within the state of Nevada is covered. An immediate family member who is approved for travel reimbursement may receive approval for the flight of one companion. All flights will be coordinated by NDVS. **PLEASE NOTE: TRAVEL WILL NOT BE REIMBURSED, NEITHER AIR FARE NOR GAS, UNLESS THE TRAVELER RECEIVES A PREAPPROVAL FROM NDVS!**

Please help us find these family members and help spread the word about this important dedication ceremony. Simply contact David Johnson at johnsond@veterans.nv.gov or call 775-825-9846 if you can be of assistance or if you have additional questions about qualifications.

Speaking of ceremonies, there will also be another event you won't want to miss. It is the unveiling of the U.S.S. Corvina Submarine exhibit in Carson City coming in August. Mark your calendar to attend the event on August 6, 2018, beginning at 10:00 a.m., at the State Archives/Library Building, 100 North Stewart Street, Carson City.

Finally, I can't end this communication without pointing out a shining star—our Nevada State Veterans Home (NSVH). I had the opportunity to attend the Perry Foundation Endeavor Awards for Excellence on Long-Term and Post Acute Care where the team at the Home took home several awards. DiAnn Lawson was recognized as the "Southern Nevada 'Outstanding Certified Nurse Assistant of the Year,'" Poppy Helgren as "Southern Nevada Outstanding Nurse Leader," and Linda Gelinger as "Southern Nevada Administrator of the Year!"

If you see them, please be sure to congratulate them. We are very proud of them and thrilled they remain committed to providing the best care possible to our Nevada heroes and heroines!

Respectfully,
Kat Miller

Honoring Nevada's Heroes

Brigadier General William Burks and Volunteer Billy Greenwood Honored

By Steve Ranson, Nevada Appeal

The State's adjutant general and a Sparks man who has volunteered thousands of hours to the Veterans Administration were recognized Friday for their service to their fellow Nevadans.

The Nevada Department of Veteran Services honored Brigadier General William R. Burks, the adjutant general, as Veteran of the Month and Billy Greenwood, Veteran Supporter of the Month, who has volunteered more than 8,000 hours helping veterans at the VA Sierra Nevada Health Care System.

The presentations were conducted in the Nevada State Capitol Building's Old Assembly Chamber.

NDVS Director Kat Miller said Burks' support of veterans and families has gone beyond what's expected of an adjutant general. Burks, who has been in the Nevada National Air Guard for 40 years, became the State's adjutant general in June 2009.

Miller also commended Burks for his involvement in establishing programs that give veterans an opportunity to find meaningful employment and expanding the Employee Support of the Guard and Reserve, a Department of Defense program that promotes cooperation and understanding between civilian employers and their National Guard and Reserve employees.

Burks shared the credit for his recognition.

"It's all about the team," he said referring to the men and women who serve in the Nevada National Guard. "We have superstars working for me everywhere."

Burks also thanked Governor Brian Sandoval, who was in Spain on a trade mission, for his commitment to the Silver State's National Guard and other military services. The adjutant general said Sandoval has made Nevada one of the most veteran-friendly states in the country.

"I'm honored to be on his team," Burks added.

After the ceremony, Burks said he had no idea he was being selected as June's Veteran of the Month. He elaborated on his staff, saying they not only provide assistance to National Guard members but also to other services.

During the recession when events became tough for servicemen and women, he said, his team reached out.

"We helped the veterans out as much as we have helped our own folks," he added.

Scott Anderson, chief deputy from the Nevada Secretary of State's office, thanked Burks for his service to the National Guard. Burks worked with Secretary of State Barbara Cegavske to ensure soldiers in the 485th Military Police Company, who were deployed to Kuwait, voted in the 2016 elections.

Burks grew up in Reno, attended Wooster High School and graduated from the University of Nevada, Reno with a degree in accounting. He's also a licensed certified public accountant. He also holds a master's in National Security Strategy from the National Defense University.

