



YEAR OF NEW HORIZONS



ANNUAL REPORT 2022
SERVING NEVADA'S HEROES

CONTACT INFORMATION

VSOs, State Veterans Homes and Cemeteries

LAS VEGAS

(702) 224-6025 or 791-9000, Ext. 46025

FAX: (702) 224-6927

6900 N. Pecos Rd., Room #1C238

North Las Vegas, NV 89086

(Located at the VA Hospital in North Las Vegas)

RENO

(775) 321-4880

FAX: (775) 321-4884

5460 Reno Corporate Drive, Suite 131

Reno, NV 89511

(Located in the VA Regional Benefits Office)

CARSON CITY

(775) 300-6796

FAX: (775) 321-4884

106 East Adams Street, Suite 203

Carson City, NV 89706

(Located in the Veterans Resource Center)

WINNEMUCCA

(775) 339-2300

FAX: 775-321-4884

3300 Bengochea Circle

Winnemucca, NV 89445

(Inside VVA facility, Humboldt County Bldg.

Call for an appointment)

FALLON

(775) 428-1177

FAX: (775) 423-9371

485 West B. Street, Suite 103

Fallon, NV 89406

(Located in the Churchill County Offices)

ELKO

(775) 777-1000

FAX: (775) 777-1055

1500 College Parkway, McMullen Hall, Room #114

Elko, NV 89801

(Inside the Veteran Resource Center on the Great Basin College Campus)

PAHRUMP

(775) 751-6372

FAX: (775) 751-6371

1981 East Calvada Boulevard, #110

Pahrump, NV 89048

(Located in the Nye County Offices)

VSO AT SOUTHERN NEVADA STATE VETERANS HOME

(702) 332-6784

100 Veterans Memorial Drive

Boulder City, NV 89005

VSO AT NORTHERN NEVADA STATE VETERANS HOME (PART-TIME)

(775) 418-5063

36 Battle Born Way

Sparks, NV 89431

SOUTHERN NEVADA STATE VETERANS HOME

100 Veterans Memorial Drive
Boulder City, NV 89005

Phone: (702) 332-6784
Office Hours: Monday - Friday 8AM - 5PM

No VSO at this location.

NORTHERN NEVADA STATE VETERANS HOME

36 Battle Born Way
Sparks, NV 89431

Phone: (775) 827-2955
Office Hours: Monday - Friday 8AM - 5PM

No VSO at this location.

SOUTHERN NEVADA VETERANS MEMORIAL CEMETERY (SNVMC)

1900 Veterans Memorial Drive
Boulder City, Nevada 89005

Phone: (702) 486-5920
Office Hours: Monday - Friday 8AM - 5PM

No VSO at this location.

NORTHERN NEVADA VETERANS MEMORIAL CEMETERY (NNVMC)

14 Veterans Way
Fernley, Nevada 89408

Phone: (775) 575-4441
Office Hours: Monday - Friday 8AM - 5PM

No VSO at this location.

TABLE OF CONTENTS



Gold Star Families/T.A.P.S. LV Outing

- MESSAGE FROM DIRECTOR** 5
- MESSAGE FROM NEVADA VETERANS SERVICES COMMISSION CHAIRMAN** 6
- NDVS OVERVIEW** 7
 - Vision, Mission, Who We Serve, Motto..... 7
 - Organizational Chart 8
 - The Heroes We Serve 9
 - Key Partnerships and Accomplishments 10
 - Honoring Nevada’s Veterans 14
 - Nevada State Veterans Memorials14
 - Veteran of the Month Program15
 - Veteran Supporter of the Month Program16
 - Youth Serving Veterans Award Program16
- BENEFITS DIVISION** 17
 - Introduction to New Deputy Director Evan Rush 17
 - Nevada’s State Veterans Memorial Cemeteries..... 17
 - Key Information17
 - Recurring Ceremonies18
 - Services Offered18
 - Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery 19
 - Northern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery 20
 - Elko National Veterans Cemetery 21
 - Veterans Advocacy and Support Team (VAST)..... 21
 - Veterans Service Officers21
 - VAST - Special Programs, Projects and Initiatives21
 - Nevada Veterans Advocate Program22
 - Veterans Information System Scanning Project Reaches Milestone.....22
 - Welcome Home Program23
 - Community Outreach Program – Key Initiatives and Programs ..23
 - Nevada Veterans Transition Assistance Program24
 - Veteran Employment Program.....24
 - Patriot Employer Program24
 - 2022 Veteran Employment Facts24
 - Veteran Education Program25
 - 2022 Veteran Education Facts25
 - Total Nevada Educational/Training Programs.....25
 - Women Veterans Program26
 - Lesbian, Gay, Bi, Trans, Queer (LGBTQ) Veterans Program...26
 - Native American Veterans Program27
 - Rural Veterans Program27
 - Justice Reintegration Support Program28
 - Engaging Communities Veterans Community Councils ...29
 - Statewide Veterans Community Councils30



NDVS Outreach at Reno - Sparks Indian Colony



Director Wagar presents certificate to Commander Dan Peterson for 17th Anniversary, MOPH, Chapter 730

COVER PHOTOS:

1. Healthcare Summit – Deputy Director of Benefits Evan Rush (L) with NDVS team
2. Fisher House Presentation – Director Fred Wagar (L) with Stephanie Wheeler, Fisher House
3. Camos to Classroom Gala – Deputy Director Healthcare Services Vivian Ruiz (R) with NNSVH team and supporters

TABLE OF CONTENTS



Flag-In at SNVMC



SNSVH Veterans Day



Ted DeYoung honored in Revel Henderson VIC

HEALTHCARE SERVICES	31
Introduction to Deputy Director Vivian Ruiz	31
State Veterans Homes	31
Key Information	31
Southern Nevada State Veterans Home	32
Northern Nevada State Veterans Home	34
NDVS Nursing Home Programs	36
Veterans in Care Program	36
Bravo Zulu Military Culture Training Program	36
Special Healthcare Programs & Initiatives	37
Healthcare Champions Program (Exposure Risk Education)	37
Adaptive Sports Programs	38
Military Sexual Trauma Program	40
Veterans K-9 Corps Peer Support Group Program	40
Caregiver Support Program	41
Survivors Support Program	41
Suicide Prevention Program	41
ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT SERVICES	43
Introduction to Executive Officer/Chief Financial Officer Joseph Theile	43
2022 Financial Review Expenditures	43
2022 Financial Review Revenues	44
Grant Awards Helping Veterans	45
Adaptive Sports Program	45
Rural Transportation Grants	45
Expansion at Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery	46
Expansion at Northern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery	46
Information Technology Operations	46
Veterans Information System (VIS) Scanning Project	46
Find Your Loved One (FYLO) GPS Gravesite Locator Project	46
Battle Born Memorial Kiosk Project	47
Website Support	47
Veterans and the Nevada Legislature	48
United Veterans Legislative Council	48
Remembering Tony Yarbrough, UVLC Founder	48
2022 Veterans Legislative Symposia	49
Veterans and Military Day at the Legislature (VAMDAL) ..	50
 FINAL MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR	51

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

FRED WAGAR
DIRECTOR



I am honored to serve as the Nevada Department of Veterans Services (NDVS) Director and present this 2022 NDVS Annual Report. It showcases our tremendous work on behalf of Nevada's veterans, servicemembers and dependents and it highlights the accomplishments of our amazing NDVS team, alongside our key partners.

This year has been one of tremendous organizational change, including significant members of our executive team. This has redefined our department, allowing us to review and recommit to the core values and guiding principles that have always served us. The retirement of former NDVS Director Kat Miller in April 2022 kicked off a series of significant leadership shifts within NDVS. I was fortunate and humbled to be appointed Director. Also new to the executive team are Evan Rush, Deputy Director of Benefits and Vivian Ruiz, Deputy Director of Healthcare Services. Joseph Theile is our Executive Officer/Chief Financial Officer (XO/CFO) and David Johnson is now serving as a Deputy XO/CFO. Additionally, the heads of our Human Resources department, Blanche Dieket and our IT Manager, Brandon Torres, are also new to their positions. This explains why this year's Annual Report theme is centered around change.

I want to thank Kat for her mentorship and support. She left us with a strong foundation and as a result, the transition was seamless and the NDVS team continues moving forward accomplishing key projects and initiatives including:

- First in-person event for our Nevada Veterans Transition Assistance Program (NVTAP), held at the National Guard North Las Vegas Readiness Center
- First in-person Suicide Prevention Forum, hosted in partnership with the Nevada National Guard
- First Community Outreach Roadshow bringing resource information and connection to earned benefits to veterans in rural Nevada
- Record number of claims submitted by VSOs on behalf of veterans to the VA
- Record responses to our online program, "Ask a VSO"
- First 5 Star rating for the Northern Nevada State Veterans Home (NNSVH). This is the highest possible rating given by the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare and the first year the NNSVH was eligible for this recognition
- Maintaining our 5 Star CMS rating at the Southern Nevada State Veterans Home, along with receiving a "High Performing" rating within the U.S. News & World Report's "2022-2023 Best Nursing Homes" national rankings

There are too many accomplishments this year to list here. That is why I encourage you to read through this report. It demonstrates the passion and commitment of each and every one of us at NDVS to serve Nevada's veterans, U.S. Armed Forces, and their families every single day!

In closing, it is an honor and a point of pride for us to connect veterans to the benefits, programs and resources earned through military service. Our veterans deserve no less than our very best and this report shows our delivery on this promise. It is our pleasure and honor to be of service those who have sacrificed in service to our country!

Respectfully,
Fred Wagar



NDVS Director

MESSAGE FROM NEVADA VETERANS SERVICES COMMISSION

MIKE MUSGROVE

CHAIRMAN, VETERANS SERVICES COMMISSION



To the Governor, Honorable Members of the Nevada Legislature, Fellow Veterans, and the Distinguished Citizens of Nevada,

It has been my pleasure and great honor to continue my service on the Nevada Veterans Services Commission (VSC) since my first appointment to this panel in January 2007. This is my first year serving as VSC Chairman and I would like to thank our former Chairman, Bill Baumann for his graciousness over the years, and his work that certainly enhanced the lives of the veterans and families we are proud to serve. It is a privilege to follow in his footsteps.

The VSC functions as a team, alongside the professionals who work at the Nevada Department of Veterans Services (NDVS). We make recommendations to NDVS as well as the elected and appointed officials in our great State regarding the services, programs and initiatives that support Nevada's veteran community. Over the years, this teamwork has proven to be a very successful formula. Together, we have been able to identify and then address challenges facing the men and women who have honorably served and have chosen to call Nevada their "home." One example of this is the NDVS created Nevada Transition Assistance Program (NVTAP). NVTAP supports transitioning servicemembers with the tools and resources to support their new life as a civilian and resident of Nevada. NVTAP is not like traditional transition assistance programs offered through the military. It is Nevada specific, providing information to transitioning servicemembers about programs, services and benefits offered in Nevada. This year, NDVS hosted its first in-person NVTAP event in Las Vegas to support its transitioning servicemembers.

That is just one example. There are so many more programs to support women veterans, LGBTQ veterans, Native American veterans, incarcerated veterans, even rural veterans. As a resident of Elko, I understand the importance of these special programs, including support of veterans in rural Nevada. It has been a pleasure to follow and support the progress being made on the National Veterans Cemetery in Elko. It will provide a dignified, final resting place to the approximately 3,700 northeastern Nevada veterans and eligible family members living in the area. Once complete, they will no longer have to travel hundreds of miles to visit a deceased loved one in a veterans' cemetery. It's projects like this one, that will have an immediate positive impact to the veterans and families in my community and surrounding area.

I know I speak for the entire VSC and NDVS in saying it will forever be our commitment to ensure veterans receive the benefits they have earned. Whether its receiving health care, interment at a veterans' cemetery, residency in a state veterans' home or assistance with filing claims to the VA or finding resources or programs that will support them and their family.

I encourage you to take the time to review this Annual Report. You will learn what NDVS and the State of Nevada have to offer our veterans and their families. You will also find that we take our job seriously in making sure Nevada's veterans are afforded the respect, dignity and consideration they deserve for their service and sacrifice to our county.

Respectfully,
Mike Musgrove

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Musgrove".

Chairman, Veterans Services Commission
U.S. Air Force Veteran

NDVS OVERVIEW WHO WE ARE

Our Motto

Serving Nevada's Heroes

OUR VISION

Ensuring all Nevada veterans, servicemembers, and their families understand and connect to benefits and services they have earned.

OUR MISSION

To serve Nevada veterans by honoring their remarkable legacy and by connecting them to earned benefits and services. Through our seven major efforts we:

- Professionally assist veterans and their families obtain Federal and State veterans' benefits.
- Provide quality skilled nursing care at our State Veterans Homes.
- Provide dignified burial support at our State Veterans Memorial Cemeteries.
- Effectively manage programs to address the needs of at-risk veterans.
- Successfully integrate returning servicemembers and veterans into Nevada communities.
- Honor the service and sacrifice of all Nevada's veterans and their families through ceremonies and information campaigns.
- Assist and coordinate the efforts and activities of service organizations and individuals for the benefit of Nevada veterans, servicemembers, and their families.

