



NEWS RELEASE

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

Contact:

Julie Dudley
Communications Director
6630 S. McCarran Blvd.
Bldg. C., Suite 204
Reno, Nevada 89509
Dudleyj@veterans.nv.gov

For Immediate Release

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**John Warden Recognized as Veteran of the Month and
Wendy Simons as Veteran Supporter of the Month for September**

(Reno, Nev.) – Governor Steve Sisolak has selected Mr. John Warden as Veteran of the Month (VOM) and Ms. Wendy Simons as Veteran Supporter of the Month (VSM) for **September** 2020.

Warden, a U.S. Marine Corps veteran, has held leadership positions in many veterans service organizations, including the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans, Marine Corps League, the American Legion, and the United Veterans Legislative Council (UVLC). He has worked tirelessly to support his fellow veterans volunteering his time as a Certified Public Accountant to prepare their taxes and help many veterans organizations meet IRS reporting requirements. As a member of the UVLC, he helped shape important veteran legislation. Warden also serves as a leader of his local 4-H Program, Future Farmers of America and Nevada Artist Association Gallery. He volunteers as a Court Appointed Special Advocate and supports the American Legion's Boys and Girls State Program.

As the recently retired Deputy Director of Wellness for the Nevada Department of Veterans Services (NDVS), Simons spearheaded many initiatives improving the wellness of veterans and their families. Chief among these was her management of efforts to create the new Northern Nevada State Veterans Home (NNSVH) in Sparks, Nev. The NNSVH is a state-of-the-art residential facility that provides skilled nursing in a home-like environment for veterans and their families. Simons championed an accelerated licensing program for military medics seeking to become nurses. She also created "Bravo Zulu," a nationally recognized health care training program that helps health care providers understand the connections between military service and behaviors in aging veterans. In her retirement, Simons has continued to advocate for veterans, most recently hosting a radio talk show on suicide prevention activities.

Due to the pandemic, the Veteran of the Month and Veteran Supporter of the Month monthly ceremonies have been postponed. NDVS will provide information on re-scheduling once this unprecedented health crisis is over.

The VOM is awarded to veterans across Nevada who have gone above and beyond the call of duty, specifically with respect to volunteer work in support of veterans and the military. The VSM award recognizes both organizations and non-veteran Nevada community members who support military members stationed in Nevada, Nevada veterans, and their families. Both programs recognize individuals and organizations that help military members, veterans, and their families. If you would like to nominate a veteran for the VOM award, please visit <https://veterans.nv.gov/benefits-and-services/veteran-of-the-month-program> and for VSM, visit <https://veterans.nv.gov/benefits-and-services/veteran-supporter-of-the-month/>.

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 <https://veterans.nv.gov/>.

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