His military career with the Nevada Air National Guard began in 1977 when he was selected to attend navigator training for the 152nd Tactical Reconnaissance Group in Reno.

He's a master navigator with more than 2,000 flying hours and a veteran of Operation Desert Shield/Storm with 29 combat sorties.

Army veteran Andy LePeilbet nominated Greenwood.

"He's a quiet man with a giant, giving heart," LePeilbet said in his introductory remarks.

LePeilbet commended Greenwood for his volunteerism at the Reno Veterans Administration Hospital beginning in 2005 in recreation therapy and as a red carpet escort. When not at the VA hospital, LePeilbet said Greenwood is volunteering at other events such as Vet Homeless Showdowns, Thanksgiving and Christmas feeds, setup and take down for the monthly disabled veterans' meeting and assisting with Honor Flight Nevada events for veterans.

"Billy comes every day with a smile on his face and friendly heart for all veterans," LePeilbet said.

Additionally, LePeilbet said Greenwood has also welcomed home deployed Nevada National Guard members.

Mark Sutliff, the military/veterans' regional representative for Senator Dean Heller, commended the honorees and presented Senatorial Certificates of Appreciation to both men.

A Promise Kept

By Chuck N. Baker

(Boulder City) — A solemn responsibility of the Nevada Veterans Coalition is its "Missing in Nevada" mission. The Coalition finds and identifies the unclaimed remains of veterans. Some have been sitting on mortuary shelves for decades. The Coalition ensures the promise of a military burial is kept to those who honorably served in the U.S. military.

Last month, the first "Missing in Nevada" ceremony was held at the Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Boulder City. The Coalition has held several of these ceremonies at the Veterans Cemetery in Fernley. This was the first service in the south.

Members of the uniformed coalition, which is based in Fernley, worked tirelessly over several months to ensure the proper identification of 35 veterans for military burial at the Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery.

In "A Promise Kept" ceremony, the name of each deceased veteran and the military service he had been a part of was read aloud. Then a member of that service carried each of the urns to a table and gently set them down. This action was repeated 35 times. Posted behind the table were the flags of the different services, along with the American colors and the Nevada flag. At the start of the service, strong winds came close to knocking them down. In an instant, members of motorcycle clubs who were present and who had also served in the military, came to the rescue. Each veteran held onto each staff during the entire proceeding.

Coalition Chaplain Sharon Serenko gave a heartwarming speech after the posting of the colors, saying in part, "It's truly an honor to pay tribute and give these veterans their final resting place ... they have all earned the title of veteran, patriot, and undying lover of country." She too made note that hundreds of others who served, are yet to be buried.

Kat Miller, Director of the Nevada Department of Veterans Services, noted the remains of the 35 veterans being honored represented America's wars going back to WWI. She pointed out one of the men, Elmer Ray Harris, was born in 1891, and was a member of the 5th Infantry Division in WWI. He moved to Nevada when he was 70 years old. About him and the others, she said, "Their lives were full, vibrant, exciting. But it was not always possible for their loved ones to say goodbye."

The 35 represent only a fraction of those who yet to be interred. The Executive Director of the Nevada Funeral and Cemetery Services Board, Jennifer Kandt, told the attendees that other funeral homes have “thousands of remains” waiting to be identified and put to rest. Bunkers Eden Vale Managing Partner Kevin Ferm explained to the visitors he was honored and privileged to have been a part of seeing that the 35 veterans were placed in the cemetery’s columbarium. Bunkers Eden Vale Mortuary of Las Vegas donated the urns.

The proceedings included the singing of “Amazing Grace” by Al McNeil, a coalition member and the current sheriff of Lyon County. Paul January played “Taps” on the bugle, and other coalition members shot three volleys from their ceremonial rifles. Before the urns were placed in the columbarium by volunteers, including some active duty members, a large American flag was carried out and individuals demonstrated America’s traditional 13 ceremonial folds.