WHO WE SERVE

Veterans, Active Duty, Guard and Reserve Members who live or work in Nevada, along with their families, caregivers, and survivors.



Quilts of Valor at NNSVH



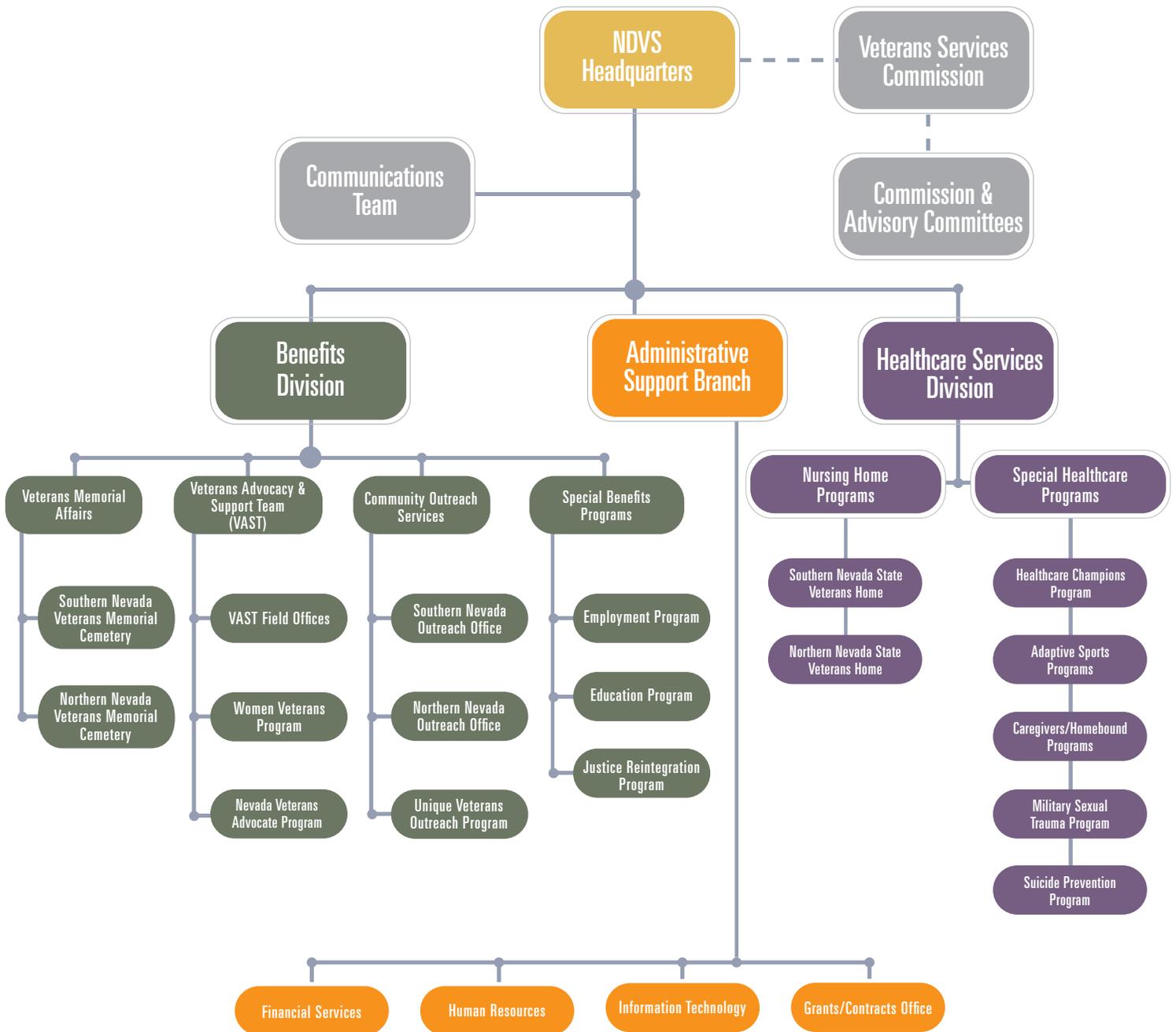
K-9 Peer Support Program



Flag-In at SNVMC

NDVS OVERVIEW

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



NDVS OVERVIEW

THE HEROES WE SERVE

NUMBER OF VETERANS¹



NEVADA:
219,698*

PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL POPULATION
7%



NATION:
18,592,457

PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL POPULATION
6%

WOMEN VETERANS

NEVADA 23,889	NATION 2,012,760
PERCENTAGE OF VETERANS	
11%	11%

MILITARY RETIREES

NEVADA 33,972	NATION 2,156,647
PERCENTAGE OF VETERANS	
15%	12%

65 AND OVER²

NEVADA 118,639	NATION 9,410,179
PERCENTAGE OF VETERANS	
54%	51%

VETERANS AND MILITARY STATEWIDE*

- Army:** 180
- Navy:** 1,179
- Marine Corps:** 52
- Air Force/Space Force:** 10,863
- Coast Guard:** 3
- Army National Guard:** 3,327
- Air National Guard:** 1,172
- Army Reserve:** 1,469
- Navy Reserve:** 617
- USMC Reserve:** 192
- Air Force Reserve:** 1,272
- Coast Guard Reserve:** 1

Veterans: 219,698*
Active-Duty: 12,277
National Guard: 4,499
Reserve: 3,551
TOTAL 240,025

*As of June 30, 2022
Data Source: <https://dwp.dmdc.osd.mil/dwp/app/dod-data-reports/workforce-reports>

WARTIME VETERANS¹

(Some may have served in more than one war)

- ★ **Gulf War:** 89,847
- ★ **Vietnam Era:** 69,000
- ★ **Korean Conflict:** 14,240
- ★ **World War II:** 3,409
- ★ **Peacetime:** 50,244

¹Geographic Distribution of VA Expenditures for Fiscal Year 2021, the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics, Department of Veterans Affairs GDX 2021 revises and replaces the VA VetPop2018 model. (<https://www.va.gov/vetdata/Expenditures.asp>). Scroll down to "What's New" to find GDX 2021, (https://www.va.gov/vetdata/docs/GDX/GDX_FY21.xlsx) National Population of 331,449,281 and NV population of 3,104,614 is from the April 1, 2020, Census and used to derive the percentages.

²Retirees, Ages (+15% See Note): Source based on FY 2017 data does not account for population growth, nor includes 2020 Census data. Veteran population percentages and military retiree estimates from VA State/Territory Summaries (<https://www.va.gov/vetdata/stateSummaries.asp>). Nevada, the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics, Department of Veterans Affairs (https://www.va.gov/vetdata/docs/SpecialReports/State_Summaries_Nevada.pdf)

DEPARTMENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND KEY PARTNERSHIPS

Over the years, the work and commitment behind building strong relationships with our partners and advocates continues to serve Nevada's veterans and their families well. Our partnerships are too numerous to list individually, but include Federal and State agencies, social services, private industries, nonprofit organizations, businesses, individuals and so many more. We cannot thank them enough for all they do to enhance the lives of those we serve and for their role in supporting so many accomplishments in 2022.



Luminary Event at NNSVH



Veterans Day 2022

2022 HIGHLIGHTS

1 Nevada Transition Assistance Program (NVTAP) Hosts First In-Person Event

The first NVTAP Resource Fair was held at the North Las Vegas Readiness Center in July 2022 in support of the Nevada National Guard. The NVTAP program provides Nevada specific state, local and community information to support transitioning servicemembers and veterans to ensure success in civilian life. The online portion of NVTAP was implemented in September 2021. The wide array of partnerships supporting this program may be seen here:

<https://veterans.nv.gov/nevada-transition-assistance-program-nvtap/>

2 Patriot Employer Program Receives Prestigious National Award

Our Patriot Employer Program earned the 2022 Abraham Lincoln Pillars of Excellence Award in February 2022. This national award is issued by the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs, in partnership with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. It recognizes excellence for outstanding and innovative programs developed and implemented by state departments that serve veterans. This is the fifth Pillars of Excellence Award earned by NDVS for innovation and excellence. Details on the Patriot Employer Program in this Annual Report under the Benefits Division, underneath Employment.

3 First Veterans Outreach Roadshow

The first Veterans Outreach Roadshow was held during the summer of 2022 bringing in-person connection to earned benefits to veterans in Fallon, Gardnerville, Minden, Reno, Winnemucca, Elko and Ely. The tour resulted in 753 veteran interactions with NDVS, and a total of 74 claims or referrals filed through this outreach effort. Special thanks to our VA, VBA, partners as well as our veterans service organization partners in Gardnerville, Fallon, Elko, Ely, Winnemucca and Reno.

DEPARTMENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND KEY PARTNERSHIPS



U.S. Marine Corps Battalion Reunion at NNSVH

4

State Veterans Cemeteries Moves Forward with Expansion/Improvement Projects

NDVS secured federal VA and State funding in 2022 to meet demand at our State Veterans Cemeteries. The SNSVC received a VA grant of nearly \$5.3 million for a seven-acre expansion project to begin on February 6, 2023. In the north, a VA grant of more than \$5.2 million will support the expansion of the Fernley veterans' cemetery. There are also plans to renovate cemetery's pavilion. Our thanks to the VA, Nevada's Congressional delegation, Office of the Governor, Nevada legislators, State Public Works Department, as well as those involved in the design and construction phases of these projects.

5

Record VA Claims Filed in SFY22

New records for claims filed and VA monetary awards to Nevada were set in 2022. There were 4,272 claims filed resulting in a cumulative VA monetary award of \$243,567,018 from SFY July 2021 - June 2022. Thanks, and congratulations to our Veterans Service Officers, along with the VHA and VBA partners for connecting veterans to earned benefits.

6

Veterans Information System Scanning Project Scans 94,000+ Documents

Trained volunteers reached a major milestone of scanning 94,259 paper DD214s within four-years, converting these documents into an electronic record to better serve Nevada's veterans. Thank you to our community volunteers, Auxiliary of the Fleet Reserve Association (Unit #137), and the Nevada Department of Administration for their dedication and commitment.

7

In-Person NV Advocate Conference

This October event trained 65 volunteers to serve as a Nevada Veterans Advocate. They may now assist in connecting veterans to earned benefits, programs and services through an accredited veterans service officer. Thanks to the VHA, VBA, and our state partners as well as our community volunteers for their support and assistance.

8

Hybrid Options Offered for Participants of Women Veteran Conference

In March, NDVS hosted this conference allowing women veterans, active-duty, Guard and Reservists to attend in-person or virtually. Sixty-five participants attended in-person with 50 attending virtually. Thirty-one vendors participated. Our thanks to the Las Vegas, Salt Lake City, and Reno VA Medical Centers, Reno SCORE, David J. Drakulich Art Foundation, Medicare Assistance Program and Blue Star Mothers (NV3).

9

In-Person Flag-In and other Memorial Day Events

This family-friendly tradition prepares both NNVMC and SNVMC for the Memorial Day Ceremony. Community volunteers from civic, church, nonprofit and other groups placed flags on each gravesite at both cemeteries on May 28, 2022. The Special Forces ceremony was held at the SNVMC on May 29, 2022.



Flag-In Event at NNVMC

NDVS OVERVIEW

DEPARTMENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND KEY PARTNERSHIPS

10

In-Person Memorial Day Ceremonies

NDVS hosted dignified ceremonies at both cemeteries to honor and remember the men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice serving our nation. Thank you to the Nevada Veterans Coalition, West Area ASFA, DAV Ch.13, VFW Post 36, Boulder City Mayor, UNLV Rebel Vets, TMCC Upward Bound, DAV Black Mtn. Ch. 12, Trumpeters Alliance to Perform Patriotic Services (T.A.P.S.), as well as community volunteers too numerous to list for their assistance and dedication.

11

In-Person Gold Star Moms/Parents Luminary Event

Worked in partnership with the Nevada Gold Star Foundation to host a ceremony held on September 25, 2022, to honor and remember Gold Star Mothers and Parents. Our thanks to these groups as well as the Woody Williams Foundation for making this event a success.

12

In-Person Veterans Day Ceremony

NDVS hosted the November 11, 2022, Veterans Day at the Nevada State Veterans Memorial in Las Vegas to honor, recognize and celebrate our veterans and servicemembers along with our Veteran of the Month and Veteran Supporter of the Month recipients. Thank you to the VSC, NV Congressional Delegation, NV State Lawmakers, Veterans Service Organizations in Southern NV and many others for their support.

13

In-Person Wreaths Across America Event

NDVS hosted this traditional event on December 17, 2022. The event brings scores of volunteers together at both cemeteries to raise awareness about the service and sacrifice of military members as a wreath is placed on each marker. At the NNVMC, there were 2,300 volunteers who placed 8,000 wreaths. Participation broke a record at the SNVMC with 3,000 participants who placed nearly 10,000 wreaths on each gravesite. The events were a success thanks to community volunteers ranging from civic, church, nonprofit and other groups.

14

First Youth Serving Veterans Awardee Named

Dana Surwill became the first recipient of the Youth Serving Veterans Award. She was honored in September 2022. Our thanks to the Office of the Governor, VSC, and many others for their support in implementing and recognizing deserving young people through this new award.

