

NEWS RELEASE

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

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Sandra Valdezate Named Veteran of the Month as Greg Weeks and Steve Custer Named Veteran Supporters of the Month

We congratulate Sandra Valdezate for being named Veteran of the Month (VOM) and Greg Weeks and Steve Custer for being recognized as Veteran Supporters for the Month (VSM) of August 2021.

Valdezate is an Air Force retiree who has selflessly supported Veterans, those actively serving at Nellis Air Force base, and the disadvantaged in Clark County. As a member of the Air Force Sergeants Association, she assists with the daily operations of the base pharmacy helping to distribute prescriptions to service members and their families. She also volunteers as a follow –up caseworker with the Armed Forces Red Cross helping ensure that veterans and servicemembers are helped through the crisis they encounter. In addition to supporting the Nellis community for over 19 years, she has helped manage the Annual Coat and Blanket Drive for U.S. Vets of Las Vegas and partnered with Catholic Charities to make cards for Seniors on Meals Wheels. Through it all, Valdezate is a tireless champion for her community.

Weeks and Custer are members of Elks Lodge #1468 who have been incredible volunteers for the Adopt – A-Vet Program created by the Paralyzed Veterans of American (PVA) Nevada Chapter. With the onset of the COVID-19 Pandemic, Weeks and Custer made a commitment to do whatever needed to be dome to ensure that the Veterans in their program would not be left behind. With determination and hard work, Meeks and Custer helped the Elks and the PVA create hygiene kits, bag up groceries, and distribute 30,000 pounds of food to 130 veterans each month. Both honorees are retired police officers, and their commitment to serving their communities remained strong after their retirement and continues to serve as an inspiration to others.

Due to the risk of coronavirus exposure, special ceremonies to honor and recognize the VOM and VSM are postponed until it is safe to resume them once again. Veteran of the Month – Guidelines and Nomination Form The Veteran of the Month (VOM) award recognizes Nevada veterans who contribute their time and energy to support veterans, their communities and/or the military. <u>View</u> the VOM guidelines and nomination form.

Veteran Supporter of the Month – Guidelines and Nomination Form The Veteran Supporter of the Month (VSM) Award recognizes both active organizations and non-veteran Nevada community members that provide exceptional support to military stationed in Nevada, Nevada veterans, and their families. <u>View for VSM guidelines and nomination form</u>.

About the Nevada Department of Veterans Services (NDVS)

NDVS is dedicated to helping Nevada veterans obtain the services and benefits they have earned through military service. In addition to offering benefits counseling and assistance, which includes assistance with filing VA claims at no cost, NDVS manages the Northern and Southern Nevada State Veterans Homes and the Northern and Southern Veterans Memorial Cemeteries. To learn more about NDVS programs or services visit <u>www.veterans.nv.gov</u> and follow us on <u>Twitter</u> @NVDeptVeterans and on <u>Facebook</u> @NevadaDepartmentofVeteransServices

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