In her keynote speech, Miller explained that many who were there to pay respects may someday be in similar circumstances. She said not having family present does not mean they were not loved. “The simple truth is some of us will outlive those you love.”

The next Missing in Nevada ceremony will be held on Friday, July 15, 2018 at 2:00 p.m. at the Northern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery, 14 Veterans Way, Fernley, Nevada.

Book of Fallen Heroes

Nevada Appeal reporter Steve Ranson has written an excellent article on Nevada's Book of Fallen Heroes. Also, mark your calendar for Friday, November 9, 2018 for the dedication of the Battle Born Memorial to Nevada's Fallen. Reception at 9:00 a.m. inside the State Archives/Library Building, 100 North Stewart Street, Carson City. The ceremony takes place at 10:00 a.m. just outside the building.

Also, help us identify immediate family members of Nevada's fallen so we may invite them and provide travel assistance. For more information contact David Johnson at johnsond@veterans.nv.gov or call 775-825-9846.

For a list of Nevada's fallen, go here:

http://www.veterans.nv.gov/page/fallen_heroes_nevada

For Steve Ranson's article, go here:

<https://www.nevadaappeal.com/news/lahontan-valley/book-of-fallen-heroes-allows-nevadans-to-remember-those-who-sacrificed-their-lives-in-war/>

Native American Veterans Memorial Winning Design

The Smithsonian's [National Museum of the American Indian](#) just announced some big news. The link below details the winning concept for the [National Native American Veterans Memorial](#)!

<https://knpr.org/npr/2018-06/smithsonian-reveals-winning-design-new-native-american-veterans-memorial>

Korean War Veteran? This Free Gift is For You!

For a limited time, and for the first time ever, the nationally acclaimed book *Korea Reborn: A Grateful Nation Honors War Veterans for 60 Years of Growth* and *The Remembered War*, a 2014 GI Film Festival-selected documentary, are being bundled together in a collector's edition commemorative book and DVD set.

Both the book and DVD remember and honor the brave Americans who served during the Korean War. Their fight for freedom in a war-torn, distant land has nourished a modern and prosperous Republic of Korea, one of the world's most powerful testaments to the fruits of liberty.

The books are a gift from the South Korean government and are made available to you, Korean War veterans, at NO COST! The book retails for \$49.95 but again, it is yours free, if you are a Korean War veteran.

The high quality book was published in 2016 by Remember My Service Productions. It is full color and 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!

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 and 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

Why Are Suicide Rates Rising Everywhere in the U.S. Except Nevada?

Some eye-opening information from the Centers for Disease Control about Nevada's suicide rate.

<http://www.newsweek.com/suicide-suicide-rate-nevada-nevada-department-health-and-human-services-967577>

Below is the data from the CDC:

<https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2018/p0607-suicide-prevention.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/suicide/infographic.html#graphic1>

Mark Your Calendar Now for the 12th Annual Walk in Memory - Walk for Hope

Teams are already forming across Nevada for the upcoming Walk in Memory - Walk for Hope event on Saturday, September 15, 2018. Check your city and sign up to walk!

<https://nvsuicideprevention.org/event/12th-annual-walk-in-memory-walk-for-hope/>

Programs and Services for You

If It Werx, The Air Force May Be Interested

By Chuck N. Baker

(Las Vegas) — In 2017, the Secretary of the Air Force and the Vice Chief of Staff of the Air Force established an official method of engagement across industry, academia and non-traditional sources. The purpose was for participants to have the opportunity to contribute transformative and innovative products and services to the Air Force.

Somewhere along the line, the effort was given an innovative name — AFWERX. It could be translated into Air Force Works. But Mark Rowland, director the project, said the name didn't start out that way, it evolved. He explained, during an exhibition last month, the name was enlarged to read AFWERX Fusion Xperience. It was fashioned as a futuristic sounding tag line, designed to catch the eye of forward thinkers.

