

*Special Anniversary Edition*



# 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

CELEBRATING  
**80** Years  
OF SERVING NEVADA'S HEROES



# CONTACT INFORMATION

## VSOs, State Veterans Homes, and Cemeteries

### VETERANS SERVICE OFFICERS (VSOs)

#### 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 Dr., Suite 131

Reno, NV 89511

(Located in the VA's Reno Regional Office)

#### CARSON CITY

(775) 710-3329

FAX: (775) 300-6796

106 E. Adams Street, Suite 203

Carson City, NV 89706

(Located in the Nation's Finest building)

#### FALLON

(775) 428-1177

FAX: (775) 423-9371

485 W. B Street, Suite 103

Fallon, NV 89406

(Located in the Churchill County Office)

#### ELKO

(775) 777-1000

FAX: (775) 777-1055

1500 College Parkway

Elko, NV 89801

(Located in McMullen Hall, Room 114)

#### PAHRUMP

(775) 751-6372

FAX: (775) 751-6371

981 E. Calvada Blvd., #110

Pahrump, NV 89048

(Located inside the Nye County Offices)

#### WINNEMUCCA

(775) 399-2300

FAX: (775) 321-4884 3300

Bengochea Cir.

Winnemucca, NV 89445

(Located inside the VVA facility, Humboldt County Bldg.)

To connect with a VSO online, visit Ask a VSO at:  
<https://veterans.nv.gov/ask-a-vso>

Visit our website at [veterans.nv.gov](https://veterans.nv.gov)

### NORTHERN NEVADA STATE VETERANS HOME

36 Battle Born Way  
Sparks, NV 89431

Phone:

(775) 827-2955

Fax:

(775) 322-6762

VSO at this location.

### SOUTHERN NEVADA STATE VETERANS HOME

100 Veterans Memorial Drive  
Boulder City, NV 89005

Phone:

(702) 332-6784

Fax:

(775) 332-6762

VSO at this location.

### NORTHERN NEVADA VETERANS MEMORIAL CEMETERY (NNVMC)

14 Veterans Way  
Fernley, NV 89408

Phone:

(775) 575-4441

Office Hours:

Monday - Friday 8AM - 5PM

No VSO at this location.

### SOUTHERN NEVADA VETERANS MEMORIAL CEMETERY (SNVMC)

1900 Veterans Memorial Drive  
Boulder City, NV 89005

Phone:

(702) 486-5920

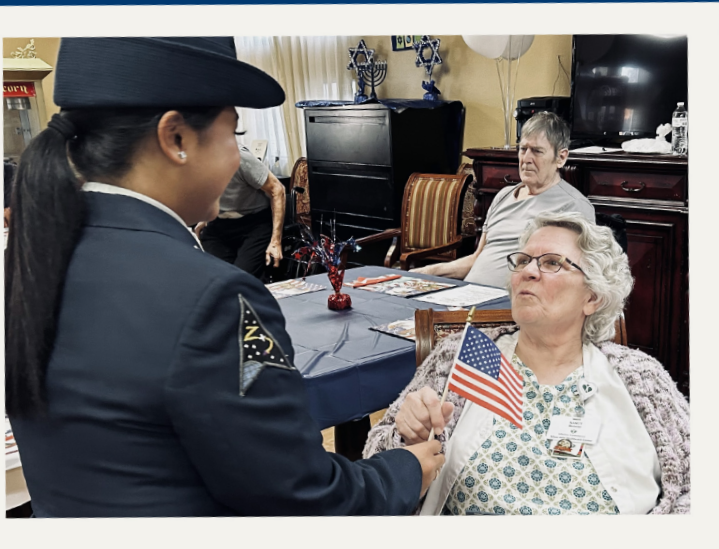
Office Hours:

Monday - Friday 8AM - 5PM

No VSO at this location.

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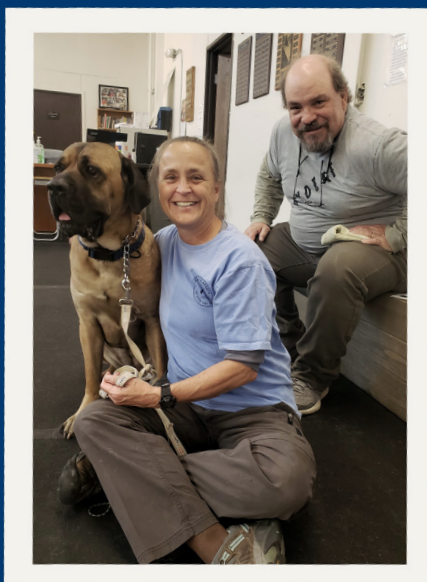
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VIC ceremony honors veteran for service as a U.S. Army nurse



Family members and friends of fallen heroes visit Nevada State Veterans Memorial



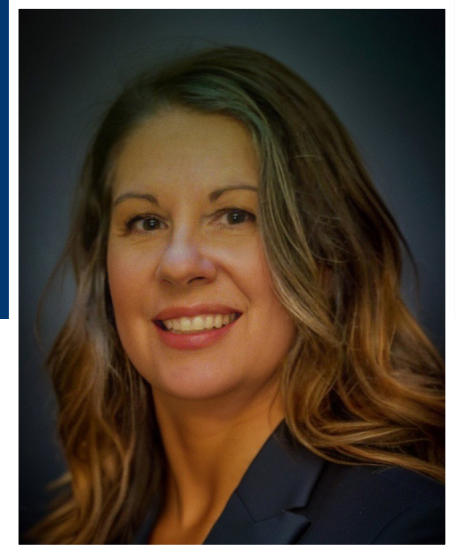
Veterans K9 Corps

**COVER PHOTOS:**

1. Veterans Day smiles.
2. LGBTQ+ Veterans Service Officer Christopher Miannay with Dani Dawson, Retired CW3.
3. Tuskegee Airman Lester McCant in uniform.
4. Tuskegee Airman Lt. Col. Lester McCant honored in VIC ceremony.
5. NNSVH Resident Council President Wally L. with NNSVH Volunteer Director Amy Morley.
6. Sharing smiles at Women Veterans Conference, Reno.

# MESSAGE FROM THE INTERIM DIRECTOR

**LISA MACIEL**  
NDVS INTERIM DIRECTOR



The year 2023 was a special one for NDVS. The department celebrated its 80th anniversary. What is now NDVS started out with humble beginnings in 1943 when former Governor Vail Pittman appointed Walter Devereux to serve as Nevada's Veterans Service Commissioner. Devereux was a one-man band, working out of Reno filing claims on behalf of Nevada's veterans during World War II. Over eight decades, NDVS has grown from a single Veterans Service Officer to the department it is today serving Nevada's veterans, service members, and dependents.

This year marked several significant accomplishments for the department. Some of the highlights include:

- Completion of significant expansion projects at both the NNVMC and SNVMC enabling both cemeteries to continue to meet demand of the veterans' community for years to come.
- New monetary award record set by the Veterans and Advocacy Support Team.
- SNSVH maintained the highest 5-Star Quality Rating.
- NV Advocate program issued its 1,000th certificate.
- Record setting number of volunteers and wreaths laid during Wreaths Across America.
- New partnerships involving tribal communities for veterans' healthcare initiatives to prevent suicide and raise awareness about toxic exposure risks.

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 make sure Nevada's veterans, U.S. Armed Forces, and their families are connected to the benefits, resources, and programs they have earned!