15

Successful In-Person Veteran of the Month and Veteran Supporter of the Month Ceremonies

NDVS ensured each recipient of these awards were afforded their in-person ceremony. Thank you to the Office of the Governor, VSC, veterans service organizations and many community partners from across the State in making this an extremely successful program.

16

In-Person Nevada Veterans Symposia

Five statewide themes for legislative consideration emerged from this event that took place in Las Vegas and in Reno. 76 people participated in LV and 85 attendees in Reno identified a total of 71 state issues and 14 federal issues. Thank you to the United Veterans Legislative Council, 16 different veterans' organizations, as well as interested veterans and advocates from across Nevada for making the symposia a success.

DEPARTMENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND KEY PARTNERSHIPS

17

First Statewide Suicide Prevention Forum

NDVS hosted the first suicide prevention forum in Las Vegas in September 2022 for the specific purpose of raising awareness, providing information and education regarding suicide prevention for members of the NV National Guard. Thank you to the NV National Guard, health care professionals as well as community partners who continue to make military and veteran suicide prevention a priority.

18

Southern Nevada State Veterans Home Receives Highest Ranking in “Best Nursing Homes” rating by U.S. News & World Report

SNSVH is among the elite, top 16% of facilities to receive the highest ranking of “High Performing,” in the U.S. News & World Report’s Best Nursing Homes rating in 2022-2023. It takes a high achieving team to earn such a distinction. To receive this award, the SNSVH met regulations required by Federal, State and local agencies, which is essential to providing the very best for those we are honored to serve.

19

Dedication Ceremony for Crombie Academy at SNSVH

A Dedication Ceremony for the PFC David “Nick” Crombie Certified Nursing Academy was held on March 4, 2022. The Crombie Academy is named in honor of U.S. Army Medic Nick Crombie. The 19-year-old Winnemucca resident was killed while serving in Iraq in 2006. The workforce development program is located within the SNSVH. Since its launch in November 2011, four training cohorts have been conducted with more than 30 graduates completing the four-week course.

20

Northern and Southern State Veterans Homes Maintain Highest 5-Star Rating by CMS

Both our homes fall within the top 10% of skilled nursing homes nationwide earning the highest rating possible, a 5-Star Quality rating by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. Our thanks and congratulations to our SNSVH and NNSVH team and community partners for earning this distinction.

21

Milestone Reached for Healthcare Champions Program (Exposure Risk Educational Outreach)

Rural healthcare providers at Northeastern Nevada Regional Hospital in Elko, the VA Clinic and Humbolt Hospital in Winnemucca, Banner Churchill Community Hospital in Fallon/Fernley and healthcare provider offices in the Reno area received educational presentations and informational pocket cards to raise awareness and provide information about the special health care needs of those who have served in the U.S. military. Special thanks to our rural healthcare providers and our VA partners, community members and so many others essential to the success of this program.

22

In-Person Veterans in Care Program Resumes

Nearly 200 veterans were recognized and given the opportunity to connect with a Veterans Service Officer through five ceremonies in Las Vegas, one in Reno and one in Elko. Thank you to our skilled nursing care, assisted living, healthcare professionals and other community partners across Nevada.

23

Adaptive Sports Programs Expand

For the first time, the City of Henderson received federal VA grant funding through efforts made by NDVS to initiate adaptive sports programming. Thank you to our existing cities of Reno and Las Vegas adaptive sports partners along with the VA and community supporters for their efforts in bringing these programs to disabled veterans.

24

Rural Transportation Grants Obtained and Distributed

NDVS obtained and distributed funding to pay for transportation to healthcare appointments for veterans in Nye and Elko Counties. This funding also supported the development of telehealth outreach for Nevada veterans during the pandemic. Our partners include the VA, Nye & Elko Counties, as well as the veterans service organizations within those counties.



Battle Born Memorial, Carson City

State Veterans Memorials

Nevada has four State Veterans Memorials dedicated to remembering and honoring those who have served. There are many more Veterans Memorials across Nevada, as well as those located at the State Veterans Memorial Cemeteries in Fernley and Boulder City.

CARSON CITY: Battle Born Memorial, Nevada State Capitol Grounds, Carson City

Dedicated in 2018 on the grounds of the Capitol Complex in Carson City, this memorial serves as a place of reflection and honor to Nevadans killed in combat. There are 895 names of Nevadans on the memorial, dating back to the Civil War.



Nevada State Veterans Memorial, Las Vegas

CARSON CITY: Nevada Veterans Memorial Wall, Nevada State Capitol Grounds, Carson City

The Nevada Veterans Memorial Wall is carved in cream-colored stone and is dedicated to Nevada veterans of all eras. It is situated in a plaza located directly behind the State Capitol Building.

LAS VEGAS: Nevada State Veterans Memorial, Grant Sawyer Grounds, Las Vegas

The Nevada State Veterans Memorial in Las Vegas is located on the grounds of the Grant Sawyer State Building in Las Vegas. It features 18 larger-than-life statues depicting soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines and it commemorates veterans from every generation and every conflict. In partnership with the Department of Administration, an online Memorial Buy-A-Brick program was created to support future maintenance.



Mustang 22 Memorial, Reno

RENO STEAD AIRPORT: Mustang 22 Memorial, Reno Stead Airport, Stead

The Mustang 22 Memorial is located at the Army Aviation Support Facility in Reno and is dedicated to Mustang 22, a CH-47 Chinook Helicopter that was shot down in Afghanistan on September 25, 2005. NDVS supports the maintenance of these memorials. There are many other veterans memorials throughout Nevada that were created by local governments and private organizations, attesting to the respect and appreciation the people of Nevada have for our veterans.

HONORING NEVADA'S VETERANS

Veteran of the Month Program (VOM)

This monthly award program shines a spotlight on the volunteer work of veterans serving fellow veterans and the veteran community. VOM nominees, along with the nominees for Veteran Supporter of the Month and Youth Serving Veterans Award, are reviewed, considered and voted on during regular quarterly meetings by the Veterans Services Commission (VSC). The VSC selections go to the Governor for a final determination. Awardees are honored in a public ceremony featuring the Governor or Governor's designee. Media members are invited.



VETERAN OF THE MONTH RECIPIENTS

JANUARY

Martin Aguilar

U.S. Navy

FEBRUARY

Miguel Orozco

U.S. Marine Corps

MARCH

Judge Mark Stevens

U.S. Marine Corps

APRIL

Jack Ford

*U.S. Army Air Corp
and U.S. Navy*

MAY

Luke Bialzak

U.S. Army

JUNE

Len Yelinek

U.S. Navy

JULY

Michael Terry

U.S. Navy

AUGUST

Russell Osmun

U.S. Navy & U.S. Navy Reserve

SEPTEMBER

Bill Baumann

U.S. Air Force

OCTOBER

John Heintzelman

U.S. Army

NOVEMBER (Tie)

Matthew Cole

U.S. Navy

David Hugus

U.S. Army

DECEMBER

Tony Marshall

U.S. Marine Corps



VSC Vice Chair Wendall Blaylock congratulates VOM Sandra Valdezate



VSC Chair Mike Musgrove congratulates former VSC Chair and VOM Bill Baumann

Read more about each VOM recipient or to nominate a VOM visit:
<https://veterans.nv.gov/benefits-and-services/veteran-of-the-month-program/>

HONORING NEVADA'S VETERANS

Veteran Supporter of the Month Program (VSM)

This monthly award recognizes groups, organizations, and non-military individuals who support and serve our veterans, active military members, and their families throughout the year.

2022 VETERAN SUPPORTERS OF THE MONTH

JANUARY - Merri Perry

Active volunteer with the Veterans and Military Community of Southern Nevada.

FEBRUARY - The Leatherneck Club of Las Vegas

Local business that serves as a focal point for the veterans' community.

MARCH - UNLV Student Veterans Association

Provides a sense of community for student veterans at UNLV.

APRIL - Nevada Veterans Assistance League

Provides support to residents of the Southern Nevada State Veterans Home

MAY - Katie Grace Foundation

Continues the legacy of Katie Grace by providing support to homeless veterans.

JUNE - Race to Erase 22

Volunteers raise awareness about military suicide and suicide prevention.

JULY - Comstock Lode Quilters and Quilts of Valor

Provides handmade quilts to veterans designed to promote healing to those touched by war.

SEPTEMBER - Nevada Peer Support Network

Provides mental health resources and support to first responders and hospital healthcare professionals.

OCTOBER - Gregory Gray

Included in his lengthy list of volunteer work is his leadership on the Las Vegas Mayor's Challenge to Prevent Suicide.

NOVEMBER - Bees 4 Vets

Provides northwestern Nevada veterans and first responders who are diagnosed with PTSD and/or Traumatic Brain Injury with honeybee management learning opportunities.

DECEMBER - Jennifer Parlane

Provides volunteer work to numerous veterans' organizations including more than 30 hours a week at the Northern Nevada State Veterans Home.



VSM Gregory Gray, family, VSC Vice-Chair Wendall Blaylock, Dir. Wagar



FIRST YOUTH SERVING VETERANS AWARD NOMINEE NAMED

Congratulations!

Dana Surwill

This award recognizes the volunteer work of a young Nevadan or a group of young Nevadans who contribute time, energy, and effort in support of veterans, military members or families of veterans and military members.

When Ms. Surwill received this recognition, she was a senior at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. She began volunteering before high school, through her involvement in leadership building activities as a member of the National Honor Society. At the time, she was serving in the Civil Air Patrol holding the rank as a Cadet Lieutenant Colonel.

Since 2016, Ms. Surwill accumulated more than 3,700 total documented service hours with a 1,000 of those hours involving veterans specifically.

To nominate a young person or youth organization (ages 19 or younger) visit:

<https://veterans.nv.gov/serving-veterans-youth-award-recognition/>

Read more about each VSM recipient or to nominate a VSM visit:
<https://veterans.nv.gov/benefits-and-services/veteran-supporter-of-the-month/>

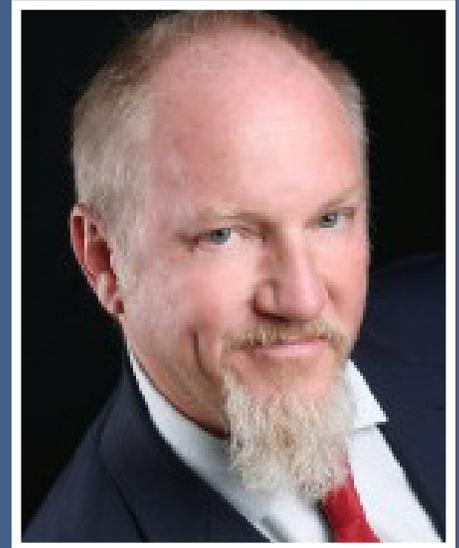
Benefits Division

INTRODUCTION TO DEPUTY DIRECTOR EVAN RUSH

Evan Rush was appointed by Director Wagar and began serving in his new role as Deputy Director of Benefits on May 30, 2022, providing oversight in the following areas:

- Nevada's two State Veteran Memorial Cemeteries
- Veterans Advocacy and Support Team (VAST)
- Community Outreach Team
- Key Programs & Initiatives
- Emergency Management Liaison

EVAN RUSH
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
OF BENEFITS



NEVADA'S STATE VETERANS MEMORIAL CEMETERIES

Key Information

- NDVS manages two State Veteran Cemeteries
- Both serve as dignified final resting places for eligible veterans, their spouse, dependents and Gold Star Parents
- No cost for veterans
- Cost for eligible spouse, dependents and Gold Star Parents is \$450 (Prices are subject to change)
- Pre-Registration available, no fees required
- Pre-registration may be done by visit either cemetery or filling out the online Cemetery Registration Form at <https://veterans.nv.gov/online-cemetery-registration-form>



Flag-In prior to Memorial Day, NNVMC

NEVADA'S STATE VETERANS MEMORIAL CEMETERIES

RECURRING SPECIAL CEREMONIES

FLAG-IN DAY

held annually on the Saturday before Memorial Day to place an American flag on each individual headstone.

SPECIAL FORCES CEREMONY

held annually on the Sunday before Memorial Day at the SNVMC.

MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONIES

held annually on the last Monday in May at both the NNVMC and SNVMC.

VETERANS DAY CEREMONY

held annually on November 11, most recently at the Nevada State Veterans Memorial in Las Vegas.

MISSING IN NEVADA CEREMONIES

schedule varies, and ceremonies may be conducted more than one time a year.

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

held on the third (sometimes second) Saturday in the month of December.

CEREMONIES FOR UNACCOMPANIED VETERANS

held on the days, times as follows:

SNVMC – held weekly on Thursdays at 8:40 a.m. These ceremonies are supported by many southern Nevada veterans' organizations including the Southern Nevada Patriot Guard Riders and the Women Veterans of Nevada.

NNVMC – held monthly on the fourth Thursday of the month at 9:00 a.m. during May-October and at 3:00 p.m. from November-April. These ceremonies are supported by the Nevada Veterans Coalition.

Unaccompanied ceremonies are held when family members or friends of a deceased veteran are not present. These services include a live bugle rendition of "Taps," a three-volley salute, and a flag folding ceremony.