Rowland said AFWERX “seeks product submissions from non-traditional sources. Not Boeing, not Lockheed Martin, not Raytheon. We want to help the Air Force identify other companies and people who can help,” he explained to the crowd at a luncheon at Nellis Air Force Base and then later at the exhibition itself in Las Vegas.

The overall goal is to source solutions for challenges encountered within the Air Force. Rowland said the Las Vegas AFWERX Fusion Xperience, “Opens its doors to anyone who may have inventive ideas to fit Air Force needs. That includes entrepreneurs, small businesses, as well as students and academic faculty.”

At the exhibition, some 60 companies presented products, from actual working models to prototypes and videos illustrating how their systems performed. Rowland said that there were some initial academia selections that came from UNLV, but they were not chosen to exhibit. Those products, as well as many other technical selections that were not on display, are still eligible to be seen by Air Force officials at a later date.

A handful of those on display will be given further scrutiny this month at AFWERX headquarters. “We have a 30,000 square foot facility where products can be demonstrated,” Rowland said. “It will be a three-day meeting with various acquisition people from the Air Force. Depending on the product, we might have to go to Nellis or somewhere else to test.”

The headquarters debuted in mid-June with opening remarks from Major General Peter E. Gerstner, commander of the Air Warfare Center at Nellis. He was one of the individuals who contributed to the design of the facility, which includes a prototyping laboratory, on-site fabrication space and collaboration area.

Although AFWERX is designed for the Air Force, Rowland noted that in addition to that service, other military branches also need to protect individuals in three site security contexts: Mobile, temporary and fixed. "Each context comes with a set of known variables that make different security solutions more or less practical, possible or effective," he said.

A sampling of exhibitors included Easy Aerial from Edison, New Jersey. The simplified description of its product is a self-contained, fully automated camera drone in a box, for use by the military and first responders. When a critical geographic area is identified as requiring first-responder action of some kind, the box opens, the drone is made mobile, and sent to hover over the area sending back real time video of the scene to those routes. In a non-emergency situation, the product can also be used for autonomous, unmanned aerial monitoring and perimeter security.

Another product that has been designed to assist authorities when they are responding to mass shooting situations is an indoor gunshot detection device that can be integrated into existing fire and security systems in office buildings, schools, hotels and other large facilities. Protective Innovations, headquartered in Arlington, Virginia, calls it the ASD, for Active Shooter Detection. The product uses artificial intelligence to immediately identify gunshots and transmit the location of the emergency to law enforcement through a facility's existing security system. A company spokesman theorized that in situations such as the October 2017 mass shooting in Las Vegas, the exact location of the shooter could have been identified minutes or seconds sooner.

If an item is selected by the military, the government provides the funds for the vendor to manufacture and supply it. A spokesman pointed out that "The Air Force doesn't build products. It reviews technology, and if accepted, buys it." As an example he explained that thousands of airplanes are emblazoned with "U.S. Air Force," but none of them were physically built by the Pentagon. The American military is supplied by civilian entities, creating modern partnerships that have worked for many years.

Update on Services Provided by the Military Order of the Purple Heart

By Chuck N. Baker

(Statewide) — In April of this year, the Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH) announced it would no longer be able to provide assistance through its National Service Program. Citing a lack of funding, the Virginia-based nonprofit said it would shutter all National Service Program offices June 30, 2018.

But since the announcement, new information is now surfacing that the financial crisis for the group in certain areas has passed. What's more, select services to veterans by the Military Order of the Purple Heart have resumed. Confusing? As details of how the situation unfolded are explained below. Please note, I should disclose I'm a member of MOPH and some of the explanation below is my personal observation from facts I've gathered and information provided by the nonprofit.

One of the main services of the celebrated nonprofit veterans' organization is the availability of service officers on a national and local level. They represent veterans claiming earned benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). In April of this year, it was announced by the Purple Heart Foundation its executive board was cutting the budget for 2018-2019 by 50 percent, leading to the cessation of its service officer program for a period of two years.

