



**NEWS RELEASE**  
Nevada Department of Veterans Services  
"SERVING NEVADA'S HEROES"

**Contact:**  
Terri Hendry  
Communications Director  
6630 S. McCarran Blvd.  
Bldg. C., Suite 204  
Reno, Nevada 89509  
[Hendryt@veterans.nv.gov](mailto:Hendryt@veterans.nv.gov)

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**For Immediate Release**

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**October 2021 – Veteran of the Month / Veteran Supporter of the Month**

(Reno, Nev.) – J.R. Stafford has been named Veteran of the Month (VOM) and his wife, Brigitte Stafford has been named Veteran Supporter of the Month (VSM) by Governor Steve Sisolak for October 2021. The honor and recognition are designed to shine a spotlight on the great work of Nevadans who better our state and nation by contributing their time and energy in support of veterans, their communities, or the military.

**J.R. Stafford** is a Coast Guard retiree who has been an incredible supporter of veterans in northern Nevada since becoming active in the community in 2017. In that year, he joined the Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) Chapter 989, where he hit the ground running. He currently serves as the chapter president since his election in April 2019.

He remains involved with several volunteer activities and partnerships. Some highlights include serving as a "docent," educating the public about the significance of the Traveling Wall for Vietnam Veterans when the memorial was in Minden. Beginning in 2020 and continuing through today, he has led the VVA's response to the pandemic which includes support for the Northern Nevada State Veterans Home. Those efforts helped to organize donations of crafts and activity equipment as well as vehicle cruises, including a classic car cruise, for residents and staff who have had to minimize social contact to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Under his leadership, the VVA executed successful Vietnam Remembrance events at the Reno Events Center and the Bartley Ranch. This year, the VVA partnered with the Reno Aces to host a Military Appreciation Game that also dedicated a POW/MIA chair for one of Reno's veterans who had been a resident at the infamous, "Hanoi Hilton." Additionally, the VVA 989 has continued to provide color guard support for parades and "Veterans In Care" ceremonies, when called upon and when possible, due to the pandemic.

**Brigitte Stafford** is the area representative for the Associates for Vietnam Veterans and the event planner for VVA Chapter 989. She has been instrumental in helping the chapter achieve its goals. As the event planner, she has served as the chief lead helping coordinate participants, locations, and supplies for the events the chapter has organized. For the 2019 Vietnam Veterans Remembrance Day, Brigitte helped to coordinate 26 Veteran Service Organizations to participate in the event and provide information to visitors.

She also organized the event to serve as a fundraiser, helping to fund the chapter's annual scholarships for veteran students at UNR and TMCC, and for the Veterans Guest House, Honor Flight Nevada, and the Adopt A Vet Dental Program.

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Photos available upon request by emailing [pio.ndvs@veterans.nv.gov](mailto:pio.ndvs@veterans.nv.gov).

While the pandemic put a pause on large events, she helped the chapter to support the Veterans Standdown and organized an appreciation luncheon for the staff of the Northern Nevada State Veterans Home, helping maintain staff morale during a trying year. As the State began to re-open, Brigitte helped secure the Hawkins Amphitheater in Reno for the 2021 Vietnam Veterans Remembrance Day, organizing one of the first large scale events in this new environment.

Her talents also include facilitating donations to the Northern Nevada State Veterans Home which includes planter boxes, Halloween pumpkins, and jigsaw puzzles.

*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. [View 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. [View for VSM guidelines and nomination form.](#)

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