SERVICES OFFERED

- Gravesites
- Cremation In-ground
- Cremation Columbarium
- Open/Closed Graves
- Interment Site
- Markers and Headstones
- Assist with Determining Eligibility
- Committal Services
- Military Honor Service
- Perpetual Care
- Grave Locator Services

SOUTHERN NEVADA VETERANS MEMORIAL CEMETERY (SNVMC)

The SNVMC remains the second busiest state veterans' cemetery in the nation with 2,413 interments and an additional 124 memorial services in SFY 2022. Since opening in 1990, the SNVMC has performed 50,081 interments of eligible veterans and family members.

SNVMC INTERMENT SERVICES SFY22

1,652 VETERANS	761 DEPENDENTS/SPOUSES	2,413 TOTAL	79 TOTAL ACRES	41 TOTAL ACRES DEVELOPED	15 STAFF SIZE
--------------------------	----------------------------------	-----------------------	--------------------------	------------------------------------	-------------------------

SNVMC ANNUAL NUMBER OF INTERMENT SERVICES

SFY 22 2,413	SFY 21 2,137	SFY 20 1,678
SFY 19 2,003	SFY 18 2,033	SFY 17 1,985

Expansion Project Underway at SNVMC

NDVS secured more than \$5.3 million in federal VA funding for expansion and other projects at the SNVMC. In 2022, funding was fully approved and received for the expansion necessary to meet demand.

Will add:

- ★ 5,432 in-ground cremation plots within 4 new burial sections
- ★ 5,740 niches within 8 new columbarium walls
- ★ New roads and sidewalks
- ★ Construction starts on February 5, 2023



Flag-In prior to Memorial Day, SNVMC



MAKE A DONATION!

Visit veterans.nv.gov/donate
Select from the donation options

Thank You for your support!

NORTHERN NEVADA VETERANS MEMORIAL CEMETERY (NNVMC)

NNVMC provides a dignified place of peace, solitude, and comfort for families to gather and honor those they have lost. Since its opening in 1990, NNVMC has interred 12,703 veterans and spouses.

NNVMC INTERMENT SERVICES SFY22

501	206	707	44	18	5
VETERANS	DEPENDENTS/SPOUSES	TOTAL	TOTAL ACRES	TOTAL ACRES DEVELOPED	STAFF SIZE

NNVMC ANNUAL NUMBER OF INTERMENT SERVICES

SFY 22	707	SFY 21	663	SFY 20	489
SFY 19	638	SFY 18	636	SFY 17	536

Expansion Project and Other Improvements at NNVMC

NDVS secured a total of \$5,182,845 in Federal VA funding in 2021 for expansion and other projects at the NNVMC. In 2022, the expansion project was completed adding:

- 757 in-ground plots
- 3,580 columbarium wall cremation niches
- 806 pre-placed crypts
- Infrastructure improvements such as a new loading dock to offload markers and other heavier deliveries

Additionally, the State of Nevada set aside \$297,774 to renovate the cemetery’s main pavilion structure. In 2022, the planning phase for the pavilion renovation began. The pavilion provides shelter for cemetery ceremonies.



Army veterans pose and pay tribute, Memorial Day, NNVMC



Salute to the Branches Volunteers, NNVMC



Clean-Up for Veterans Day, SNVMC

Community Support Makes a Difference!

THANK YOU to all the volunteers who provide services to our cemeteries ranging from providing honors, arranging events, supporting ceremonies/events as well as assisting with maintenance! We cannot thank our volunteers enough!

ELKO NATIONAL VETERANS CEMETERY

Plans to build an Elko National Veterans Cemetery were approved by the VA in 2013 to provide a local burial site for approximately 3,700 northeastern Nevada veterans and eligible family members. NDVS continues to closely work with the VA, Nevada's Congressional delegation, and northeastern Nevada veterans' organizations to bring this 15-acre national veterans cemetery to completion. First interment is expected in the spring of 2025.

VETERANS ADVOCACY AND SUPPORT TEAM (VAST)

NDVS has been supporting veterans with claims assistance since the department was first established in 1943. Nevada-based VSOs are trained by NDVS or by their parent veterans' services organization and are accredited by the VA. Our VSOs are available for veterans, servicemembers and their families to provide the following at no cost:

- Assist with filing VA claims and appeals
- Provide connection to information or access to earned benefits, programs, resources and services
- Support transitioning servicemembers and veterans to set them up for success

NUMBER OF ACTIVE NEVADA VSOs: **35**
NUMBER OF NDVS VSOs: **17**



VAST Team, North

RECORDS SUBMITTED
ELECTRONICALLY TO VA: **16,606**
(99.96% paperless)

NUMBER OF PHONE CALLS: **22,008**
Previous Year: 17,668

NUMBER OF OFFICE VISITS: **3,854**
Previous Year: 666

NUMBER OF EMAIL RESPONSES: **12,217**
Previous Year: 8,137

NUMBER OF ASK A VSO INQUIRIES: **977**
Previous Year: 1,174



VAST Team, South

Ask a VSO in SFY22

The NDVS website feature Ask a VSO allows anyone to email a question to a VSO and receive a response within 24-to-48 hours. In 2022, 98 (10%) of the Ask a VSO inquiries originated from veterans in other states and countries. This demonstrates how valued our "immediate response" system is to veterans and military personnel.

To connect with a VSO, visit veterans.nv.gov

VSOs File Record Number of Claims Filed in SFY22

(Data from SFY July 2021 – June 2022)

- **Claims Filed and VA Monetary Awards to Nevada**
 - New Claims: **2,937**
 - Claims Filed: **4,272** Previous Year: 2,240
 - VA Monetary Awards to Nevada: **\$243,567,018** Previous Year: \$208,156,552

- **Active Awards per Veteran, Monthly: \$1,527** Previous Year: \$1,501

- **Claims or Other Support Actions for Incarcerated Veterans: 270**

VAST SPECIAL PROGRAMS, PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES



VIS Volunteers

Nevada Veterans Advocate Program

Nevada Veterans Advocates (NV Advocates) are trained volunteers who support our VSOs. They undergo the NV Veterans Advocate Program to receive their certificate to serve as an NV Advocate. This program is recognized by the VA as a national best practice that effectively connects veterans and their families to earned benefits.

The 20-module NV Advocate course provides:

- Training on State and Federal benefits and services available to Nevada's active-duty military, veterans and their families
- Online and in-person training options

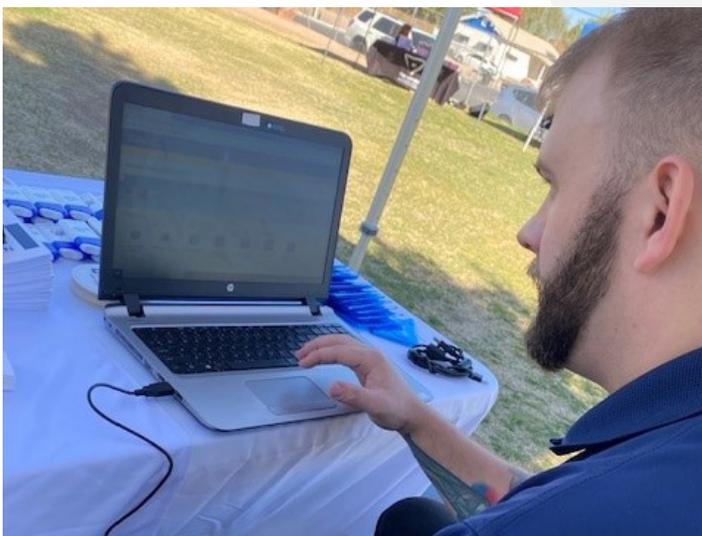
In 2022, in-person training was held at the Santa Fe Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas in October 2022 with 65 people attending.

- As of December 31, 2022, the total number of certified NV Advocates is 908.

Some NVA volunteers also assist in outreach at community events across Nevada.

Become an NVA! Start the journey here:

<https://veterans.nv.gov/community/veterans-advocacy>



Ready to take claims, Tule Springs Homeless Outreach

Veterans Information System (VIS) Scanning Project Reaches Milestone

This project is overseen by the VAST team. It involves scanning hard copy military documents (DD Form 214s and earlier forms of discharge documents) into the State of Nevada electronic database system. For more than four years, specially trained and vetted volunteers, along with NDVS staff, have been scanning approximately 94,259 hard copies. In 2022, the group marked the completion of this portion of the project!

The project has now exceeded 100,000 scanned documents. The VIS scanning project is critical to identifying Nevada veterans so that NDVS can better advise veterans and families about new benefits or changes to existing ones.

Benefits Division WELCOME HOME PROGRAM

When a servicemember decides to leave the U.S. Armed Forces, either through the expiration of their term of service or through retirement, they are asked where they intend to reside in their new civilian life. When the answer is Nevada, the VAST Team reaches out to welcome and connect them to important State and federal resources.

Key highlights of the program:

- ★ In 2022, the team sent 3,538 “Welcome Home” letters and packets to servicemembers coming to Nevada or returning to the Silver State.
- ★ Volunteers spent 741 hours on this project
- ★ Packets include information on:
 - Colleges and Universities
 - Job Connect Offices
 - State Benefits
 - State Veterans Cemeteries and Homes
 - Contact information for all VA Offices, Hospitals, and Clinics



Community Outreach Program Key Initiatives and Programs

The first in-person event for the Nevada Transition Assistance Program (NVTAP) was implemented in 2022. NVTAP provides information to transitioning servicemembers to support their success in their new civilian life. NVTAP also provides Nevada-specific information on the resources, services, and programs available to those who plan to call Nevada “home.”

In July 2022, in partnership with the Nevada National Guard, NDVS supported the first Nevada Transition Assistance Program (NVTAP) Resource Fair at the North Las Vegas Readiness Center in July 2022.

Other key highlights of this program include:

- NDVS will host an NVTAP event every quarter, alternating between northern and southern Nevada
- Next NVTAP event will be held on February 11, 2023, at the Fallon Convention Center
- NVTAP launched in the fall of 2021 online following the passage of enacting legislation during the 2021 legislative session

NVTAP is available online by visiting <https://veterans.nv.gov/nevada-transition-assistance-program-nvtap/>



N. NV Outreach Director at NVNG Drill Weekend



NVNG Suicide Prevention Forum

Benefits Division

VETERAN EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

Veterans may find themselves in the job market or seeking additional education or job retraining at any point in their lives. NDVS supports veterans in this area through several programs and initiatives.

Patriot Employer Program

This program received the 2022 Abraham Lincoln Pillars of Excellence Award for excellence and innovation by the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs in partnership with the VA. This NDVS program aims to remove obstacles to veteran employment by raising awareness and education to businesses by providing information that includes:

- Benefits of hiring a veteran
- How to find and recruit qualified veterans
- How to help veterans succeed in the workplace
- Special Federal and State financial incentives for hiring veterans

There are 69 Patriot Employers participating in the program. For the full list of companies visit: <https://veterans.nv.gov/patriot-employers>



2022 VETERAN EMPLOYMENT FACTS

*VETERAN UNEMPLOYMENT - ANNUAL AVERAGE

*Unemployment Rate for Veterans as of December 31, 2022



Information about the job apprenticeship programs here: <https://veterans.nv.gov/benefits-and-services/employment>

VETERAN LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE

NEVADA	NATION
45.8%	47.7%

MEDIAN VETERAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME

NEVADA	NATION
\$60,400	\$62,188

VETERANS WITH SERVICE-CONNECTED RATING

NEVADA	NATION
24.6%	31.6%

COMPENSATION AND PENSION IN DOLLARS

NEVADA	NATION
\$1,452,358	\$111,805,034

(Estimates per Veteran Population)

POPULATION OF VETERANS

NEVADA	NATION
9.1%	6.4%

VETERAN POVERTY STATUS

NEVADA	NATION
674	1,199,509

POVERTY RATE

NEVADA	NATION
8%	6.6%

*Source: U.S. Census Bureau; Nevada Housing Assistance Council; Federal Reserve Bank

Benefits Division

VETERAN EDUCATION PROGRAM

NDVS helps strengthen support for veterans and their family members seeking advanced degrees and certifications by supporting cross-institutional collaboration. There are many helpful student veteran programs offered by NSHE and other schools.

Check with your Nevada school of choice for on-campus veteran or military organizations.

2022 VETERAN EMPLOYMENT FACTS

***VETERAN UNEMPLOYMENT - ANNUAL AVERAGE**

Total Veterans/Eligible Family Members Using VA Education Benefits

NEVADA	NATION
5,967	841,603

Total GI Bill Students

NEVADA	NATION
451	53,771

Total Post 9/11 GI Bill Students

NEVADA	NATION
4,296	615,340

Total Nevada Educational/Training Programs

- Number of Approved Educational Facilities: **96**
- NSHE Programs: **8**
- Non-NSHE Programs: **170**
- OJT/Apprenticeships: **65**
- Licensed Flight School: **21**

Approved Programs under the State Approval Program Authority

- Number of Approved Educational Facilities: **7**
- NSHE Programs: **59**
- Non-NSHE Programs: **28**
- OJT/Apprenticeships: **2**



More information on educational benefits here:
<https://veterans.nv.gov/benefits-and-services/education>

Benefits Division

WOMEN VETERANS PROGRAM

Women remain America's fastest-growing demographic of veterans, according to the VA, but women warriors face significant challenges in a wide array of areas from connecting to earned benefits to gaining employment after military service to health-related issues. In response, NDVS has created initiatives and events to address the challenges facing women veterans.