When that decision was announced, MOPH National Commander Neil Van Ess and two other officers published a statement in the Order's magazine proclaiming the lack of funds and the curtailing of the service program were unacceptable decisions and "appropriate actions" would be taken to reestablish activities.

In the same MOPH magazine, a feature article that was not by-lined was published under the headline, "Military Order of the Purple Heart Announces Suspension of its National Service Program." It read in part that the organization "regrets to announce that, effective June 30, 2018, it will no longer be able to provide assistance with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to veterans and their families through the MOPH National Service Program."

The foundation is the fundraising arm of the Order, but the article stated it has been unable to raise sufficient funds to sustain operation of a number of programs.

The article went on to say that the announcement "in no way affects continuation of the MOPH as a patriotic and fraternal organization, composed solely of our Nation's combat wounded veterans."

Other programs operated by the MOPH include VA volunteer service, JROTC Leadership Awards, scholarships, suicide awareness, Americanism, Purple Heart Trail and Cities proclamations, welfare and other community service programs.

But in late May local MOPH leaders in Nevada announced the national service officers program had been able to continue operations. Van Ess was quoted as saying "MOPH is committed and dedicated to providing the best possible assistance to its veteran-clients, and looks forward to rebuilding their trust and confidence as we strive to be the premiere veterans service officers for all veterans, their spouses and families."

National Service Director Angelo Wider issued a news release stating the positive developments resulted from "increases in donations and revenues, and by building new efficiencies in the foundation's business practices."

It turns out; in Southern Nevada the service officer program had not been directly affected. A representative paid by local MOPH chapters has been and continues to be available at the Veterans Affairs clinic at 6900 Pecos Road in North Las Vegas. Individuals who would like the MOPH to represent them can call Michele Rendleman, (702) 791-9000, Ext. 14463 for an appointment.

Additionally, you may also reach a Veterans Service Officer in Las Vegas, and in other parts of Nevada, through the Nevada Department of Veterans Services. To find an office nearest you, visit our website at www.veterans.nv.gov

Saving Lives Two at a Time

By Chuck N. Baker

(Las Vegas, NV) - There are several local and national organizations that train dogs and make them available as service dogs and/or seeing eye dogs. Each group has its own trademarked or otherwise legally protected name. But a recent addition to groups assisting veterans with canines has a name that may not be especially catchy, but it has to be remembered as perhaps being the longest name 'in the pack,' pun intended!

The group is called "Red White Blue Dog Training after Government Service Inc." When abbreviated, it's the somewhat shorter — R.W.B. D.O.G. T.A.G.S. But even that's a bit lengthy. When writing the name (preferably on a check to the non-profit group) the director gives permission to leave out the periods. Just go with RWB Dog Tags. Now that you know all that, let's discuss what the organization is all about.

Founder Milana Leonard said the group strives to have a positive impact on combat veterans and homeless veterans. She pairs rescued dogs with select veterans, working to forge a bond that she said gives the men and women hope. The veterans and the animals have all been through rough times, but they keep going. "They are happier together than alone. Our service dogs are 'Canine Good Citizen Certified' and then further trained for specific skills and tasks needed by each veteran," she said.

Leonard and her other trainers work tirelessly to accomplish training, mentorship, socialization for individuals and for dogs. A few of her service dog programs include working with veterans who suffer from traumatic brain injury, or have mobility issues, or who have thoughts of suicide. "We also provide assistance services," she said. "Disadvantaged individuals sometimes require assistance to take care of their pets with food and medical care," Leonard noted.