In closing, I'm honored to showcase the tremendous work of the NDVS team in this report. 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 to those who have sacrificed in service to our country! Thank you for your service and your support.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lisa Maciel". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "L" and "M".

Lisa Maciel  
NDVS Interim Director

# MESSAGE FROM THE VETERANS SERVICES COMMISSION CHAIRMAN

**MIKE MUSGROVE**  
CHAIRMAN, VETERANS SERVICES COMMISSION



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

It is a pleasure and great honor to continue my service on the VSC since first being appointed in January 2007. 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 address challenges facing the men and women who have honorably served and have chosen to call Nevada their "home."

As NDVS celebrated its 80th anniversary in 2023, it is humbling to have played a role in service to Nevada's veteran community during this unique point in time. There are too many department accomplishments in 2023 to list here, but it is important to note NDVS lived up to its vision, mission, and motto and in several areas exceeded expectations breaking new records in several key areas.

One area where we saw many successes was in the 82nd Legislative Session. There were 29 bill draft requests brought forward that supported veterans, military, and their families. Of those, 66 percent of bills considered favorable to veterans or 18 important veterans' bills were signed into law by Governor Lombardo and one Senate Joint Resolution was enrolled and sent to the Secretary of State. We are grateful to have such strong support from Nevada's lawmakers.

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 country. I'm proud of the department and the work of the VSC. It is an honor of a lifetime to be able to serve as part of a team that remains focused on improving the lives of Nevada's veterans and their families.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Musgrove". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Mike Musgrove  
Chairman, Nevada Veterans Services Commission

**Our Motto**

*Serving Nevada's Heroes*

**WHO WE SERVE**

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

**VISION**

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

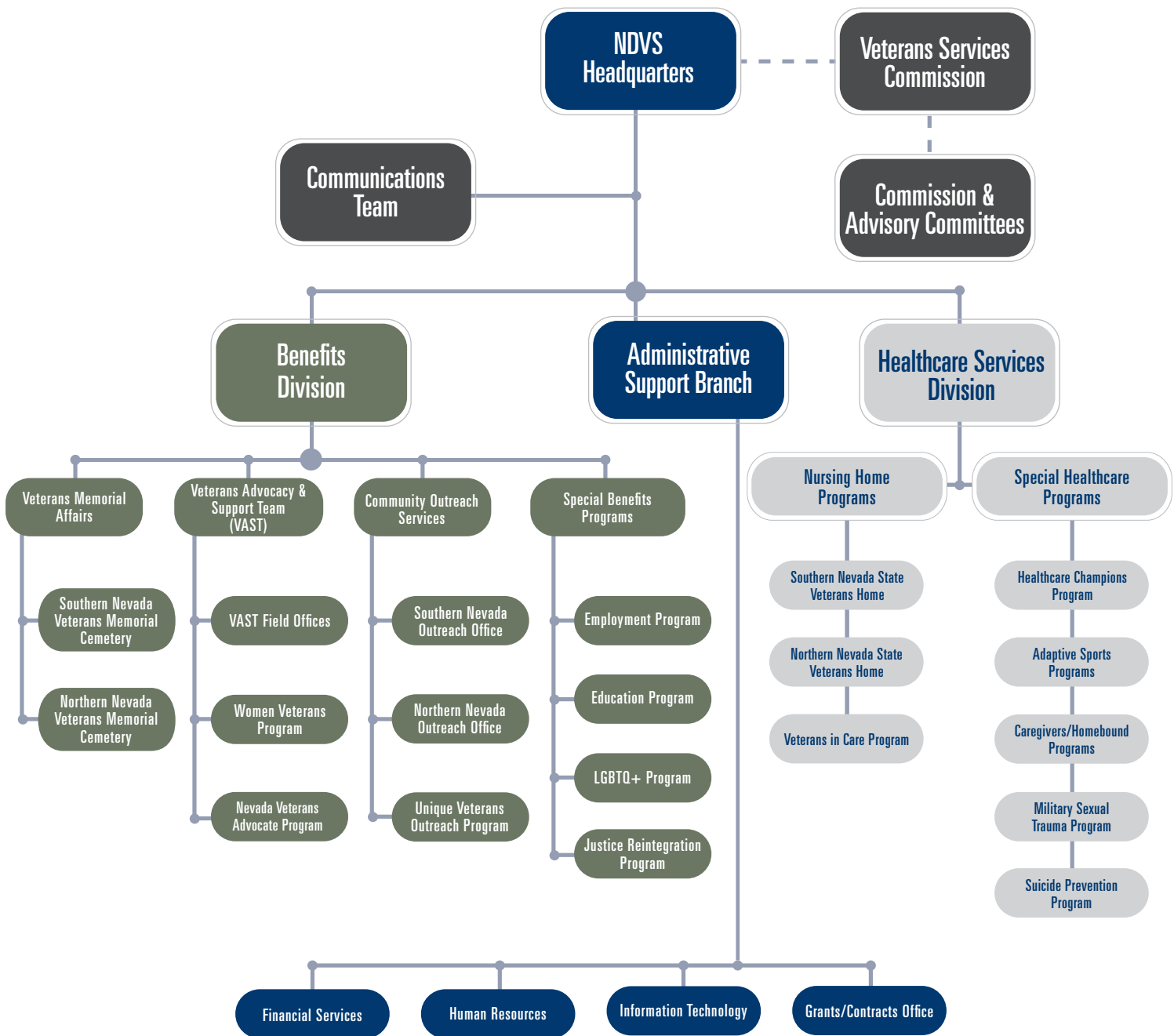
**MISSION**

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 service members and veterans into Nevada communities.
- Honor the service and sacrifice of all Nevada's veterans and their families through ceremonies and informational campaigns.
- Assist and coordinate the efforts and activities of service organizations and individuals for the benefit of Nevada veterans, service members, and their families.

# NDVS OVERVIEW

# ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



# THE HEROES WE SERVE

## NUMBER OF VETERANS<sup>1,4</sup>



**NEVADA:**  
219,698

PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL POPULATION  
7%



**NATION:**  
16.5 million

PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL POPULATION  
6.4%

### WOMEN VETERANS<sup>1</sup>

NEVADA	NATION
23,889	2,000,000
PERCENTAGE OF VETERANS	
11%	11%

### MILITARY RETIREES<sup>2</sup>

NEVADA	NATION
29,541	2,156,647
PERCENTAGE OF VETERANS	
13.5%	10.8%

### 65 AND OVER<sup>2</sup>

NEVADA	NATION
103,165	9,410,179
PERCENTAGE OF VETERANS	
47.2%	47%

### VETERANS AND MILITARY STATEWIDE\*

- Army:** 201
- Navy:** 1,208
- Marine Corps:** 105
- Air Force/Space Force:** 10,859
- Coast Guard:** 2
- Army National Guard:** 3,339
- Air National Guard:** 1,291
- Army Reserve:** 1,459
- Navy Reserve:** 602
- USMC Reserve:** 177
- Air Force Reserve:** 1,291
- Coast Guard Reserve:** 0

<b>Veterans:</b> 219,698
<b>Active-Duty:</b> 12,375
<b>National Guard:</b> 4,630
<b>Reserve:</b> 3,529
<b>TOTAL</b> <b>240,232</b>

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

### WARTIME VETERANS<sup>1</sup>

(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

<sup>1</sup>**Total NV Vet Population:** Veteran population estimates as of September 7, 2022: Veteran Population - National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics (va.gov)

<sup>2</sup>**Retirees, Ages:** Veteran population percentages and military retiree estimates from Military Retirees and Ages in (FY2017, latest available): [https://www.va.gov/vetdata/docs/SpecialReports/State\\_Summaries\\_Nevada.pdf](https://www.va.gov/vetdata/docs/SpecialReports/State_Summaries_Nevada.pdf)

<sup>3</sup>**Veterans and Military Statewide:** Department of Defense, Defense Manpower Data Center as of Sept. 30, 2021 (Numbers reflect personnel paid for by federal appropriated funding): <https://dwp.dmdc.osd.mil/dwp/app/dod-data-reports/workforce-reports>

<sup>4</sup>**National Veterans Population:** U.S. Census Bureau 2020 Census



# 2023 KEY PARTNERSHIPS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

**1 NDVS 80th Anniversary Celebration**  
NDVS hosted an 80th Anniversary Celebration at the Governor's mansion on August 29, 2023. Guests included the Governor, Lt. Governor, and other state and regional VIPs.