“Welcome Home” Letters/Packets to Women Veterans

Transitioning servicemembers who intend to call Nevada “home” after separating from the military are provided a “Welcome Home” letter and packet.

- In 2022, 22.4% of the 3,538 letters and packets sent went to women veterans.
- The information provided directs them to services about Nevada's women veterans organizations.
- Each packet includes information on colleges and universities, Job Connect offices, State benefits, State Veterans Cemeteries and Homes, as well as contact information for all VA offices, hospitals, and clinics.

Hybrid Offered for 2022 Women Veterans Conference

NDVS hosted this conference in March 2022. It allowed women veterans, active-duty, Guard and Reservists to attend in-person or virtually.

- Sixty-five participants attended in-person and 50 attended virtually.
- Thirty-one vendors participated.
- In addition to providing information, this conference also provides connection to other women warriors for comradery, support and networking opportunities.
- Participant feedback was positive with requests for NDVS to host this conference annually.
- The next conference is set for March 10, 2023 in Las Vegas.

Lesbian, Gay, Bi, Trans, Queer (LGBTQ) Veterans Program

There is a designated NDVS LGBTQ veterans service officer who conducts outreach to raise awareness, provide education as well as connect veterans to earned benefits, resources, and services and discharge upgrades.

Raising awareness and education for LGBTQ veterans is important because previously ineligible veterans may become eligible to obtain benefits such as:

- GI Bill
- VA Home Loan Program
- VA Medical Care
- VA Burial Benefits

In 2022, our LGBTQ VSO participated in 34 outreach activities, connecting with 300 veterans, including LGBTQ veterans. Veterans seeking more information or wishing to apply should contact a VSO by visiting:

<https://veterans.nv.gov/benefits-and-services/veterans-service-officers>



Women Veterans Hybrid Conference



Las Vegas Black Pride Outreach

Benefits Division

NATIVE AMERICAN VETERANS PROGRAM

According to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, per capita, Native Americans consistently maintain the highest rates of enlistment in the U.S. Armed Force, however, they continue to rank near the bottom in accessing earned benefits. Because of this, outreach to Nevada's Native American veterans remains a priority.

Virtual claims filing continues to provide more opportunities to connect with these veterans and their families to earned benefits and resources. NDVS also continues to work with the Nevada Indian Commission to improve efforts to inform Nevada's Native American veteran community about their earned benefits and to assist in connecting them to earned benefits.

Additionally, NDVS social media platforms continue to recognize and honor Native American veterans throughout the year to raise awareness and provide education about military accomplishments, significant anniversaries or events.

Rural Veterans Program

In 2022, the NDVS Outreach Team conducted its first NDVS Outreach Roadshow. This event provided the team with the opportunity to create veteran-focused events across northern Nevada to connect rural veterans to earned benefits as well as information about the programs, services and resources available to them. The roadshow included the communities of Fallon, Minden, Winnemucca, Gardnerville as well as areas outside of Reno. This outreach resulted in 753 veteran interactions with NDVS and a total of 74 claims or referrals filed.

Additionally, a part-time VSO position was created and filled in 2022 to serve veterans in the Winnemucca area.



S. NV Outreach Director at Moapa Resource Fair



NDVS Outreach, Reno Sparks Indian Luncheon

Benefits Division

JUSTICE REINTEGRATION SUPPORT PROGRAM

Collaboration continues with the Veterans Treatment Court programs (VTC), Nevada Department of Corrections (NDOC) and community partners to ensure veterans reintegrating into society have the best opportunity to succeed and reduce recidivism.

NDVS is part of a collaboration facilitated by NDOC to offer all inmates re-entry programs including educational and vocational opportunities. Incarcerated veterans and graduates of VTC also receive assistance from NDVS on the following:

- Requests to procure their DD-214
- Apply for a discharge upgrade (if eligible)
- Connection with a VSO
- Connection to veteran service organizations and housing assistance through the VA, upon release

In 2022, NDVS staff continued participating in graduation ceremonies for Nevada's VTCs to ensure graduates know how to access information or connect to earned benefits. Nevada's VTC is a specialty court that offers treatment rather than time behind bars for veterans accused of non-violent crimes. Veterans receive counseling, mental health treatment as well as recovery support for substance abuse. The program is voluntary and takes participants anywhere from 12-to-24 months to complete.



S. NV Outreach Director with Veterans Treatment Court team

	MILITARY BRANCH	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
VETERAN INMATE POPULATION	Air Force	76	2	78
	Coast Guard	3	0	3
	Navy	124	3	127
	Marines	84	0	84
	National Guard	32	0	32
	Army	269	7	276
	Branch Unknown	130	9	139
	TOTAL	718	21	739

	Year	Male	Female	Inmate Population
FIVE-YEAR TREND	2021	718	21	739
	2020	738	19	757
	2019	813	19	828
	2018	867	19	886
	2017	917	14	931

*Information provided by NDOC. **Today, with the assistance of virtual technology, the NDVS goal is to have any VSO assist any veteran or members of their family wherever they may live in Nevada.**

ENGAGING COMMUNITIES VETERANS COMMUNITY COUNCILS

Today, with the assistance of virtual technology, the NDVS goal is to have any VSO assist any veteran or members of their family wherever they may live in Nevada.

ENGAGING COMMUNITIES THROUGH VETERANS COMMUNITY COUNCILS

The Importance of Nevada's Veterans Community Councils

NDVS outreach includes involvement with Veterans Community Councils (VCCs) across Nevada. These citizen-engaged, active groups consist of key community residents in cities, towns, and communities across the Silver State. Members work together to identify and prioritize local objectives to ensure the needs of the community are met. VCCs also formalize coordination between service organizations at the community level.

Additionally, in some cases, VCCs may act as an advisory committee to a city's Mayor or City Council on matters related to veterans in areas of wellness, education, employment outcomes and more.

NDVS assists VCCs and other councils, commissions and organizations to identify and address the needs of veterans and their families, as well as transmit VCC policy recommendations to the Nevada Inter-agency Council on Veterans Affairs (ICVA).

Veterans and their supporters are encouraged to support their VCC and stay engaged in these important community activities.



NV Advocate Conference, LV



Director Wagar (center), check presentation Fischer House



VSO, LGBTQ Program Manager

ENGAGING COMMUNITIES VETERANS COMMUNITY COUNCILS

STATEWIDE VETERANS COMMUNITY COUNCILS

SILVER SPRINGS COMMUNITY CENTER

When: Times, dates vary
Where: Silver Springs Community Center,
2945 Fort Churchill Street, Silver Springs
Contact: Quest Lakes
Phone: 775-246-7550
Email: Quest@theodata.com

FAMILY STABILITY COUNCIL (WINNEMUCCA)

When: Meets monthly, fourth Tuesday at 1 p.m.
Where: Nevada National Guard Armory,
735 West 4th Street, Winnemucca
Contact: Alaine Kliewer-Ny
Phone: 775-623-9003
Email: fcaahumboldt@gmail.com

PACE COALITION (ELKO)

When: Meets monthly on the first Tuesday
Where: Virtual
Contact: Laura Oslund, Director of PACE
Email: laura@pacecoalition.org

WELCOME ALL VETS EVERYWHERE

(WAVE) (MINDEN)
When: Meets monthly, second Monday at 1:00 p.m.
Where: Douglas County Community Center,
1329 Waterloo Lane, Gardnerville
Contact: Carl Schnock
Phone: 775-781-4849
Email: mcthree68@gmail.com

CHURCHILL COMMUNITY COALITION

When: Meets quarterly, second Tuesday at 11:00 a.m.
Where: Fallon Convention Center,
100 Campus Way, Fallon
Contact: Holly Meador
Phone: 775-423-6695, ext. 2
Email: sscoordinator@churchillcounty.org

HEALTHY COMMUNITIES COALITION

(LYON AND STOREY COUNTIES)
When: Meets monthly, second Thursday at 9:00 a.m.
Where: Silver Springs Community Center,
2945 Fort Churchill Street, Silver Springs
Contact: Quest Lakes
Phone: 775-246-7550
Email: Quest@theodata.com

TRUCKEE MEADOWS COMMUNITY COLLEGE UPWARD BOUND (RENO/SPARKS) FOR STUDENT VETERANS

When: Times, dates vary
Where: 5270 Neil Road, Meadowood Center, S303
Contact: Laura Oslund, Director of PACE
Phone: 775-829-9007
www.tmcc.edu/veterans-upward-bound/contact

MESQUITE INTERAGENCY (NEW!)

When: Meets first Monday of the month at 11:00 am
Where: Location varies
Contact: Michelle Reber
Phone: 702-346-5181, ext. 2105
Email: mreber@mesquitenv.gov

TONOPAH COALITION (NYE COUNTY)

When: Meets first Monday of the month at 12:00 pm
Where: Location varies
Contact: Jess Rosner
Phone: 775-482-6561
Email: jess@nyecc.org

Healthcare Services INTRODUCTION TO DEPUTY DIRECTOR VIVIAN RUIZ

Vivian Ruiz was appointed by Director Wagar and began serving in her new role on September 19, 2022. In her role as Deputy Director of Healthcare Services, Ms. Ruiz provides oversight in the following areas:

- Nevada's two State Veterans Homes
- Skilled Nursing Care Programs
- Suicide Prevention Program
- Veterans in Care Program
- Healthcare Champions Program

VIVIAN RUIZ
DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF
HEALTHCARE SERVICES



State Veterans Homes Key Information

- ★ NDVS' manages/oversees two State Veterans Homes
- ★ Each home provides 24/7 skilled nursing care
- ★ Both homes serve eligible veterans, their spouse and Gold Star Parents

Veteran-Focused Care Makes Us Unique

One thing that sets our State Veterans Homes above all others is our understanding of the importance of military culture in providing care. This understanding leads to better healthcare outcomes for the residents we are honored to serve. In addition to physical care, our State Veterans Home teams are also focused on the social and emotional needs of residents. This explains why our homes are designed and operated to provide a sense of community and feel like "home," not like a hospital or a nursing home.

2022 State Veterans Homes Awards

- 5-Star Quality Rating of both homes by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), the highest rating possible.
- 2022 Pinnacle Quality Insight Customer Experience Award, highest rating possible from customer satisfaction surveys at both homes.
- "High Performing" rating by U.S. News and World Report in its 2022-23 "Best Nursing Homes" national rankings, is the highest rating possible. This ranking at the SNSVH is among the elite 16% of skilled nursing homes nationally.



Quilts of Valor, NNSVH



LV Raiders Foundation Visits SNSVH

Healthcare Services Division

SOUTHERN NEVADA STATE VETERANS HOME

The Southern Nevada State Veterans Home (SNSVH) in Boulder City is an award-winning skilled nursing care facility with a long track record of demonstrated excellence in quality care. The SNSVH is state-owned and operated, and accepts Medicare/Medicaid, VA per diem and private pay, making the home more affordable than other comparable nursing homes for most veterans.

 <p>180 BEDS</p>	 <p>24/7 licensed skilled nursing care, seven days a week</p>	 <p>LONG-TERM CARE Assistance with daily living, showering, dressing, meals, personal care</p>
 <p>SHORT-TERM CARE Typically follows a hospital stay and may involve physical, occupational and/or speech therapy, rehabilitation</p>	 <p>MEMORY CARE Secure community for those with dementia, Alzheimer's, history of wandering</p>	 <p>COST FOR LONG-TERM CARE VA subsidizes eligible veterans but not spouses. Medicaid is accepted. Medicaid certified beds are available for long-term care</p>

TOTAL NUMBER SERVED FY2022

WHO WE SERVE	
140	Male
12	Female
45	Non-Veteran Spouse:
2,031	Total Since August 2002 <i>(male & female)</i>

Occupancy	90% per day average
------------------	-------------------------------

*Note: Some residents have served in more than one conflict or branch of service.

SERVICE ERA	
WWII:	19
Korea:	46
Vietnam:	117
Gulf War:	7
Lebanon:	4
Afghanistan:	1
Desert Storm:	2
Peacetime:	21
Iraq:	0

OCCUPANCY	
2022 Admission Average:	8.41 per month
2022 Discharge Average:	7.7 per month

U.S. MILITARY BRANCH	
Army:	86
Marine Corps:	17
Navy:	47
Air Force:	46
Coast Guard:	2



Crombie Academy graduation

SNSVH Celebrates 20th Anniversary

August 31, 2022, marked the 20th Anniversary of the facility. To honor the occasion, community members gathered to show their support for both residents and staff at the SNSVH through a special community celebration held in partnership with the Boulder City Chamber of Commerce.

Crombie Academy at SNSVH Marks First Anniversary

The PFC David “Nick” Crombie Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) Training Academy, called the Crombie Academy is housed within SNSVH and was established in 2021. The academy is named after U.S. Army Medic Nick Crombie. The Winnemucca resident was killed while serving in Iraq when an improvised explosive device detonated near his Humvee. The academy is a workforce development program that provides both training and CNA job opportunities at SNSVH, at no cost to participants.