Leonard explained in 2009, she became concerned with what she said was the lack of financial support and combat rehabilitation care for returning warriors. As the owner of Red White and Blue Dog Training, she began offering free training and 'Canine Good Citizen' classes to veterans who had experienced combat. She hoped her services were therapeutic. Three years later, she was in an automobile accident, which was a mixed blessing. She said in a small way, the aftermath gave her a better understanding of the affects of

pain management, both physically and emotionally, as well as the rehabilitation processes that many veterans experience. "I realized the impact misdiagnosis, incorrect treatment and over-prescribing was having on veterans, especially regarding PTSD."

She said K-9 therapy is often an excellent part of recovery and functionality. Unfortunately, countless donated dogs are not suitable for companion or service duty since veterans tend to have specific needs. In 2013, after much community outreach, due diligence and research, she and her volunteer team launched R.W.B. D.O.G. T.A.G.S. and received federal 501(c)3 nonprofit status.

To date, RWB has partnered with more than 80 veteran/service dog teams in training-rehab programs; placed 50 formerly "condemned K-9s" into trained service dog roles, and have seen several participants graduate from RWB and become trainers themselves. RWB saves dogs from euthanasia and assists young and old combat veterans with their pets. She said, "Our motto is; 'Saving Two Lives at a Time.'"

An unknown author once wrote, "To err is human — to forgive, canine." It's something Milana Leonard could have written. She lives it every day. Her management board includes seasoned individuals with military backgrounds. Her trainers are all volunteers, and donations are always being sought to keep the program running. For more information, the website is www.rwbdogtags.org.

Related information or articles about service dog programs in Nevada:

In northern Nevada, Dogs of Rotary is a fundraiser by the Reno/Sparks Rotary Club to raise money that goes to the Humane Society and partners with the G.I. Dogs program to provide veterans with service dogs (Next event is September 30, Idlewild Park, Snowflake Pavilion, Reno, 11:00 a.m – 4:00 p.m.:

<http://www.dogsofrotary.org/>

The G.I. Dogs Program/Nevada Humane Society:

<http://www.ebaraintl.com/community-outreach/the-nevada-humane-societys-g-i-dogs-program/>

National Organizations:

Pets for Vets:

<https://petsforvets.com/index>

Patriot Paws:

<http://patriotpaws.org/>

K9s for Warriors:

<https://www.k9sforwarriors.org/>

News You Can Use

Las Vegas Continues To Address Homelessness

By Chuck N. Baker

(Las Vegas) — The Department of Veterans Affairs is reporting a reduction in homelessness among veterans in the Las Vegas area. Unfortunately, despite the progress, the problem remains. Las Vegas continues to see men and women who have served in the military living on the sidewalks and in tent shelters. They have become part of the overall homeless population, living mostly in what has become known as the "Homeless Corridor," in a section of downtown.

Some experts say those who seek help can come up against two obstacles. First, they may not know where to find help. Second, finding help isn't always helpful because they are steered toward a maze of locations, offices, agencies, managers as well as rules and regulations that make them throw up their hands and stay on the streets.

Now, the Las Vegas City Council has approved contracts for architecture and for management services. The idea is to overcome stumbling blocks homeless veterans and others can face.

A soon-to-be enlarged Courtyard Homeless Resource Center is planned. It will serve as a starting point to access many resources in one place. The area, hailed by the city as the "Corridor of Hope," saw an initial phase open last year. The project is now being expanded and will move forward in an effort to assist more of the intended population.

The Resource Center is located in Ward Five. Councilman Cedric Crear issued a statement saying, "The contracts allow us to continue to move forward and we are excited to see the expansion of the courtyard to assist even more people."

At a kickoff ceremony celebrating the next phase of the center, Mayor Carolyn Goodman praised the project announcing LG Architects had been awarded the contract to build-out the area. The firm will design buildings with classrooms, an intake center, shower and restroom facilities and areas for service providers. Additionally, the courtyard will have a kitchen, mailboxes and a pet kennel. A professional management company has been hired to manage and operate the 24-hour, seven-day a week facility.