**2 VAST Team Sets New Monetary Award Record**  
The Veterans Advocacy Support Team (VAST) generated veteran disability benefits in the amount of \$275,178,477 for SFY 23. The VAST team submitted 3,267 claims to the VA in SFY 2023.

**3 Veterans and Military Day at the Legislature (VAMDAL)**  
Seating was at capacity for VAMDAL, which was held in Carson City on March 15, 2023, to provide opportunities for veterans, military, and dependents to interact with their legislators. The event featured key State of Nevada lawmakers including Governor Lombardo who served as the featured speaker. Thank you to our Nevada National Guard partners and the 37 exhibitors who participated.

**4 Nevada Veterans Legislative Summit**  
NDVS hosted the Nevada Veterans Legislative Summit in Las Vegas on March 19, 2023, and in Reno on March 26, 2023, to allow veterans, military, and spouses to receive information on the priorities for the next legislative session.

**5 SNVMC and NNVMC Expansions**  
Expansion projects at both state veterans' cemeteries were completed in 2023. In November 2023, the NNVMC Columbarium Project provided 3,580 wall niche sites, 806 double casket sites, and 757 in-ground cremation sites. With this expansion, 11 years of utilization have been added. The SNVMC provided 5,432 in-ground cremation sites and 5,740 wall niche sites. With this expansion, 8 years of utilization have been added.

**6 NDVS Hosts Record Breaking Wreaths Across America Event**  
On December 16, 2023, the Nevada State Veteran Memorial Cemeteries hosted Wreaths Across America. The SNVMC had approximately 3,000 people in attendance, the largest attendance on record. The number of wreaths laid also set a record with 12,528 wreaths laid by volunteers. The NNVMC had 2,300 attendees who placed 8,000 wreaths on each gravesite. The events were hosted by NDVS and were sponsored by the Nevada Veterans Coalition in Fernley and Civil Air Patrol in Boulder City.

**7 SNSVH Maintains Highest 5-Star Quality Rating**  
SNSVH had two major surveys in January and February from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). SNSVH retained its 5-Star CMS Quality Care Rating, the highest rating possible. Only 10% of skilled nursing facilities in the nation achieve a 5-Star rating.

**8 Crombie Academy Certified Nursing Assistant Academy Training Program**  
A pinning ceremony for six Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) graduates occurred on February 2, 2023. The PFC Nick Crombie CNA Training Academy is an NDVS workforce development program that provides FREE training to participants who gain basic CNA knowledge, along with an understanding of how military culture affects the care of veterans and their families. Upon graduation, there are potential CNA job opportunities at the SNSVH for those who go on to receive their State of Nevada CNA certification.

# 2023 KEY PARTNERSHIPS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

9

## **SNSVH Celebrates 21st Anniversary**

SNSVH celebrated its 21st Anniversary in August 2023, by hosting its annual open house celebration in conjunction with the Boulder City Chamber of Commerce mixer.

10

## **NDVS Capital Improvement Projects Move Forward**

The 2023 Nevada Legislature and the Governor approved eight Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) for projects at the SNSVH, North Las Vegas SVH, and NNSVH.

The SNSVH Capital Improvement Projects includes a remodel and addition authorization for the federal grant funding amount of \$63,957,628; remodel and addition authorization for bond funds totaling \$35,831,018; walk-in cooler and freezer replacement totaling \$503,680; and replace cooling tower piers totaling \$390,222.

North Las Vegas SVH Capital Improvement Projects includes advance planning totaling \$15,537,686.

NNSVH Capital Improvement Projects includes storage building installation totaling \$2,098,083.

Both State Veteran Memorial Cemeteries received approval for CIP projects including: the SNVMC chapel remodel totaling \$894,842; and the NNVMC committal building totaling \$3,451,011.

11

## **NNSVH Chapel Stained-Glass Completion**

Firehorse Stained Glass installed the remaining stained-glass windows within the NNSVH's chapel.

12

## **Nevada Veterans Transition Assistance Program (NVTAP) September Summit**

NDVS hosted an NVTAP Summit which brought together 37 community partners to provide support to transitioning military members, veterans, and their families. NVTAP is a Nevada-specific program created and implemented by NDVS to provide guidance and support for military members and their families who are transitioning from the military to civilian life.

13

## **Women Veterans Conference**

NDVS hosted the 2023 Women Veterans Conference in Las Vegas on March 10, 2023. Seating was at capacity with more than 100 participants. The event brought together women veterans, active-duty, Guard members, and Reservists. Thirty-one exhibitors 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).

14

## **Veterans in Care (VIC) Ceremony honors 102-year-old Tuskegee Airman**

NDVS recognized and honored 102-year-old Lt. Col. Lester McCants during a Veterans in Care Ceremony held on March 29, 2023. The ceremony took place at Prestige Assisted Living at Mira Loma in Henderson.

# 2023 KEY PARTNERSHIPS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 15** **New Healthcare Champions Partnership**  
NDVS partnered with the American Heart Association to further the Veterans Healthcare Champions Program. This program is designed to identify veterans, inform them about benefits, and assist in benefit connection when applicable.
- 16** **New Healthcare Champions Partnerships Involving Native American Communities**  
The NDVS Suicide Prevention Program partnered with Nevada Urban Indians and Reno-Sparks Indian Colony to establish a Suicide Prevention Coalition. Training surrounding the Veterans Health Care Pocket Card initiative was also provided to tribal staff and clinical healthcare providers in support of tribal veterans.
- 17** **NDVS Governor’s Challenge Suicide Prevention Team Participates in Pre-Policy Academy**  
The Pre-Policy Academy was held on March 7-8, 2023, in Carson City. It was led in coordination between the NDVS Suicide Prevention Specialist and the Nevada Office of Suicide Prevention.
- 18** **Trainings Go Virtual Resulting in Record Attendance**  
Training sessions for specific NDVS programs went virtual instead of in-person resulting in record attendance. The virtual sessions were held for the Caregiver Program, Military Sexual Trauma Program, and support series, as well as training for Veterans Service Officers (VSO). With exception of the VSO trainings, attendees of the other sessions included healthcare professionals, survivors, advocates, as well as those interested in the topics provided.
- 19** **New Suicide Prevention Partnerships with Four Tribal Communities**  
Partnerships were formed with the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony, Nevada Urban Indians, Las Vegas Indian Center, and the Fallon Paiute Shoshone Tribe to provide education on suicide prevention and the resources available for tribal veterans.
- 20** **New Partnership to Prevent Veteran Suicide**  
NDVS partnered with Northern Nevada Public Health to create a Lethal Means Reduction Alliance to prevent suicide.
- 21** **NNSVH Hosts Marine Corps 4th LAR Battalion Reunion**  
The Northern Nevada State Veterans Home (NNSVH) hosted the Marine 4th LAR Battalion Reunion for a fun, outdoor social during which the NNSVH Resident Council was presented with a guidon (battalion flag) and a \$500 donation.
- 22** **New NNSVH Residents Presented with Quilts of Valor**  
Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) Chapter 989, along with the Comstock Quilters, presented Quilts of Valor and Vietnam commemorative pins to all the new residents, as well as hosted an afternoon presentation of Quilts and pins to veteran NNSVH volunteers, team members, family members, and community supporters.