The program provides:

- Introduction to basic nursing skills, nursing assistant duties and responsibilities
- Understanding of veteran culture in an acute and long-term care setting
- Four-weeks (120 hours total) of training (30 hours per week) which includes 40 hours of classroom instruction, 40 hours of laboratory practice and 40 hours of supervised clinical instruction
- Prepares graduates for the CNA State Board of Nursing Examination
- Provides front-line CNA job opportunities at SNSVH for students who pass the above exam
- Consists of a maximum of 15 students per class
- Gives preference to Gold Star Families, veterans, spouses of veterans, families of SNSVH team members and Boulder City residents

Interested candidates may learn more about eligibility and where to apply by visiting:

<https://veterans.nv.gov/new-certified-nursing-assistant-academy>

Learn more about Nick Crombie by visiting:

<https://veterans.nv.gov/new-certified-nursing-assistant-training-program-named-after-pfc-nick-crombie>

Important SNSVH Renovations & Improvements

Plans are underway to substantially upgrade and renovate SNSVH. The building saw its first residents admitted two decades ago, back in August of 2002. In 2022, SNSVH received \$4,229,717 for advanced planning to make improvements that will include:

- Turning shared bedrooms into private rooms with private baths which will reduce infection risk and enhance quality-of-life and privacy for residents.
- Creating common areas that will “feel like home,” not like an institution, including adding a Town Hall, restaurant-style dining, as well as audio and movie theater entertainment areas.
- Improving the parking lot, main entryway as well as the resident pick-up and drop-off area, kitchen, physical therapy room, nursing stations, and employee break spaces.

Additionally, SNSVH received a \$588,144 grant to replace the home’s 20-year-old digital temperature control system. This is critical due to Boulder City’s climate of extreme temperatures.

Healthcare Services Division NORTHERN NEVADA STATE VETERANS HOME

The Northern Nevada State Veterans Home (NNSVH) in Sparks opened in late 2018. It is uniquely designed providing residents with the experience of a high-end resort that offers superior nursing care services.

NNSVH offers a host of amenities including:

- Private room, bathroom, and shower
- Shared den, living room, kitchen with up to 15 residents to encourage socialization
- Private front door entry to each household of eight residents

NNSVH is state-owned, operated by Avalon Healthcare Group, and accepts Medicare/Medicaid, VA per diem and private pay, making the home more affordable than other comparable nursing homes for most veterans.

 <p>96 BEDS</p>	 <p>24/7 licensed skilled nursing care, seven days a week</p>	 <p>LONG-TERM CARE Assistance with daily living, showering, dressing, meals, personal care</p>
 <p>SHORT-TERM CARE Typically follows a hospital stay and may involve physical, occupational and/or speech therapy, rehabilitation</p>	 <p>MEMORY CARE Secure community for those with dementia, Alzheimer's, history of wandering</p>	 <p>COST FOR LONG-TERM CARE VA subsidizes eligible veterans but not spouses. Medicaid is accepted. Medicaid certified beds are available for long-term care</p>

TOTAL NUMBER SERVED FY2022

WHO WE SERVE	
160	Male
8	Female
5	Non-Veteran Spouse
307	Total Since August 2019 (male & female)

Occupancy	96% per day average
------------------	-------------------------------

*Note: Some residents have served in more than one conflict or branch of service.

SERVICE ERA	
WWII:	11
Korea:	21
Vietnam:	103
Gulf War:	4
Lebanon:	0
Afghanistan:	0
Desert Storm:	1
Peacetime:	15
Iraq:	0

OCCUPANCY	
2022 Admission Average:	8.6 per month
2022 Discharge Average:	8.5 per month

U.S. MILITARY BRANCH	
Army:	66
Marine Corps:	17
Navy:	43
Air Force:	28
Coast Guard:	1

Healthcare Services Division NORTHERN NEVADA STATE VETERANS HOME

The NNSVH also offers residents a Town Hall that includes:

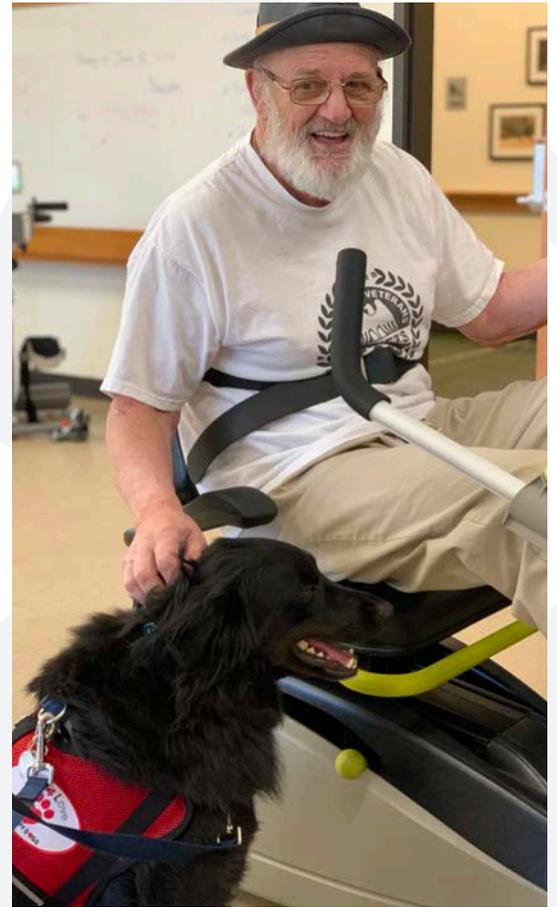
- Restaurant
- Coffee Bistro
- Sports Bar
- Therapy Gym
- Beauty/Barber Shop
- General Commissary
- Parade Grounds for patriotic/military ceremonies and events

NDVS Nursing Home Programs

Our Nursing Home Programs go beyond physical care to address the social, mental and emotional needs of veterans receiving skilled nursing care. In addition to being available within our two state veterans' homes, our Nursing Home Programs are also offered to other community-based care facilities throughout Nevada.



NNSVH Veterans Day Activities



NNSVH Service Dog Visits

Veterans in Care Program is Unique

Veterans in Care is the only program of its kind in the nation. It helps identify veterans who may not be in the VA system, connecting them to the benefits they've earned. The program was launched in the spring of 2016. The program was put on pause due to the pandemic but resumed in 2022 after pandemic restrictions began to ease, and it was safe to resume while following all infection control protocol.

In 2022, NDVS hosted 7 VIC ceremonies, 5 in the Greater Las Vegas area, as well as 1 in Reno and 1 in Elko. Almost, 220 veterans were recognized and given the opportunity to connect with a VSO.

Healthcare Division NDVS NURSING HOME PROGRAMS

Veterans in Care Program

The Veterans in Care Program (VIC) enhances the quality-of-life for Nevada's veterans living in community-based care settings in addition to those living in our State Veterans' Homes.

VIC has three specific elements:

- Connects to Benefits and Services - offers immediate access to a Veterans Service Officer (VSO) for benefits counseling and claims services which may result in financial benefits.
- Provides Quality-of-Life Recognition Ceremonies - honors and recognizes these veterans, letting them know their service and sacrifice will always be remembered.
- Offers Military Culture Education Training - provides training resources for facility staff to enhance understanding of how military experience affects aging veterans, especially those with cognitive impairments.



VIC Ceremony at SNSVH



VIC Ceremony at Oakmont of the Lakes



100-year-old Dotty Burgess, widow of AF veteran, honored at VIC, Henderson

Bravo-Zulu Military Culture Training for Healthcare Providers

The official title of this specialized training is "Bravo-Zulu: Achieving Excellence in Relationship Centered Care," but it is referred to as Bravo-Zulu or BZ training. This program was developed in 2017 in partnership with the Perry Foundation and the Nevada Geriatric Education Center. BZ training is offered to community-based healthcare providers including licensed administrators, nurses, and social workers. Training benefits include:

- Supports understanding of how military service may impact aging and care
- Provides knowledge on military culture and its significance in providing care
- Offers continuing education units (CEUs) from Nevada State Board of Nursing, Board of Examiners for Long-Term Care, Board of Social Workers

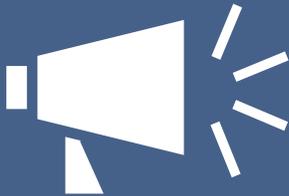
In 2022, there were 5 training courses offered with 72 number of healthcare professionals attending. Participants interested in upcoming training dates of BZ training may check the Sanford Center for Aging at <https://med.unr.edu/aging/ngec/bravo-zulu>.

SPECIAL HEALTHCARE PROGRAMS & INITIATIVES

Healthcare Champions Program (Exposure Risk Education)

In 2022, the Healthcare Services Division launched or expanded programs and initiatives aimed at addressing specific healthcare needs of veterans, military members, and their families. One of those programs is the Healthcare Champions Program. It is aimed at providing Nevada's healthcare professionals with information surrounding the special healthcare needs of those who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces. This program consists of three main elements: (1) outreach to healthcare professionals; (2) education on the health risks facing veterans as well as the importance of connecting veterans with a Veterans Service Officer and; (3) data collection to track trends and progress.

THE THREE MAIN ELEMENTS OF THE HEALTHCARE CHAMPIONS PROGRAM EXPLAINED



OUTREACH

Outreach to Nevada's healthcare professionals to inform and raise awareness about the unique needs of veterans' care. Specifically, that due to military service, veterans may have been exposed to certain hazards and may be at risk for certain illnesses or diseases.



EDUCATION

Education to ensure veterans and their healthcare providers understand the importance of connecting with a Veterans Service Officer surrounding exposure risk, presumptive conditions or illnesses for claims and other assistance.



DATA COLLECTION

Data collection, in partnership with the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) through the Exposure Risk Questionnaire, which is available through the NDVS website at <https://veterans.nv.gov/exposure-risk-questionnaire-3>

In 2022, rural healthcare providers at Northeastern Nevada Regional Hospital in Elko, the VA Clinic and Humbolt Hospital in Winnemucca, Banner Churchill Community Hospital in Fallon and Fernley as well as healthcare provider offices in the Reno area received educational presentations and informational pocket cards to raise awareness and provide information about the special health care needs of those who have served in the U.S. military.

Using data compiled from the Exposure Risk Questionnaire, DHHS releases the Veterans Health Survey¹ to inform Nevadans on the current health risks and needs of veterans. In the most recent report under NRS 417.126, the following information on military health risks revealed:

- The NDVS website remained the number one place Nevada veterans went to find information regarding veteran benefits, resources, and programs.
- The majority of Nevada's veterans taking the questionnaire served in the U.S. Army.
- The majority of respondents said they served during a wartime era, with most serving during the Vietnam War.
- The majority of veterans taking the questionnaire received a service-disability rating from the VA.
- The most common service-connected conditions were sleep disturbances, joint pain, anxiety and headaches.
- The majority of surveyed veterans are receiving health care or benefits from the VA.

¹Office of Analytics. (March 2022). Veteran Health Survey. Nevada Department of Health and Human Services Division of Public and Behavioral Health.

Healthcare Division SPECIAL HEALTHCARE PROGRAMS & INITIATIVES



Adaptive Sports Programs

These programs put the focus on abilities and ensure disabled veterans continue to live an active, healthy, and fun lifestyle that supports overall wellness. By successfully applying for VA grants, NDVS supports adaptive sports programs that are now offered to the City of Henderson, in addition to the Cities of Las Vegas and Reno. These grants allow adaptive sports programs to be available within these cities at no cost to disabled veterans and their families.

City of Henderson Receives VA Grant to Add Adaptive Sports Programs:

Therapeutic Recreation & Inclusion Services is gearing up to offer basketball, pickleball, power soccer and more. Interested athletes or coaches may call (702) 267-4065 to learn when adaptive sports programs will be available.

Visit the City of Henderson's Therapeutic Recreation & Inclusion Services at:

<https://www.cityofhenderson.com/government/departments/parks-and-recreation/programs-classes/therapeutic-recreation-inclusion-services>



Photos Courtesy City of Reno, Military Sports Camp

SPECIAL HEALTHCARE PROGRAMS & INITIATIVES

The City of Las Vegas provides the following programs:

- Adaptive, Disabled Veterans, Gym/Fitness, Outdoor Passes.
- New A.G.E. provides leisure and recreational activities to learn social, recreational skills.
- Adaptive Trips and Outdoor Adventures.
- Adaptive cycling, fitness classes, cardio drumming, bowling, aquatics, archery, golf, strength training, hikes, pickleball.
- Adaptive classes for eLearning programs including life skills, eSports, art, gardening, drama, handbells and more.

Visit the City of Las Vegas adaptive recreation programs for veterans:

<https://www.lasvegasnevada.gov/Government/Departments/Parks-Recreation/Adaptive-Recreation>



Photo Courtesy City of Las Vegas, Adaptive Recreation Division

The City of Reno also provides a wide variety of adaptive sports programs including:

- Project HERO is a cycling program that includes bike rentals for up to six months at no cost to veterans for use at sanctioned Project HERO events and rides.
- Military Sports Camp is an annual multi-day camp that welcomes all skill levels. The next camp will be offered in September 2023.
- Fit but Not Forgotten is a weekly community-based fitness class for veterans taught by a VA exercise physiologist or certified fitness instructor. New sessions begin each month.
- Military to the Mountains, is hosted by the City of Reno and the High Fives Foundation in Truckee, California. In 2022, the program trained 19 injured veterans for nine weeks preparing them for a week of skiing following the training.

