

Nevada Women Veterans Conference



Courage & Resilience: Strength Through Adversity

Wednesday, March 3, 2021
Zoom Event: 9:00am – Noon Pacific Time



NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS SERVICES
Serving Nevada's Heroes

9:00AM Opening Program

Pledge of Allegiance

- Willette Gerald, NDVS Education and Employment Program Manager
U.S. Air Force

Welcome and Introductions

- Katherine Miller, NDVS Director
U.S. Army
- Beth Hemmila, NDVS Women Veterans Service Officer

Proclamation – March 2021 Women’s Military History Month in Nevada

- Anne Davis, Chair, Women Veterans Advisory Committee
U.S. Army

Opening Remarks

- Steve Sisolak, Governor of Nevada

9:20AM Keynote Speaker

- [Shoshana Johnson](#), Author of [*I'm Still Standing: From Captive U.S. Soldier to Free Citizen - My Journey Home*](#)
U.S. Army

Break & Gift Giveaway

10:10AM Women Veterans Healthcare

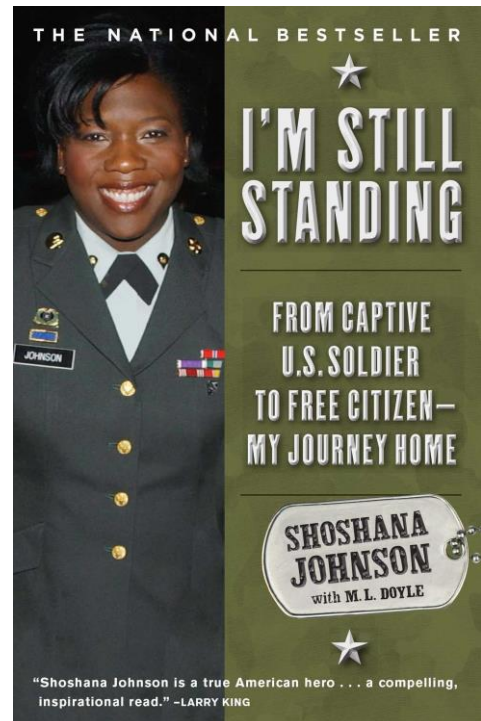
- Dr. Sarah Súniga
Women Veterans Program Manager, VA Portland Healthcare System
U.S. Army Reserves

Break & Gift Giveaway

11:00AM Courage to BE

- Annie Emprima-Martin
Member, Nevada Women Veterans Advisory Committee
Nevada Army National Guard

Gift Giveaway & Closing Remarks

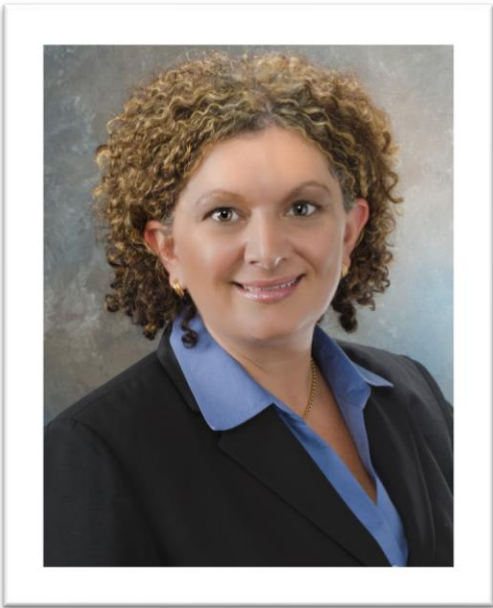




Shoshana Nyree Johnson was born in the Republic of Panama and currently lives in El Paso, Texas with her daughter Janelle, her sisters, and two nieces. She joined the U.S. Army in September 1998. In February 2003, Johnson received orders to deploy to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. On March 23rd Johnson was in a convoy that was ambushed in the city of an-Nasiriyah. Johnson received a bullet wound to her ankle, causing injuries to both legs. She and five other members of the 507th Maintenance Company were captured and taken Prisoners of War and then later rescued by U.S. Marines. Specialist Johnson retired from the Army on December 12, 2003. Since her return to the United States, Johnson has received numerous awards, and recognition for her courage, valor, and service to the United States. She graduated from El Paso Community College with an Associate of Arts degree in May 2008, and she received her degree in culinary arts (pastry) in May 2011. Johnson has penned a memoir about her experience entitled *I'm Still Standing: From Captured Soldier to Free Citizen-My Journey Home*, which was nominated for a NAACP Image Award and is a national bestseller.