# 2023 KEY PARTNERSHIPS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

**23 Partnership Continues to Maintain PTSD Mental Health Professionals**  
NDVS continued its partnership with the nonprofit, “PTSD Now” to maintain two mental health professionals who provide counseling, needs assessment, intake evaluations, and diagnostic assessments to members of the Nevada National Guard and to veterans.

**24 82nd Legislative Session Makes Changes to NDVS and ICVA**  
AB36 added three new members to the ICVA and AB44 revised titles of Deputy Directors and training of accredited VSOs signed into law.

**25 NDVS Hosts First Military Child Appreciation Event in Partnership with Horses4Heroes**  
NDVS teamed up with Horses4Heroes for the first Military Child Appreciation and Family Day event at the ranch on April 22, 2023. The event was well attended with families in the Las Vegas area turning out to enjoy an afternoon at the ranch to show appreciation, recognition, and honor of children living in military families.

**26 Memorial Day Ceremonies at the Northern and Southern Veterans Memorial Cemeteries**  
NDVS hosted dignified ceremonies at both cemeteries to honor and remember the men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice serving our nation. Governor Lombardo served as keynote speaker at the NNVMC where approximately 4,000 people attended. Thank you to the Nevada Veterans Coalition, West Area ASFA, DAV Chapter 13, VFW Post 36, Boulder City Mayor, UNLV Rebel Vets, Veterans Upward Bound, DAV Black Mountain Chapter 12, Trumpeters Alliance to Perform Patriotic Services, as well as community volunteers too numerous to list here for their assistance and dedication.

**27 Nevada Veterans Advocate Conference in Reno and Las Vegas**  
NDVS hosted free, two-day workshops to set participants on the path to becoming a Nevada Veterans Advocate in Reno on April 15-16, 2023, at the Reno-Sparks Convention and Visitors Center resulting in 48 attendees and 7 exhibitors. Another NV Advocate Conference was held on October 7, 2023, at the Culinary Academy of Las Vegas resulting in 44 attendees and 9 exhibitors. These trained NV Advocate volunteers help connect veterans and military members to earned benefits, resources, and programs.

**28 Nevada Veterans Advocate Program Reaches Major Milestone**  
This program certified its 1,000th trained volunteer in August 2023! Congratulations to Carlos Cisneros who became the 1,000th Nevadan to undergo the NV Advocate course and receive his certificate.

**29 Veterans Day Ceremony**  
NDVS hosted the November 11, 2023, Veterans Day ceremony at the Nevada State Veterans Memorial in Las Vegas to honor, recognize, and celebrate our veterans and service members along with our Veteran of the Month and Veteran Supporter of the Month recipients. Governor Lombardo served as the keynote speaker. Lt. Governor Anthony was also in attendance. Thank you to the VSC, NV Congressional delegation, NV State lawmakers, veterans service organizations in Southern NV, and many others for their support.

# HONORING NEVADA'S VETERANS



## STATE VETERANS MEMORIALS

Nevada has four State Veterans Memorials dedicated to remembering and honoring those who have served. There are many more Veterans Memorials throughout Nevada including the State Veterans Memorial Cemeteries in Fernley and Boulder City

Expansion Completed at SNVMC

### **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.



Battle Born Memorial, 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 Nevada State Capitol Building.

### **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 Office 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 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.

# NDVS OVERVIEW

# HONORING NEVADA'S VETERANS

## Veteran of the Month Program

This monthly award recognizes Nevada veterans who contribute their time and energy to support veterans, their communities, and/or the military. The Veteran of the Month (VOM) award shines a bright light on the volunteer work veterans continue to do for the good of our state and nation. The Nevada Veterans Services Commission considers and reviews the nominations and makes recommendations to the Governor for final selection.



# 2023

## VETERAN OF THE MONTH RECIPIENTS

### JANUARY

**Richard "Tony" Marshall**  
*U.S. Air Force*

### FEBRUARY

**Lester Sherman**  
*U.S. Marine Corps*

### MARCH

**George Malone**  
*U.S. Marine Corps*

### APRIL

**Jerome Adams**  
*U.S. Air Force*

### MAY

**Susan Malone**  
*U.S. Marine Corps*

### JUNE

**Teresa Thurtle**  
*U.S. Air Force*

### JULY

**James Hanson**  
*U.S. Army*

### AUGUST

**William Grey**  
*U.S. Army*

### SEPTEMBER

**Steve R. Ranson**  
*Nevada National Guard*

### OCTOBER

**Richard (Rick) Kaufmann**  
*U.S. Coast Guard*

### NOVEMBER (TIE)

**Sean Laycox**  
*U.S. Army*  
*Nevada Army National Guard*

### Desmond Green

*U.S. Army*

### DECEMBER

**Marlene Merck**  
*U.S. Air Force*



VOM David Arroues among those recognized during VAMDAL Ceremony



VOM Steve Ranson among those recognized in Carson City with Lt. Gov. Stavros Anthony



VOM Ronald Peters among those recognized during Veterans Day Ceremony

For VOM nominations, visit:

<https://veterans.nv.gov/benefits-and-services/veteran-of-the-month-program>

# HONORING NEVADA'S VETERANS

## Veteran Supporter of the Month Program

This monthly award recognizes groups, organizations, and non-military individuals who volunteer in support and in service to our veterans, active military members, and their families. The Nevada Veterans Services Commission considers and reviews the nominations and makes recommendations to the Governor for final selection.



VSM recipients Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 989 honored in Carson City



YSVA recipient A'Laya Washington honored during VAMDAL



VSM recipient Walker Furniture, Larry Alterwitz honored during Veterans Day Ceremony, Las Vegas

## 2023 VETERAN SUPPORTER OF THE MONTH RECIPIENTS

### **JANUARY - Nancy Grey**

Volunteers and provides exceptional support for the Veterans Guest House in Reno.

### **FEBRUARY - Women Veterans of Nevada**

Supports women of all branches, eras of military service, active and inactive, guard, reserve, and active duty through a variety of events.

### **MARCH - Tom Zogorski**

Volunteer and board member of Welcome All Veterans Everywhere (WAVE).

### **APRIL - Mark Gorodetzer**

Supporters and volunteers in programs involving suicide prevention, AARP Ambassador Program, and Patriot Employer Program.

### **JUNE - 372 Training Squadron/Detachment 13 Nellis AFB**

Provides amazing support at the Southern Nevada State Veterans Home.

**ADD NO VSM WAS SELECTED FOR THE MONTHS OF MAY, JULY, AUGUST 2023**

# HONORING NEVADA'S VETERANS

## 2023 VETERAN SUPPORTER OF THE MONTH RECIPIENTS... (CONTINUED)

**SEPTEMBER - Tina Drakulich**

Oversees David J. Drakulich Foundation for Freedom of Expression which supports healing and health of veterans through art.

