



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Nevada Department of Veterans Services Suicide Prevention Program Expands as Cities of Elko and Winnemucca Join Coalition of Governor's and Mayor's Challenge Teams**

(Carson City, Nev.) – City of Elko Mayor Reece Keener and City of Winnemucca Mayor Richard Stone recently accepted the Mayor's Challenge expanding the Nevada Department of Veterans Services (NDVS) suicide prevention efforts to rural areas.

Nevada is one of only four states invited to participate in the *Governor's Challenge Community Expansion Project* event, marking the growth in Nevada to rural areas with this national suicide prevention program sponsored by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) with technical assistance from the Governor's Challenge To Prevent Suicide Among Service Members, Veterans, and their Families (SMVF) Technical Assistance Center (TA).

"I am pleased to announce with the Nevada Department of Veterans Services leadership on suicide prevention efforts in our state, both Mayor Keener of Elko and Mayor Stone of Winnemucca have accepted the *Mayor's Challenge* helping move this important program into Nevada's rural areas," said Governor Steve Sisolak. "These cities will collaborate with NDVS to develop an action plan for moving their community efforts forward on this critical issue."

By participating in the VA's Governor's Challenge program, the State of Nevada is working to bring together interagency teams to address veteran

suicide at the state level. In early August, following all COVID-19 protocols for social distancing, the Governor's and Mayor's Challenge State Team Leads attended a virtual two-day workshop providing tools, resources and knowledge to successfully engage with their local communities and build capacity through partnerships and collaboration to implement sustainable suicide prevention efforts statewide

If you are a veteran in crisis, please call the Veterans Crisis Call Line at 1-800-273-8255 and press 1.

NDVS is dedicated to helping Nevada veterans get the services, benefits and quality of life they deserve. In addition to offering benefits counseling and assistance, which includes filing VA claims at no cost, NDVS manages the Northern and Southern Nevada State Veterans Homes and Veterans Memorial Cemeteries. For more information, please visit [www.veterans.nv.gov](http://www.veterans.nv.gov).

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