Goodman explained the center, "Is a new idea that allows us to connect service providers with our homeless population and use a holistic approach to breaking the cycle of homelessness." A spokesman for the city said, "Since August of 2017, there have been 5,624 requests for services at the facility. The city and service providers have

been assisting in getting homeless individuals off the streets and into housing." It was also noted those in need had been connected to a variety of services including mental health providers, legal assistance and employment managers.

In a related move, the community-based, non-profit, Nevada Partners announced a separate ground breaking for expansion of the Regional Workforce Development Center. The center will expand its current location in North Las Vegas. The center will allow Nevada Partners to offer occupational training in many categories including unmanned aerial systems, film production, health and wellness studies and specific workforce development skills for veterans. The expanded Center is slated to open in December of this year.

Inspiration from a 12-Year-Old Involved in "Cases of Love"

This should give you a smile and lift, if you need one! KTVN Reno reports on the efforts of a 12-year-old girl and her support to our veterans!

<http://www.ktvn.com/story/38539459/cases-of-love-for-veterans>

Reno-Tahoe Airport Salutes Local Honor Flight!

KRNV Reno pays tribute to Honor Flight and the veterans of WWII, Korean and Vietnam Wars.

<http://mynews4.com/news/local/reno-tahoe-airport-salutes-local-honor-flight-wwii-korean-vietnam-veterans-06-29-2018>

Mowing Mission Brings Man to Las Vegas Helping Veterans and Others

We all know how much of a chore mowing the lawn can be, but it can be especially tough in the hot desert heat. Enter Rodney Smith Junior and just in time! He makes sure the elderly, disabled, single mothers and veterans get their lawn mowed for FREE!

<http://www.fox5vegas.com/story/38538772/mowing-mission-brings-man-to-las-vegas-helping-veterans-single-mothers>

Education and Employment

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 benefits 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 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 to be proudly displayed.

For more information on the Patriot Employer Program click here:

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

Become a Nevada Veterans Advocate

By Cathy Yates

(Statewide) – The volunteers with the Nevada Veterans Advocate (NVA) program are passionate about helping veterans. They've not only completed a 20-hour online course and received certification, but many have been saying they want to do more! NDVS wants those NVA's to know, we heard you! So NDVS is involving NVAs in community events to provide veteran outreach. We invite you to become an NVA and join in the fun.

The Nevada Veterans Advocate program provides the education necessary for volunteers to conduct outreach to veterans and veteran families about the benefits and services available in Nevada.

We are planning a free two-day workshop in Elko on October 20, 21st, 2018 at the Red Lion Hotel & Casino, 2065 Idaho Street. The event runs both days beginning at 8:00 a.m. through 5:00 p.m. We will be sharing more details in the weeks ahead on how to pre-register.

Our goal is to recruit and train 1,000 NVAs to serve veterans throughout Nevada. As NDVS ramps up their outreach program, NVAs are a crucial component of that program. With the number of estimated veterans living in Nevada estimated at close to 300,000, many may be unaware of all of the benefits and resources available to them, particularly in the rural areas of the State.

For more information on how to become a Nevada Veterans Advocate, contact McKensie King, the NVA Program Coordinator at (775) 321-4708 or go to our website: www.veterans.nv.gov.

Always Remember, Never Forget

Intervention in Haiti, 1994 - 1995

As we honor and remember every veteran, this month we salute those sent to Haiti in the 1990's.

In September, we will come upon the anniversary of a military coup in Haiti. It was on September 30, 1991 that Lieutenant General Raoul Cedras overthrew the government of the first popularly elected president in Haitian history.

This set off a series of actions by the U.S.

In September of 1994, the U.S.S. America headed to Haiti, with a complement of U.S. Army Special Forces and the 160th Army Special Aviation Regiment aboard.

Read all about it here:

<https://history.state.gov/milestones/1993-2000/haiti>

Mark Your Calendar

Important dates ahead:

August 6, 2018

U.S.S. Corvina exhibit unveiling

10:00 a.m.

