



NEWS RELEASE

Nevada Department of Veterans Services
"SERVING NEVADA'S HEROES"

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 21, 2017

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Three professionals at the Nevada State Veterans Home receive awards recognizing Nevada's top-performing nursing homes and caregivers

(Boulder City, NV) – Three health care professionals at the Nevada State Veterans Home (NSVH) are receiving accolades and awards for their exceptional professionalism and stand of care.

Two caregivers at the NSVH received the Perry Foundation Endeavor Awards. Additionally, the Nevada Department of Veterans Services Deputy Director of Wellness, Wendy Simons, was selected as Healthcare Hero. She will receive the award in Reno, Nevada on August 31st at the Peppermill Resort in a ceremony beginning at 6:30 p.m.

This year the 2017 Endeavor Award recipients from NSVH were Corine Watson and Sally Gray. The Perry Foundation Endeavor Awards annually recognize the state's top-performing health care facilities and health care professionals working in Nursing Homes and Assisted Living Communities. This year the event was held at Bear's Best Golf Resort on June 14.

Watson received the award for "Outstanding Nurse Leader." According to NSVH Administrator Linda Gelinger, Watson has been a nurse for about 25 years starting her career at the age of 15 as an oncology volunteer nursing assistant. Watson climbed the ranks as an LPN to RN, BSN and now MSN.

Gelinger said Watson has many years of experience in Long Term Care and has held the position of Director of Nursing, Certified Director of Staff Development, MDS Coordinator, Infection Control Manager, Wound Care Nurse, Employee Health Nurse, Unit Manager, and Charge Nurse.

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Gray received an Endeavor Award for "Distinguished Nurse Educator." She was nominated by Poppy Helgren, SNVH Director of Nursing. Helgren said Gray is a Registered Nurse who has worked at the Nevada State Veterans Home for more than eight years. Gray started in the MDS department and then advanced to Director of Education where she ensures the education department is always in compliance with the CMS, State, and VA surveys.

Helgren said Gray personally selects all of the educational programs that are required for training in State, Veterans, and Federal regulations that have been identified. Helgren added, "She is always there to educate and train the staff to become a better employee. She also maintains all of the education records for 225 employees making sure that everything is in compliance with all of the requirements. Since Sally has been in her position, she has had no deficiencies with the State, Federal, or Veterans regulations."

For more information on the recipients and the awards visit the Nevada Department of Veterans Services website at www.veterans.nv.gov/news/

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