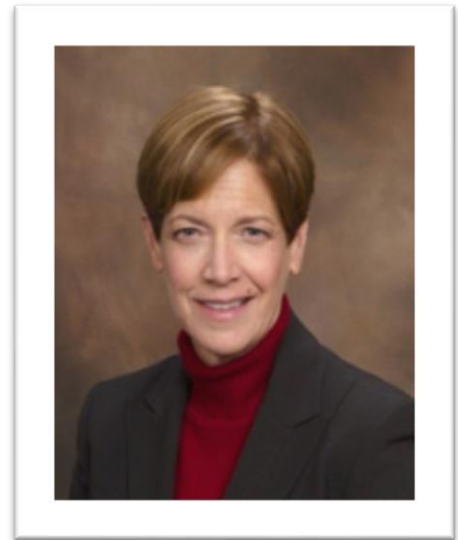
Dr. Sarah Súñiga is the Women Veterans Program Manager at VA Portland Healthcare System and serves as an advocate for Women Veterans while also working to improve the delivery of healthcare services. Dr. Súñiga is a clinical psychologist by training. She earned a B.A. in Psychology and English from Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas and a M.A. & Doctorate (PhD) in Clinical Psychology from Kent State University in Kent, Ohio. An Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) Veteran, Dr. Súñiga has worked with military and Veteran populations since 2006. As a member of the U.S. Army Reserves, she deployed in 2012-2013 providing mental health services with the 1972nd Combat Operational Stress Control medical detachment across much of southern Afghanistan. Her clinical work is focused on the treatment of traumatic stress, particularly in the areas of women's health and race-based stress and trauma. She is deeply passionate about serving communities who experience enduring trauma in order to move beyond survival and thrive.





Annie Emprima-Martin, served from 2008-2017 in the Nevada Army National Guard. She deployed to Kuwait in 2016 and served in finance operations for the 17th Sustainment Brigade, traveling to Iraq, Qatar, and Jordan. Annie teaches people how to recognize conflict in the mind, body, and spirit as a whole and shows people how to harness that knowledge to propel in business and life through her expertise in metaphysics. Annie has a passion for small business and the entrepreneurial spirit. Since 2017, she has invested \$60,000 in helping small businesses launch or move forward. She currently sits on the State of Nevada Women Veteran Advisory Committee and the Veterans Affairs Southern Nevada Healthcare System Veteran and Family Advisory Council. Additionally, she volunteers in support of the Southern Nevada Veteran Community Engagement Board and the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve.

Katherine Miller is Director of NDVS. She was raised in Reno, Nevada and retired from the U.S. Army after serving 34 years. Starting as an enlisted soldier, she culminated her service with assignments as a Military Police Brigade Commander including a deployment to Afghanistan. Kat has a Master of Science Degree from the U.S. Army War College and a Master of Public Administration degree from Roosevelt University in Chicago.



Special Thanks to the Following...

- Governor Steve Sisolak
- Our speakers: Shoshana Johnson, Dr. Sarah Súniga, and Annie Emprima-Martin
- Members of the Nevada Women Veterans Advisory Committee
- Women Veterans of Nevada
- VA Healthcare System

NEVADA RESOURCES

[Veterans Advocacy and Support Team](#)

If you would like help filing a claim, please call 702-830-2000 and ask to speak with a Veterans Service Officer.

[Women Veterans Program](#)

[Women Veterans Resource Guide](#)

[Women Veteran Event Page](#)

[eNewsletter](#)

[Connect on Social Media](#)

[Nevada Women Veterans Survey](#)

[Military Women's Memorial Registration](#)

[EMDR Resources \(eligible veterans\) - Reno Vet Center](#)

5580 Mill St. Suite 600
Reno, NV 89502
775-323-1294

[Nevada Women Veterans Portrait Exhibit "Through Our Eyes"](#)

VA Sierra Nevada Health Care System

Click on each Women Veteran's photo to read their full story.

I Am Not Invisible Project: [Reno](#), [Elko](#), [Las Vegas](#)



We value your feedback!

Please take our survey by scanning our code or clicking this link <https://veterans.nv.gov/2021survey/>