State Archives and Library Building

100 North Stewart Street, Carson City, NV

Contact: Mary Woods at 775-684- 0202 or woodsm@admin.nv.gov

October 20-21, 2018

Free, Two-Day Workshop to become a Nevada Veterans Advocate

8:00 a.m. – 5: 00 p.m. both days

Red Lion Hotel & Casino

2065 Idaho Street, Elko, NV

Contact: McKensie King at kingm@veterans.nv.gov

November 9, 2018

Dedication of Battle Born: Memorial to Nevada's Fallen

Reception: 9:00 a.m., inside the State Archives/Library Building, 100 North Stewart Street, Carson City, NV

Ceremony: 10:00 a.m., just outside the State Archives/Library Building, 100 North Stewart Street, Carson City, NV

Additionally, help us find immediate family members (Spouse, Father, Mother, Sister, Brother, Son, Daughter) of a Nevada hero who died in combat. We want to make sure we invite them. Travel reimbursement may also be available to those who qualify. For more information contact: johnsond@veterans.nv.gov or call 775-825-9846.

July 2018

July 13 - 14, 2018

Office of Military Legal Assistance

Free Legal Assistance to Military and Veterans

VA Sierra Nevada Health Care System

975 Kirman Avenue

Rooms L1927 and L1929

Check in by NOON

Reno, NV

July 14, 2018

Sassabration – NDVS Outreach to LGBTQ Community

Event begins with a Drag Race Parade at Brewery Arts Center at 11:00 a.m.

Main event kicks off at NOON and runs through 8:00 p.m.

Main event is located next to Carson Hot Springs

1500 Old Hot Springs Road, Carson City, NV

Contact: Cathy Yates at yatesc@veterans.nv.gov

July 17, 2018

2018 Purple Heart Truck Run Stops in Reno

Truck is on a 7,800 mile odyssey across America to raise awareness.

9:00 a.m.

Truckee Meadows Community College

Contact: Leonard Munoz – Reno Chapter Commander at 775-622-9840 or

lmunozchulai37@roadrunner.com

July 27, 2018

Office of Military Legal Assistance

Free Legal Assistance to Military and Veterans

National Guard Armory

1375 13th St

Elko, NV

Contact: Cathy Yates at yatesc@veterans.nv.gov

July 31, 2018

Town Hall

Construction Update on Northern Nevada State Veterans Home

Washoe County Senior Center

1155 East 9th Street, Reno, NV

3:00 p.m.

Contact: Sandi Tenboer at tenboers@veterans.nv.gov

ROVER Dates

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

To make appointments for ROVER:

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.

July 5, 2018

Hawthorne

American Legion Post 19

775 Sierra Rd

July 6, 2018

Ely

Interactive Video Conference

at Great Basin College Campus

835 N. 2nd St.

July 10, 2018

Silver Springs

Silver Springs Senior Center

2945 Fort Churchill

July 12, 2018

Beatty

Beatty Town Office

100 A Avenue South

July 13, 2018

Battle Mountain

Interactive Video Conference

at Great Basin College Campus

835 N. 2nd St.

July 18, 2018

Austin

Austin Court House
122 Main St.

July 19, 2018

Tonopah

Nye County
1120 Globe Mallow Lane

July 19, 2018

Mesquite

Veterans Center – VVA
840 Hafen Way

July 20, 2018

Winnemucca

Interactive Video Conference
at Great Basin College Campus
5490 Kluncy Canyon Rd.

July 24, 2018

Gardnerville

Douglas County Senior Center
1329 Waterloo Ln.

July 24, 2018

Laughlin

American Legions Post #60
1510 Bruce Woodbury Dr.

July 27, 2018

West Wendover

Interactive Video Conference
at Great Basin College Campus
GBC Modular
West Wendover HS
2000 Elko Ave.