**OCTOBER - Amanda Schnaible, Florancia Rivera, Walmart (Store 2402) Claims Dept.**

Support in obtaining donations from Walmart for holiday/season related items to provide to VFW Post 2350 in Elko for distribution to area hospitals and homeless organizations.

**NOVEMBER - Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 989**

Provides support for numerous activities at the Northern Nevada State Veterans Home and other events to support Vietnam War and other veterans.

**DECEMBER - Walker Furniture/Larry Alterwitz** - Provides specialty furniture to disabled veterans to ensure veterans remain independent as well as discounts to veterans as a standard business practice.

For VSM nominations, visit <https://veterans.nv.gov/benefits-and-services/veteran-supporter-of-the-month>



YSVA recipient Abigail Panariso honored in Las Vegas

## YOUTH SERVING VETERANS AWARD PROGRAM

This award recognizes the volunteer work of a young Nevadan or group of young Nevadans who contribute time, energy, and effort in support of veterans, military members or families of veterans and military members. The Nevada Veterans Services Commission considers and reviews the nominations and makes recommendations to the Governor for selection.

The Youth Serving Veterans Award (YSVA) recipients are selected quarterly.

## *Congratulations!* 2023 YOUTH SERVING VETERANS AWARD RECIPIENTS

### A'Laya Washington

Outstanding volunteer for several veteran service organizations and her church. Also participates in a local youth football program.

### Abigail Panariso

Outstanding volunteer involved in numerous volunteer projects and activities.

For YSVA nominations, visit <https://veterans.nv.gov/serving-veterans-youth-award-recognition/>





U.S. Flag at end of driveway at SNVMC

## AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

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

## NEVADA'S STATE VETERANS MEMORIAL CEMETERIES

### Key Information

- Serves eligible veterans, their spouse, legally registered domestic partner, dependents, and Gold Star Parents
- No cost for veterans
- Cost for eligible spouse, legally registered domestic partner, dependents, and Gold Star Parents is \$450 (*Prices are subject to change*)
- Pre-Registration available, no fees required
- Pre-registration may be done by visiting either cemetery or filling out the online Cemetery Registration Form at: <https://veterans.nv.gov/online-cemetery-registration-form>

## SERVICES OFFERED

- Interment Site
- Cremation In-Ground
- Casket In-Ground
- Cremation Columbarium
- Opening/Closing Graves
- Markers and Niche Covers
- Assist with Determining Eligibility
- Committal Services
- Military Honor Service
- Perpetual Care
- Grave Locator Services

# 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.

Entrance to SNVMC



### MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONIES

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

Memorial Day Flags at SNVMC



### WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

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

Wreaths Across America at SNVMC

### MISSING IN NEVADA CEREMONIES

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

### SPECIAL FORCES CEREMONY

Held annually on the Sunday before Memorial Day at the SNVMC only.

### VETERANS DAY CEREMONY

Held annually on November 11 at the Nevada State Veterans Memorial in Las Vegas.

## 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 every other month beginning with January, on the fourth Thursday of the month (except in November, when it's held on the 3rd Thursday) 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.

## 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!**

# SOUTHERN NEVADA VETERANS MEMORIAL CEMETERY (SNVMC)

The SNVMC remains the second busiest state veterans' cemetery in the nation with 2,105 interments in 2023. Since opening in 1990, the SNVMC has performed 53,294 interments of eligible veterans and family members.

## SNVMC INTERMENT SERVICES 2023

<b>1,377</b>	<b>728</b>	<b>2,105</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>17</b>
VETERANS	DEPENDENTS/SPOUSES	TOTAL	TOTAL ACRES	TOTAL ACRES DEVELOPED	STAFF SIZE

## SNVMC ANNUAL NUMBER OF INTERMENT SERVICES

SFY 23	<b>2,105</b>	SFY 22	<b>2,344</b>	SFY 21	<b>2,322</b>
SFY 20	<b>1,800</b>	SFY 19	<b>2,034</b>	SFY 18	<b>2,096</b>

### SNVMC Expansion Now Complete

On January 25, 2023, a Groundbreaking Ceremony was held to kick off a 35-acre expansion of the SNVMC. The expanded area opened to the public on November 30, 2023. The expansion includes four in-ground cremation sections (5,432 plots), eight columbarium walls (5,740 niches), two roundabouts, roads, and sidewalks. This expansion enables the cemetery to continue to meet demand for 8 additional years.



Groundbreaking Ceremony for expansion project at SNVMC



### MAKE A DONATION!

Visit [veterans.nv.gov/donate](https://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 13,554 veterans and spouses.

Completed expansion project at NNVMC

## NNVMC INTERMENT SERVICES SFY23

424	153	577	44	21	5
VETERANS	DEPENDENTS/SPOUSES	TOTAL	TOTAL ACRES	TOTAL ACRES DEVELOPED	STAFF SIZE

## NNVMC ANNUAL NUMBER OF INTERMENT SERVICES

SFY 23	577	SFY 22	636	SFY 21	663
SFY 20	553	SFY 19	629	SFY 18	644

### NNVMC Expansion Now Complete

In November 2023, the NNVMC Columbarium Project provided an additional 3,580 wall niche sites, 806 double casket sites, and 757 in-ground cremation sites. This expansion enables the cemetery to continue to meet demand for an additional 11 years.

## Benefits Division

# VETERANS ADVOCACY AND SUPPORT TEAM (VAST)

### Veterans Service Officers (VSOs)

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 - free of charge - for veterans, servicemembers, and their families to provide the following:

- 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

### VAST Team Sets New Monetary Award Record in SFY23

The Veterans Advocacy Support Team (VAST) generated veteran disability benefits in the amount of **\$275,178,477.00 in SFY 23**. The VAST team submitted **3,267 claims** to the VA in SFY 2023.

### VAST TEAM BY THE NUMBERS SFY23:

NUMBER OF PHONE CALLS: **13,825**

NUMBER OF EMAIL RESPONSES: **10,726**

NUMBER OF OFFICE VISITS: **4,102**

NEW NUMBER OF AWARDS: **1,452**

### CLAIMS OR OTHER SUPPORT ACTIONS FOR INCARCERATED VETERANS

(SFY23): 282

(SFY22): 270

### Ask a VSO in SFY22

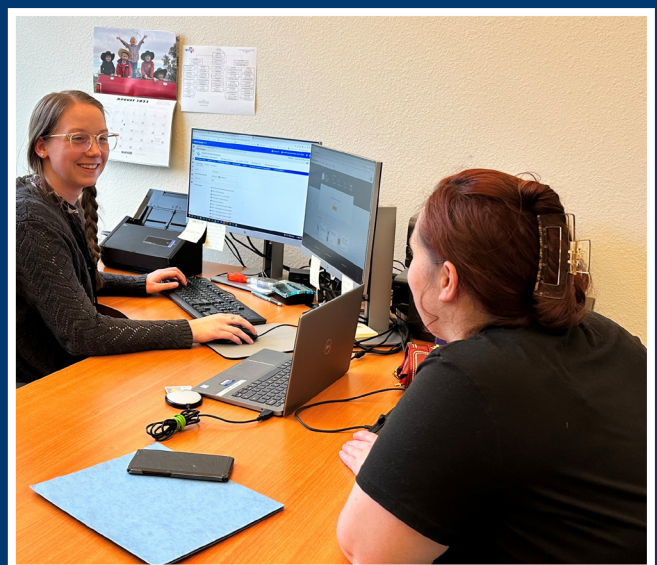
The NDVS website feature, "Ask a VSO" allows anyone to email a question to a VSO and receive a response within 24 to 48 hours.

