

NEWS RELEASE

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<u>Norman Allen Recognized as Veteran of the Month and</u> <u>Belinda Morse as Veteran Supporter of the Month for October</u>

(Reno, Nev.) – Governor Steve Sisolak has recognized **Mr. Norman Allen of Reno** as Veteran of the Month (VOM) and **Ms. Belinda Morse of Las Vegas** as Veteran Supporter of the Month (VSM) for October 2020.

A Vietnam veteran who served in a weapons platoon with the 3rd Marine Division, Allen is an active member of the Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA), the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), the Nevada Honor Flight, and United Veterans Legislative Council (UVLC). He has held leadership positions with VFW Chapter 9211 and VVA Chapter 989, supporting the Veterans Guest House, Northern Nevada Veterans Home, and a veteran scholarship. In 2017, Allen was an active participant in the Northern Nevada Native American Honor Flight. During the 2019 legislative session, he worked as an unpaid lobbyist to support the interest of veterans and active duty service members. He volunteers as a board member for the Veteran Development Group where he works to pair veterans with employers. In his capacity as an attorney, he has worked in support of the Office of Military Legal Assistance in providing pro-bono legal services to Nevada's veterans and active duty family members.

Morse is the president and a founding member of Honor Flight Southern Nevada. She learned about Honor Flight when her children's great grandfather had the opportunity to participate in a flight. Afterwards, she began volunteering with Nevada Honor Flight out of Reno. However, she soon realized that a second branch was needed to support all of the veterans from the greater Las Vegas Area. Upon this realization, she worked with partners to organize Honor Flight Southern Nevada in 2013 and has since been tasked with fundraising for trips and organizing reunion luncheons. She also works with Quilts of Valor, a group that makes military-themed quilts and photo albums.

Due to the pandemic, the VOM and VSM 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-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 <u>https://veterans.nv.gov/</u>.