For more information on the City of Reno adaptive recreation programs for veterans:

<https://www.reno.gov/government/departments/parks-recreation-community-services/adaptive-recreation>



City of Reno Project HERO Biking Program

SPECIAL HEALTHCARE PROGRAMS & INITIATIVES

Military Sexual Trauma Program

The Department of Defense defines Military Sexual Trauma (MST) as rape, sexual assault and sexual harassment leading some survivors to deal with debilitating conditions including Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and major depression. To help address the impacts, in 2016, NDVS created an MST Program consisting of three components:

- Providing information to health care providers (HCP) who might treat veterans with MST
- Providing information to veterans suffering from MST
- Assisting MST survivors in obtaining VA disability benefits for the enduring mental health effects of MST

NDVS continues to partner with the Perry Foundation and others offering half-day workshops annually. The next MST workshop is scheduled for February 23, 2023.

Veterans K-9 Corps Peer Support Program

The Veterans K-9 Corps Peer Support Program (K-9 Corps) offers four, nine-week training sessions per year where veterans can come together for exercise, shared experiences, and fun. Since the program began in 2021, about 80 veterans and family members of veterans have participated in the program. This program is funded through a grant from NDVS and is a collaboration between the department and the Truckee Meadows Dog Training Club (TMDTP).



Vet K-9 Corps graduate



Vet K-9 Corps graduates and "guest"



Vet K-9 Corps graduate

VA studies show returning servicemembers often experience a lack of connectiveness that negatively impacts their mental health, and correspondingly, their reintegration into their local communities. Additionally, research exploring the benefits of pets and human-animal interaction for mental health has uncovered benefits for stress, depression, post-traumatic stress and for managing mental health. The K-9 Corps addresses these needs by connecting veterans in a cohort with a shared mission of training dogs to serve as personal companions.

Surveys of participants validate this program is meeting its goals and all feedback to date has been extremely positive. The next K-9 course class will start in January 2023 and will be a seven-week program to align with the general TMDTC schedule.

SPECIAL HEALTHCARE PROGRAMS & INITIATIVES

CAREGIVER SUPPORT PROGRAM

NDVS routinely provides veterans and caregivers of veterans with information about resources, programs, events, training opportunities as well other helpful information such as community partners and organizations to support them.

Visit <https://veterans.nv.gov/benefits-and-services/caregivers-guide/> for more information.

SURVIVOR SUPPORT PROGRAM

NDVS provides assistance to survivors who are navigating through the grief, challenges and difficulties that may arise following the death of a loved one. The department connects survivors to resources, programs, and information. NDVS also connects survivors to a Veterans Service Officer to help survivors find answers to questions about burial benefits, financial compensation, and health care.

For more information visit: <https://veterans.nv.gov/benefits-and-services/survivor-guide>

CAREGIVER AND SURVIVOR RESOURCES

The Caregivers & Survivors Guide is an excellent resource for agencies and individuals who would like to learn more about the services and benefits available. The guide is available on the NDVS website at:

https://veterans.nv.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/14x8.5_Caregiver-Brochure_Dbl-ParallelFoldFinal.pdf

SUICIDE PREVENTION PROGRAM

The Suicide Prevention Program works directly with Nevada's veterans, active, guard, and reserve servicemembers; their families, caregivers, and survivors; and community stakeholders to connect with suicide prevention initiatives, resources, and direct services.

NDVS Role in Suicide Prevention Includes:

- Developing and implementing suicide prevention strategies to identify servicemembers, veterans and their families who may be at risk and to promote connectedness
- Increasing Lethal Means Safety throughout Nevada
- Partnering with community stakeholders to educate, inform and communicate on veteran-specific, suicide risk and protective factors, in support of a holistic, public health approach to ending veteran suicide



Elko's Mayor's Challenge, Veterans Day Parade



Nevada's Gold Mines joins suicide prevention awareness campaign

SPECIAL HEALTHCARE PROGRAMS & INITIATIVES

2022 Marks First Suicide Prevention Forum in Partnership with Nevada National Guard

September 2022 marked a major milestone for the department's Suicide Prevention Program. The Nevada National Guard, in partnership with NDVS, hosted its first Suicide Prevention Forum in Las Vegas on September 10, 2022.

The forum featured local and national speakers who discussed a wide range of topics including family resilience, financial health, connectedness, work-life balance and more.

The forum coincided with World Suicide Prevention Day and the annual recognition of the month of September as National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month.

Governor's and Mayor's Challenge Programs

NDVS serves as the lead for the Governor's Challenge Team and the liaison to the Mayors' Challenge Teams. The programs were designed by our federal partners, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). Other federal partners include the U.S. Department of Defense and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Program Summary:

- Brings together leaders from government agencies, active guard and reserve military organizations, health-care organizations, businesses, nonprofits, veterans' organizations, clergy, and others to end veteran suicide
- Helps leaders in community and state governments work together to prevent suicide
- Develops and works with interagency military and civilian leadership groups to better understand the issue and work together to develop strategic plans for implementation at the local level

NDVS has recruited more communities than any other state in the nation to become involved in the Mayor's Challenge which now includes partnerships in Las Vegas, Truckee Meadows, Elko, and Winnemucca.



New number, same support

Dial 988 then Press 1



In September, the new national 988 Crisis/Suicide Prevention number launched making it easier to remember and connect to an expert who can help. Simply dial three numbers, 988, then press 1.

Administrative Support Services

INTRODUCTION TO EXECUTIVE OFFICER/CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER JOSEPH THEILE

Joseph Theile was selected to serve as Executive Officer/Chief Financial Officer (EO/CFO) in April 2022. In his role as EO/ CFO, Mr. Theile provides oversight in the following areas:

- Financial Services
- Human Resources
- Grants and Contracts
- Information Technology (IT)

JOSEPH THEILE
EXECUTIVE OFFICER/CHIEF
FINANCIAL OFFICER



Administrative Support Services

2022 FINANCIAL REVIEW EXPENDITURES

TOTAL HEALTHCARE EXPENDITURES \$35,967,616

Southern Nevada State Veterans Home	\$25,27,021
Northern Nevada State Veterans Home	\$10,696, 314
Veterans-in-Care Program	\$281

TOTAL PROGRAMS AND SERVICES EXPENDITURES \$10,134,793

Veteran Advocacy	\$1,596,145
Cemeteries	\$6,381,561
Special Programs and Services	\$1,965,663
Nonprofit Support	\$191,424

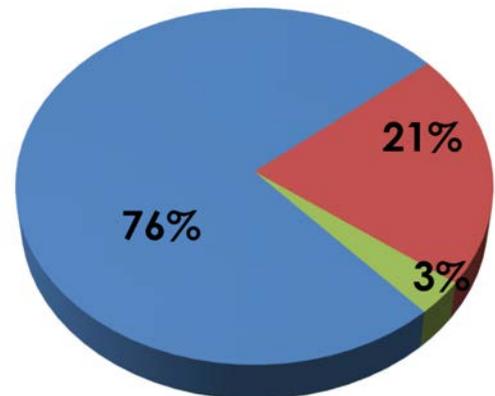
TOTAL COMMUNITY OUTREACH EXPENDITURES \$93,707

Nevada Advocate Program	\$25,325
Veterans Information System	\$68,381

TOTAL ADMINISTRATION \$1,498,758

Majority of NDVS expenditures are for Healthcare
**Totals Rounded Up

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS SERVICES FY22 EXPENDITURES BY PROGRAM



- Healthcare \$35,967,616
- Programs and Services \$10,134,793
- Administration \$1,498,758

*Community Outreach accounts for less than 1%

EXPENDITURES**

Healthcare	\$35,967,616
Programs and Services	\$10,134,793
Community Outreach	\$93,707
Administration	\$1,498,758
Total Expenditures	\$47,694,874

**Totals Rounded Up & Community Outreach Added

Administrative Support Services 2022 FINANCIAL REVIEW REVENUES

GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS \$3,062,813

HEALTHCARE	\$893,770
Northern Nevada State Veterans Home	\$893,770
PROGRAMS AND SERVICES	\$2,169,043
Veterans Advocacy	\$2,139,156
Cemeteries	\$29,887

FEDERAL FUNDS \$37,901,145

HEALTHCARE	\$31,223,684
Northern Nevada State Veterans Home	\$9,790,029
Southern Nevada State Veterans Home	\$21,433,655
PROGRAMS AND SERVICES	\$6,677,461
Cemeteries	\$1,768,160
Special Programs and Services	\$4,909,302

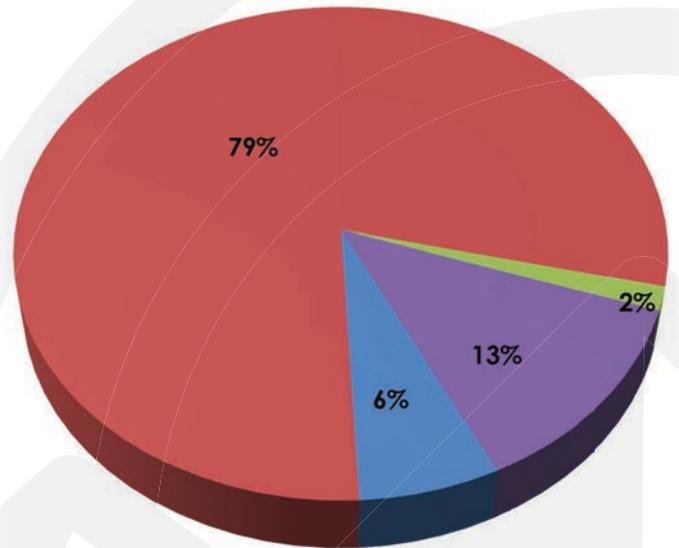
DONATIONS \$735,277

HEALTHCARE	\$13,036
Southern Nevada State Veterans Home	\$695
Northern Nevada State Veterans Home	\$12,342
PROGRAMS AND SERVICES	\$722,241
Cemeteries	\$44,320
Special Programs and Services	\$677,921

OTHER REVENUE \$5,995,800

HEALTHCARE	\$4,272,253
Southern Nevada State Veterans Home	\$4,272,079
Northern Nevada State Veterans Home	\$174
PROGRAMS AND SERVICES	\$1,723,547
Cemeteries	\$1,065
Special Programs and Services	\$1,722,482

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS SERVICES FY22 REVENUE SOURCES



- General Fund \$3,062,813
- Federal Funds \$37,901,145
- Donations \$735,277
- Other \$5,995,800

REVENUES

General Fund	\$3,062,813
Federal Funds	\$37,901,145
Donations	\$735,277
Other	\$5,995,800

Total Revenues **\$47,695,036****

**Totals Rounded Up

Administrative Support Services

GRANT AWARDS HELPING VETERANS

Since SFY 22, NDVS applied for and received a total of up to \$5,405,287 in VA grant funding to support the following:

- ★ Expand adaptive sports program opportunities to the City of Henderson
- ★ Fund transportation for rural veterans needing access to healthcare, and more!
- ★ Expand the Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery

ADAPTIVE SPORTS PROGRAMS

These programs are funded through grants provided by the VA. They support the health and wellness of disabled veterans and disabled members of the U.S. Armed Forces at no cost to participants.

- NDVS applied for and was awarded \$36,565.00 SFY 22
- Grants used by the Cities of Las Vegas and Reno and now include Henderson

Programs include:

- Chair Yoga
- Adaptive golf, fishing, archery
- Pickleball clinics
- Military Sports Camp
- Ski Program

Funding provides:

- Adaptive sports Instruction, participation and competition
- Training, technical assistance to coaches, recreation therapists, instructors
- Athlete assessments, sports-specific training/techniques
- Sports equipment, supplies



Photos Courtesy City of Las Vegas, Adaptive Recreation Division

Rural Transportation

Rural Transportation grants are offered through the VA's Highly Rural Transportation Grants (HRTG) program offering transportation at no cost to participants.

- NDVS applied for and was awarded \$100,000 SFY22
- Funds were divided equally between the Elko County Transit District and the Nye Communities Coalition

The HRTG program:

- Helps rural veterans access travel to VA or VA-authorized healthcare facility
- Enhances Disabled Veterans of America statewide transportation program
- Expands availability of critical veterans' transportation resources
- Enables veterans to obtain transportation they might not otherwise access due to where they live
- No cost to participate for veterans who live in areas where grant program is available

Administrative Support Services

GRANT AWARDS HELPING VETERANS

Grant Awards Funds Expansion at Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery (SNVMC)

In 2022, NDVS received VA grant award of up to \$5,268,722 for expansion of SNVMC to meet current demand.

The funding will add:

- 5,432 in-ground cremation plots with four (4) new sections
- 5,740 niches with eight (8) new columbarium walls
- New roads, roundabouts, landscaping and sidewalks

Grant Awards Funds Expansion at Northern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery (NNVMC)

NDVS received a VA grant award of \$5,182,845 for the expansion of NNVMC.