Number of VSO Inquiries (SFY23): **2,143**

Previous Year (SFY22): **977**



(L-R) VAST Supervisor Marie Holcomb with VSO Charlene Flemming at southern Nevada outreach event.



VSO II Training Officer Savannah Aseoche provides claims assistance.

To connect with a VSO, visit [veterans.nv.gov](https://veterans.nv.gov) and find a VSO near you under Benefits and Services.

# KEY VETERAN OUTREACH, PROGRAMS, & INITIATIVES



Women Veteran Conference attendees, Las Vegas

## Outreach to Veterans Across Nevada

The NDVS Community Outreach Program is an important component to connecting veterans, service members, and their families to earned benefits, resources, and programs. If you attended a big community event in 2023, chances are NDVS was also attending!

### KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS PROGRAM IN SFY23:

- ★ Events attended: **245**
- ★ Number of attendees at each event: **23,017**
- ★ Number of interactions: **5,040**
- ★ Number of claims/referrals from events: **749**

Outreach includes a focus on unique veteran populations which have specific needs. These programs include the Women Veterans Program, LGBTQ Veterans Program, Native American Veterans Program, Justice Reintegration Support Program, and the Veteran Employment and Education Program

## Women Veterans Program

Women remain America's fastest-growing demographic of veterans, according to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (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.



### Key highlights of this program:

2023 Women Veterans Conference - NDVS, in partnership with the Nevada National Guard hosted this conference in Las Vegas on March 10, 2023. The seating was at capacity with approximately 300 participants.

- The theme "Celebrating Women Who Tell Our Stories" included keynote speakers, retired Colonel Katherine "Kat" Miller, CMS Tabitha Gavia, and Palms Casino CEO Cynthia Kiser-Murphy.
- The next conference is set for March 9, 2024.



Women Veteran Conference, Las Vegas

## Benefits Division

# KEY VETERAN OUTREACH, PROGRAMS, & INITIATIVES

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

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

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



#### Key highlights of this program:

The LGBTQ+ Veterans Service Officer became a full-time position in 2023 following approval during the 82nd Session of the Nevada Legislature. This Veterans Service Officer joined NDVS in the Fall of 2023 and has been raising awareness, providing education as well as connecting veterans to earned benefits, resources, and services and discharge upgrades.

Veterans seeking more information or wishing to apply should contact a VSO by visiting [veterans.nv.gov](https://veterans.nv.gov), clicking Benefits and Service, and contacting a VSO nearest to them.



Native American Outreach at Reno Sparks Indian Colony



Veteran Court Graduation, Las Vegas

### Native American Veterans Program

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs notes, 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.

#### Key highlights of this program:

PACT Act and Toxic Exposure Awareness - NDVS partnered with Nevada Urban Indians and Reno Sparks Indian Colony to provide continuing education related to the Veterans Health Care Pocket Card initiative. The card provides information on available resources and also raises awareness about the unique healthcare needs of veterans who may have certain disabilities, diseases, and conditions that are directly related to their military service. Assess your Exposure Risk by taking the quiz here: <https://veterans.nv.gov/exposure-risk-questionnaire/>

**Suicide Prevention** - Partnerships were formed with four Tribal Communities. Each coalition consists of individuals to create a strategic plan for suicide prevention training and resources to prevent suicide among the tribal veterans' communities.

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.

# KEY VETERAN OUTREACH, PROGRAMS, & INITIATIVES

## 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 DD214.
- Apply for a discharge upgrade (if eligible) .
- Connection with a VSO.
- Connect to veterans service organizations and housing assistance through the VA, upon release.



### Key highlights of this program:

NDVS staff continued participating in graduation ceremonies for Nevada’s Veterans Treatment Courts to ensure graduates know how to access information or connect to earned benefits. Nevada’s Veterans’ Treatment Court 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.

### VETERAN INMATE POPULATION SFY 2023\*

<b>AIR FORCE: 70</b>
<b>COAST GUARD: 5</b>
<b>NAVY: 124</b>
<b>ARMY: 248</b>
<b>MARINE CORPS: 88</b>
<b>NATIONAL GUARD: 32</b>
<b>BRANCH UNKNOWN: 161</b>

### TOTAL VETERAN INMATE POPULATION FIVE YEAR TREND

<b>2023: 729</b>
<b>2022: 719</b>
<b>2021: 739</b>
<b>2020: 757</b>
<b>2019: 828</b>

\*Information provided by NDOC



# KEY VETERAN OUTREACH, PROGRAMS, & INITIATIVES

## Veteran Education and 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.



### Key highlights of this program:

The Education & Employment Officer became a full-time position in 2023 following approval during the 82nd Session of the Nevada Legislature. The Education & Employment Officer joined NDVS in the Fall of 2023 and has been conducting outreach to raise awareness, provide education, as well as connect veterans to earned benefits, resources, and services.

## VETERAN EMPLOYMENT FACTS

### \*VETERAN UNEMPLOYMENT - ANNUAL AVERAGE

\*Unemployment Rate for Veterans as of December 31, 2023



### NATIONAL VETERAN POVERTY STATUS:

<b>NEVADA</b> 7.7%	<b>NATION</b> 7.5%
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First Military Child Appreciation event in partnership with Horses4Heroes.

### VETERAN LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE

<b>NEVADA</b> 77%	<b>NATION</b> 77.1%
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### MEDIAN VETERAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME

<b>NEVADA</b> \$50,795	<b>NATION</b> \$50,476
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(Past 12 months, 2022 Inflation Adjusted Dollars)

### VETERANS WITH SERVICE-CONNECTED RATING

<b>NEVADA</b> 31.6%	<b>NATION</b> 30.6%
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(Estimates per Veteran Population)

\*Source: DETR, Research Notes 2022 (American Community Survey 2022)

# KEY VETERAN OUTREACH, PROGRAMS, & INITIATIVES

## Patriot Employer Program

This program falls under the Employment and Education Program. It received the 2022 Abraham Lincoln Pillars of Excellence Award for excellence and innovation from 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



### Key highlights of this program:

There are 115 Patriot Employers participating in the program as of December 31, 2023. For the full list of companies visit: <https://veterans.nv.gov/patriot-employers>

### Veteran Education Opportunities

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 including:

- Rebel Veterans Organization, University of Nevada, Las Vegas
- Veterans and Military Center, University of Nevada, Reno
- Veterans Upward Bound Program, Truckee Meadows Community College
- Veterans Resource Centers, located at NSHE campuses across the state

*Check with your Nevada school of choice for on campus veteran/military organizations.*

## VETERAN EDUCATION FACTS

**\*Veterans with Some College or Associate's Degree:**

NEVADA	NATION
5,967	841,603

**\*Veterans with a Bachelor's degree or higher:**

NEVADA	NATION
5,967	841,603

**\*Veterans with High School Diploma or Equivalency:**

NEVADA	NATION
5,967	841,603

**\*Veterans with Less than High School Education:**

NEVADA	NATION
5,967	841,603

### 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

- NSHE Programs: **7**
- Non-NSHE Programs: **59**
- OJT/Apprenticeships: **28**
- Licensed Flight School: **2**

# KEY VETERAN OUTREACH, PROGRAMS, & INITIATIVES

## Nevada Transition Assistance Program (NVTAP)

NVTAP also falls under the NDVS Employment and Education Program. It provides information to transitioning service members, veterans, and their families to support success following U.S. military service back into civilian life. NVTAP also provides Nevada-specific information on the resources, services, and programs available to those who plan to call Nevada “home.”



