

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 Dec. 11, 2020

<u>Two COVID-19 Related Deaths at the</u> <u>Southern Nevada State Veterans Home</u>

(Boulder City, Nev.) – This week, two Southern Nevada State Veterans Home (SNSVH) residents, who tested positive for COVID-19, passed away.

One of the residents, an 88-year-old Korean War Navy veteran, was on hospice when he contracted COVID-19 and later died at the hospital. The other resident, an 85-year-old Army peacetime era veteran, died while at the home. Both had serious underlying medical conditions prior to contracting COVID-19.

"On behalf of the entire Nevada Department of Veterans Services team, we offer our deepest condolences to the families of these two honorable veterans," said NDVS Director Kat Miller. "It has been nine months since we experienced our first case of COVID-19 in our home, and while our team has gotten better at responding to this horrific disease, it never gets easier; losing one of our own is always a terrific blow to our veterans' home family."

The SNSVH continues to experience a steady increase in cases, reflecting the State's elevated disease transmission. "We are grateful that our vulnerable nursing homes populations and the staff who care for them have been prioritized by the State of Nevada in the <u>COVID-19</u> <u>Vaccination Program Playbook</u>," said Miller. "With the planned distribution of the vaccine, our team members, residents, and families finally see a light at the end of the tunnel."

All staff who care for residents are tested for COVID-19 prior to every shift. If the rapid test result is positive, then the staff member is immediately sent home to self-quarantine and does not have any contact with residents or other staff. Residents are tested a minimum of twice a week.

Family visits are being held outdoors in a designated area with a plexiglass barrier to keep everyone safe. All visits must be scheduled and are limited to 20 minutes to accommodate multiple families visiting. Families can still request drive-thru visitations with residents. Please call (702) 332-6736 Monday through Friday to schedule.

Updates on the Southern Nevada State Veterans Home are available by calling 702-332-6705. This phone line is updated weekly unless conditions change. For more information and resources on Nevada's response to COVID-19, please visit https://nvhealthresponse.nv.gov/.