The funding will add:

- 757 in-ground plots
- 3,580 columbarium wall cremation niches
- 806 pre-placed crypts
- Infrastructure improvements such as a new loading dock to offload markers and other heavier deliveries

Additionally, the State set aside \$226,360 to renovate the cemetery's main pavilion structure. The pavilion provides shelter for cemetery ceremonies. In 2022, the planning phase for the pavilion renovation got underway.



Northern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY OPERATIONS

Information Technology (IT) Operations plays an important role in overseeing and supporting the wide-ranging technological needs of the department. Some of the 2022 accomplishment highlights include:

- **“Find Your Loved One” (FYLO) Grave Locator GPS/GIS Mapping Project:** Phase 1 is underway at the Northern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery. In Boulder City, Phase 1 work has been completed at the Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery with anticipated completion in 2023.
- **Battle Born Educational Kiosk Project:** A celebration ceremony will be held in 2023 to unveil this educational kiosk which is designed to showcase and raise awareness about Nevada's fallen heroes, military and war memorials as well as highlight historic information regarding Nevada's role in military conflicts since the Civil War.
- **Technology Upgrades:** New, advanced phone systems were installed at the State Veterans Homes and Memorial Cemeteries allowing for better video conferencing and other features.
- **Technology Infrastructure Upgrade:** New switches and other electronic systems were installed at the Southern Nevada State Veterans Home replacing 20-year-old, outdated system.

Administrative Support Services

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY OPERATIONS

NDVS WEBSITE SUPPORT

The NDVS website supports the mission of the department by providing information to connect veterans and their families to earned benefits, programs, and services. In 2022, major website highlights include:

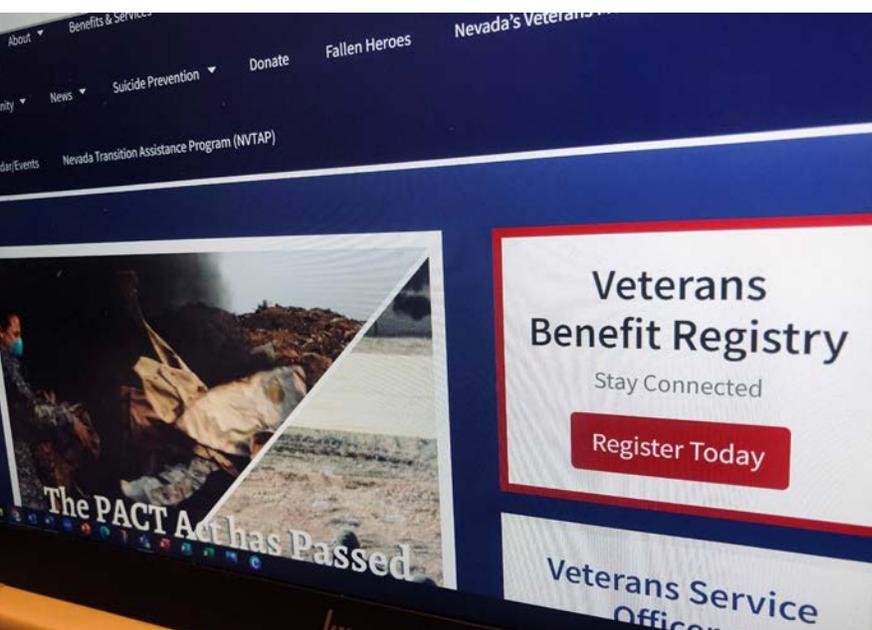
- Between January 1, 2022, and December 31, 2022, there were 191,000 users visiting the NDVS website.
- The top three pages are:
 - Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery
 - Benefits and Services
 - Veterans Service Officers
- NDVS grew its social media footprint across all its platforms (Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn) 4.4% in 2022 from the previous year.

NEW WEBSITE PROJECTS

- Redesign (Phase 1)
In the fall of 2022, the IT Manager assembled a department-wide committee to begin the process of a website redesign.

Goals of the redesign:

- Enhance end-user experience
 - Ensure easier access to information, with minimal clicks
 - Improve site's overall design, look and feel
- Search by Zip Code Feature (Phase 1)
This new search feature will:
 - Allow end-users to find services, programs and resources close to them, within their own community
 - Phase 1 identifies which programs and resources have physical locations and verifies zip codes



NDVS Website



Battle Born Educational Kiosk Project

Veterans and the Nevada Legislature

OVERVIEW

There are three legislative events hosted by NDVS in partnership with the United Veterans Legislative Council (UVLC) including the Veterans Legislative Symposia, Veterans Legislative Summit, and Veterans and Military Day at the Legislature (VAMDAL). NDVS also partners with the Nevada National Guard for VAMDAL.



UVLC Chairman Andy LePeilbet

United Veterans Legislative Council (UVLC)

Highly decorated U.S. Army veteran Andy LePeilbet serves as Chairman for the United Veterans Legislative Council as the 82nd session of the Nevada Legislature gets ready to begin. The UVLC is a non-partisan, politically neutral organization that supports several roles:

- Serves as the lobbying arm for Nevada’s veterans
- Ensures the veterans’ community speaks with one, unified voice
- Engages, educates and informs veterans about the legislative process
- Gathers Nevada veterans together to identify and prioritize issues for legislative consideration

There is no cost for membership.



Tony Yarbrough in July 2019

Remembering Tony Yarbrough, UVLC Founder

Anthony “Tony” Yarbrough spent most of his life working on behalf of veterans, military members and their families. As the founder of the UVLC, Mr. Yarbrough saw the importance of creating a path that would empower Nevada’s veterans, setting the stage for success at getting laws of significance to veterans passed or bad proposals defeated. Over the years Mr. Yarbrough served as the UVLC’s chairman, vice chairman, secretary and recordkeeper. Mr. Yarbrough was a U.S. Navy veteran, obtaining the rank of chief petty officer following 10 years of honorable service. Additionally, he served six years in the Ready Reserve with the rank of machinery repairmen, 1st class. As the time of his death on May 29, 2022, Mr. Yarbrough was the Nevada State adjutant for the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW). He also served as the VFW’s Nevada State Commander from 2019-2020.



The 82nd Session of the Nevada Legislature will begin in February

Veterans and the Nevada Legislature

OVERVIEW

2022 Veterans Legislative Symposia

Participants in Reno and Las Vegas identified and prioritized issues they would like to see legislatively addressed. The results were compiled in a report which was present to the Governor and Nevada Legislature.

UVLC Awards and Recognitions

- 2019 Abraham Lincoln Pillars of Excellence Award recipient. This national award was created by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and the National Association of State Directors. It recognizes excellence and innovation of outstanding state programs that support veterans.
- 2019 July Veteran Supporter of the Month recipient. This award is determined through a process involving the Veterans Services Commission which reviews nominees and makes a recommendation to the Governor who makes the final determination on recipients. It recognizes exceptional support to Nevada's veterans, military members or their families by community members or active organizations.

Several common themes emerged from the recommendations.
In priority order, below are the themes:

★ STATEWIDE THEME 1:

Improve medical and mental health care programs, especially those associated with dental health and suicide prevention.

★ STATEWIDE THEME 2:

Require service providers to implement the, "Ask the Question" Program to both improve veterans' health care outcomes, and to inform them of earned benefits.

★ STATEWIDE THEME 3:

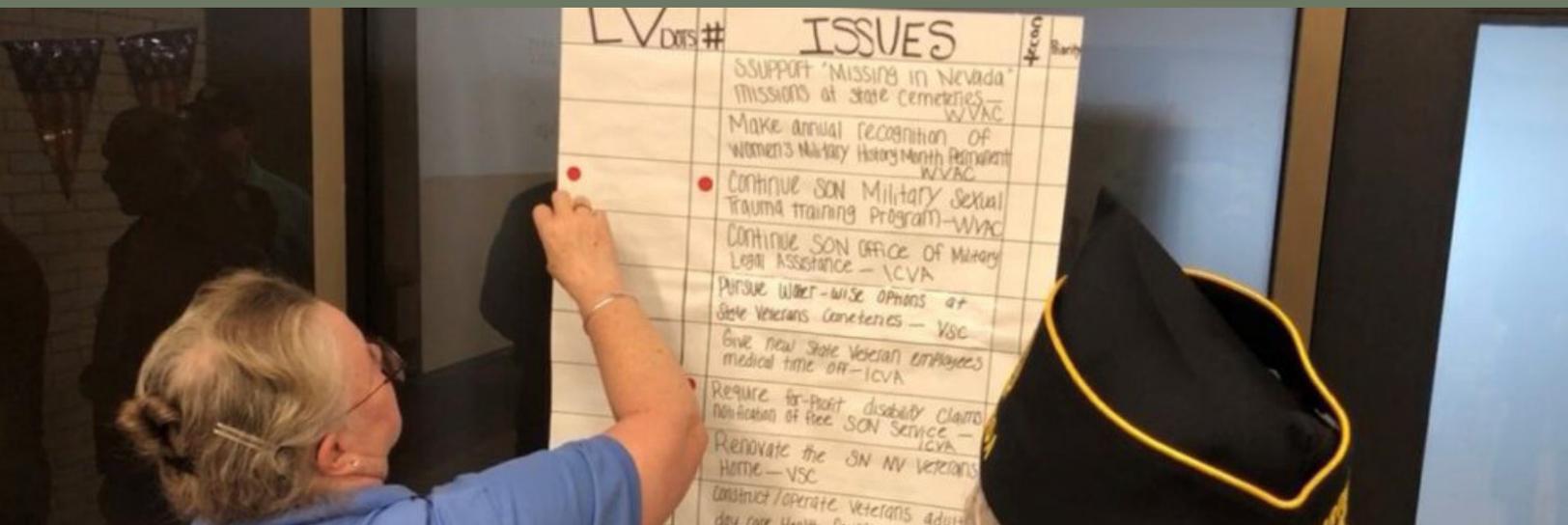
Honor and recognize veteran's service by reducing certain state fees, offering veterans preferences, and providing medical time off for veterans employed by the State of Nevada.

★ STATEWIDE THEME 4:

Improve occupational licensure for veterans and military spouses.

★ STATEWIDE THEME 5:

Improve programing for veterans in / transitioning from justice system.



Nevada Veterans Legislative Symposium, Las Vegas

Veterans and the Nevada Legislature

OVERVIEW

Veterans and Military Day at the Legislature

When the Nevada Legislature is in session, the third Wednesday in March is set aside in NRS 236.047 as a day of honor known as Veterans and Military Day at the Legislature (VAMDAL). The day recognizes the service and sacrifice of veterans and those currently serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. The Nevada statute acknowledges the contributions veterans and servicemembers have made to the prosperity of Nevada and the United States.

Mark Your Calendar

Veterans and Military Day at the Legislature is jointly hosted by NDVS, the UVLC, and the Nevada National Guard. The event provides an opportunity for veterans to talk directly to legislators about legislation that is important to them. It also provides an opportunity to speak with members of the Nevada National Guard to learn about the Guard's capabilities and equipment.

The next Veterans and Military Day at the Legislature is set for March 15, 2023



Nevada Veterans Legislative Symposium – LV



Nevada Veterans Legislative Symposium – Reno



Nevada Veterans Legislative Symposium – LV

FINAL MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

The tremendous accomplishments made in 2022 by the NDVS team demonstrates their passion, dedication and hard work. I could discuss at length the drive and talent exhibited by our team, but I believe the veterans we served in 2022 say it much better. The testimonials below are a small sampling of the comments made in our customer satisfaction and other surveys. I'm proud to share a few of these remarks with you:



Director Wagar with VSC members Drury, Detrick, Blaylock, Veterans Day

“My VSO was very helpful and very knowledgeable. She explained benefits that I was entitled to and that I didn’t know existed. She also knew about medical issues I could claim, that were new to me as well.”

“Needing to fill out forms for my aging mom, I struggled to find someone to take the time. Our VSO was awesome, caring and knowledgeable. We are truly blessed to have her suggestions along with her patience so we could fill out the VA forms accurately and completely. Kudos!”

“The Ask the VSO form made contacting a VSO super easy! Within a day of messaging, I was contacted by an NDVS member who helps homeless vets. We talked about my situation. I was in front of a VSO faster than I expected and we managed to finish submitting my claim. I had attempted to submit it for years but kept failing due to anxiety and panic attacks. I’m highly satisfied and relieved you guys were able to help!”

“Great people, [at the cemetery], very helpful, thank you for all your hard work.”

“The cemetery is beautiful, peaceful!”

“I appreciate the condition [of the Veterans Home] and how friendly the staff is.”

“The quality of care [at the Veterans Home] compared to other places my mom was in is astounding. It is great.”

I’m so proud of my NDVS team for what they have accomplished and I’m looking forward to 2023. I know together, we will be able to celebrate many more successes which means we will continue making a difference in the lives of the men and women we serve.

In closing, I will always be grateful to all of you who supported our vital mission of, “Serving Nevada’s Heroes.”

Respectfully,
Fred Wagar

NDVS Director

Serving Nevada's Heroes Since 1943

NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS SERVICES



Terri Hendry
Communications Director



www.veterans.nv.gov

NDVS Annual Report SFY 2022 overseen by NDVS Communications Director, Terri Hendry. Designed by The Factory, Reno, NV. For more information contact: hendryt@veterans.nv.gov



FOLLOW US