(L-R) Education & Employment Officer Amanda Keher with Southern Outreach Officer Maria Mandaleni-Orozco



### Key highlights of this program include:

- NVTAP event held on February 12, 2023, at the Fallon Convention Center resulting in a 12% increase in community partner engagement.
- Additional resources were added to the NVTAP website to assist transitioning veterans to connect with their earned education benefits and employment opportunities.

NVTAP is available online by visiting [veterans.nv.gov](http://veterans.nv.gov). Click the Nevada Transition Assistance Program tab located in the blue navigation bar at the top of the NDVS webpage.

## Welcome Home Program

In addition to NVTAP, when a service member 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 2023, the team sent 1,937 “Welcome Home” letters and packets with approximately 24% sent to women veterans.

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



NDVS VSO Kacie Ortiz

# KEY VETERAN OUTREACH, PROGRAMS, & INITIATIVES

## Engaging Communities - Nevada Veterans Advocate Program

Nevada Veterans Advocates (NV Advocate) are trained volunteers who support our VSOs. This program is recognized by the VA as a national best practice that effectively connects veterans and their families to earned benefits. Free online and in-person NV Advocate training is provided by NDVS.

The 20-module NV Advocate course provides:

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



### Key highlights of this program:

NV Advocate Program Reaches Major Milestone - This program certified its 1,000th trained volunteer in August 2023! Congratulations to Carlos Cisneros who became the 1,000th Nevadan to undergo the NV Advocate course and receive his certificate. As of December 31, 2023, there are 1,072 certified NV Advocates.

NV Advocate Conferences in Reno and Las Vegas - NDVS hosted free two-day workshops to set participants on the path to becoming an NV Advocate. The first conference was held in Reno on April 15-16, 2023, at the Reno-Sparks Convention and Visitors Center resulting in 48 attendees and 7 exhibitors. Another NV Advocate Conference was held on October 7, 2023, at the Culinary Academy of Las Vegas resulting in 44 attendees and 9 exhibitors. These trained NV Advocate volunteers help connect veterans and military members to earned benefits, resources, and programs.

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>



Ruck to Remember, Memorial Day, NNVMC



Veteran Hometown Block Party, North Las Vegas

## Engaging Communities Veterans Community Councils

Veterans Community Councils (VCCs) consist of key community members in cities, towns, and communities across Nevada. These citizen panels:

- Prioritize local objectives
- Formalize coordination between service organizations at the community level

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 Interagency Council on Veterans Affairs (ICVA).

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

# ENGAGING COMMUNITIES VETERANS COMMUNITY COUNCILS

## STATEWIDE VETERANS COMMUNITY COUNCILS

### SOUTHERN NEVADA VETERANS COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT BOARD

Meets quarterly, times/locations vary

**Contact:** Nina Ridgeway

**Phone:** 702-281-3717

**Email:** [NinaR@sngoodwill.org](mailto:NinaR@sngoodwill.org)

### NORTH LAS VEGAS VETERANS COMMUNITY COMMISSION

Meets quarterly, (February, May, August, November) on the 4th Wednesday of the month at 5:00 p.m., at the North Las Vegas City Hall, Council Chambers

<https://www.cityofnorthlasvegas.com/our-city/meetings-and-agendas/veterans-community-commission>

### FAMILY STABILITY COUNCIL (WINNEMUCCA)

Meets monthly, fourth Tuesday, 1:00 p.m.  
National Guard Armory

**Contact:** Alaine Kliewer-Nye

**Phone:** [775-623-9003](tel:775-623-9003)

### HEALTHY COMMUNITIES COALITION (LYON AND STOREY COUNTIES)

Meets every other month, (Feb, Apr, Jun, Aug, Oct, Dec) on the second Thursday at 9:00 a.m., Silver Springs Community Center

**Contact:** Quest Lakes

**Phone:** 775-246-7550

**Email:** [Quest@theodata.com](mailto:Quest@theodata.com)

**Web:** [www.healthycomm.org](http://www.healthycomm.org)

### CHURCHILL COMMUNITY COALITION (FALLON)

Meets quarterly, second Tuesday, 11:00 a.m., Fallon Convention Center

**Contact:** Holly Meador

**Email:** [sscoordinator@churchillcounty.org](mailto:sscoordinator@churchillcounty.org)

## AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

### ★ NEVADA'S TWO STATE VETERANS HOMES

### ★ VETERAN HEALTHCARE PROGRAMS & INITIATIVES

- Healthcare Champions Program (Exposure Risk Education)
- Veterans in Care Program
- Bravo-Zulu Military Culture Training Program
- Military Sexual Trauma Program
- Parkinson Disease Support & Education Program
- Veterans K-9 Corps Peer Support Program
- Caregiver Support Program
- Survivor Support Program
- Suicide Prevention Program



Veterans Day Parade at SNSVH



Golden Knights Foundation visit at SNSVH

## STATE VETERANS HOMES

### Key Information

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

### Veteran-Focused Care Makes Us Unique







One thing that sets us above all others is our understanding of the importance of military culture in providing care. That understanding leads to better healthcare outcomes for the residents we are honored to serve. In addition to physical care, our veterans home teams are also focused on the social and emotional needs of residents. That is 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.

Healthcare Services Division

# SOUTHERN NEVADA STATE VETERANS HOME

The Southern Nevada State Veterans Home (SNSVH) in Boulder City is an award-winning facility offering skilled nursing and rehabilitation services. The SNSVH has 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.

★★★★★ **SNSVH Maintained its 5-Star Quality Rating**  
 Highest rating awarded by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

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

## TOTAL NUMBER SERVED FY2023

<p><b>WHO WE SERVE</b></p> <p><b>185</b> Male</p> <p><b>13</b> Female</p> <p><b>31</b> Non-Veteran Spouse</p> <p><b>2,260</b> Total Since 8/12/2002 (male &amp; female)</p>	<p><b>SERVICE ERA</b></p> <p>WWII: <b>12</b></p> <p>Korea: <b>50</b></p> <p>Vietnam: <b>123</b></p> <p>Gulf War: <b>8</b></p> <p>Lebanon: <b>4</b></p> <p>Afghanistan: <b>1</b></p> <p>Desert Storm: <b>1</b></p> <p>Peacetime: <b>20</b></p> <p>Iraq: <b>0</b></p>	<p><b>OCCUPANCY</b></p> <p>2023 Admission Average: <b>6.25</b> per month</p> <p>2023 Discharge Average: <b>7</b> per month</p>
<p><b>Occupancy</b> <b>81.86%</b> per day average</p>	<p><b>U.S. MILITARY BRANCH</b></p> <p>Army: <b>87</b></p> <p>Marine Corps: <b>24</b></p> <p>Navy: <b>37</b></p> <p>Air Force: <b>49</b></p> <p>Coast Guard: <b>1</b></p>	

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

**Average Wait Time:**  
**VETERAN:** 2 weeks to 2 months  
**NON-VETERAN:** 2 months to 6 months. In both cases it could be more than 6 months if there are problems completing the application and providing the associated records.



Crombie Academy graduates, Class of 2023

## SNSVH Celebrates 21st Anniversary

In August 2002, SNSVH opened its doors. In the year 2023, the facility marked its 21st Anniversary with a special celebration held on August 22, 2023, with a joint mixer involving the Boulder City Chamber of Commerce.

### PFC David “Nick” Crombie Certified Nursing Assistant Training Academy

The Crombie Academy is housed within SNSVH and was established in 2021. The workforce development program 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 exam.
- Consists of a maximum of 15 students per class.
- Preference given to Gold Star Families, veterans, spouses of veterans, families of SNSVH team members, and Boulder City residents.



#### Congratulations Crombie Academy Graduates, Class of 2023

On February 2, 2023, a pinning ceremony was held for six Crombie Academy students who completed the program and graduated. Graduates who go on to pass the State of Nevada’s CNA Certification Exam are eligible for CNA job opportunities at the SNSVH.

Interested candidates may learn more about eligibility and where to apply by visiting:  
<https://veterans.nv.gov/new-certified-nursing-assistant-academy>

### SNSVH Renovations & Improvements

The SNSVH Capital Improvement Projects includes the remodel and addition authorization with federal funding totaling \$63,957,628. Bond funding for this project totals \$35,831,018.



# Healthcare Services Division







# NORTHERN NEVADA STATE VETERANS HOME

The Northern Nevada State Veterans Home (NNSVH) in Sparks opened in late 2019. It is uniquely designed to provide residents with the experience of a high-end resort that offers superior skilled nursing care and rehabilitation services.

### NNSVH offers a host of amenities including:

- Private room, bathroom, and shower
- Shared den, living room, kitchen with up to 16 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><b>96 BEDS</b></p>	 <p><b>24/7</b> Licensed skilled nursing care and rehabilitation services, seven days a week</p>	 <p><b>LONG-TERM CARE</b> Assistance with daily living, showering, dressing, meals, personal care</p>
 <p><b>SHORT-TERM CARE</b> Typically follows a hospital stay and may involve physical, occupational, and/or speech therapy, rehabilitation</p>	 <p><b>MEMORY CARE</b> Secure community for those with dementia, Alzheimer's, history of wandering</p>	 <p><b>COST FOR LONG-TERM CARE</b> VA subsidizes eligible veterans but not spouses. Medicaid is accepted. Medicaid certified beds are available for long-term care</p>

## TOTAL NUMBER SERVED FY2023

<p><b>WHO WE SERVE</b></p> <p><b>123 Male</b> (<i>Admissions were on hold for 5 months (Jan. 2023-May 2023) while flooring project was completed</i>)</p> <p><b>17 Female</b></p> <p><b>5 Non-Veteran Spouse</b></p> <p><b>447 Total Since August 2019</b> (<i>male &amp; female</i>)</p>	<p><b>SERVICE ERA</b></p> <p>WWII: <b>4</b></p> <p>Korea: <b>14</b></p> <p>Vietnam: <b>105</b></p> <p>Gulf War: <b>4</b></p> <p>Lebanon: <b>0</b></p> <p>Afghanistan: <b>0</b></p> <p>Desert Storm: <b>2</b></p> <p>Peacetime: <b>7</b></p> <p>Iraq: <b>0</b></p>	<p><b>OCCUPANCY</b></p> <p>2022 Admission Average: <b>7.8</b> per month</p> <p>2022 Discharge Average: <b>8.1</b> per month</p>
<p><b>Occupancy</b> <b>95%</b> per day average</p>	<p><b>U.S. MILITARY BRANCH</b></p> <p>Army: <b>58</b></p> <p>Marine Corps: <b>10</b></p> <p>Navy: <b>37</b></p> <p>Air Force: <b>23</b></p> <p>Coast Guard: <b>0</b></p>	

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

**Average Wait Time:**  
**VETERAN:** 1 week to 1 month    **NON-VETERAN:** 1 week to 1 month

# 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

## NNSVH Hosts Marine Corps 4th LAR Battalion Reunion

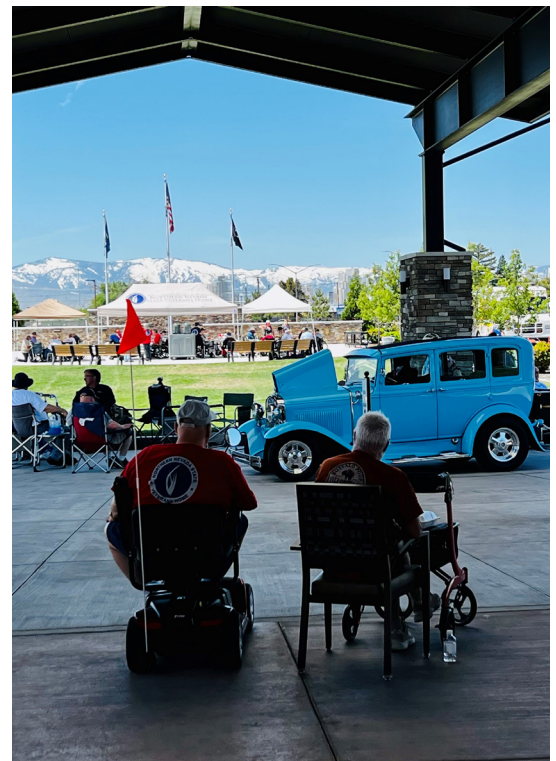
The Northern Nevada State Veterans Home (NNSVH) hosted the Marine 4th LAR Battalion Reunion for a fun, outdoor social during which the NNSVH Resident Council was presented with a guidon (battalion flag) and a \$500 donation.



Marine Corps 4th LAR Battalion Reunion at NNSVH



Nerf Sharpshooter Tourney at NNSVH



June Block Party at NNSVH

## New NNSVH Residents Presented with Quilts of Valor

Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) Chapter 989, along with the Comstock Quilters, presented Quilts of Valor and Vietnam commemorative pins to all the new residents, as well as hosted an afternoon presentation of Quilts and pins to veteran NNSVH volunteers, team members, family members, and community supporters.

## NNSVH Improvements

NNSVH Capital Improvement Projects includes a storage building installation totaling \$2,098,083. Firehorse Stained Glass installed the remaining stained-glass windows within the NNSVH's chapel.

# KEY VETERAN HEALTHCARE PROGRAMS & INITIATIVES

## Veteran Health and Wellness Programs

The Healthcare Services Division oversees several programs and initiatives aimed at addressing specific healthcare needs of veterans, military members, and their families.

### Healthcare Champions Program (Exposure Risk Education)

This program consists of three main elements:

- **Outreach** to Nevada’s healthcare professionals to inform and raise awareness about the unique needs of veterans’ care as veterans may be been exposed to certain hazards making them more at risk for certain illnesses or diseases.
- **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 through the Exposure Risk Questionnaire which is conducted in partnership with the Nevada Department of Health and Humans Services (DHHS). Take the Exposure Risk Questionnaire on the NDVS web-site at: <https://veterans.nv.gov/exposure-risk-questionnaire>



#### Key Highlights of this program:

The Healthcare Initiative Specialist became a full-time position in 2023 following approval during the 82nd Session of the Nevada Legislature. This specialist joined NDVS in the Fall of 2023 and has been conducting outreach to raise awareness, provide education as well as connect veterans to earned benefits, resources, services, and discharge upgrades.

A new partnership was formed between NDVS and the American Heart Association to further the Veterans Healthcare Champions Program. This program includes an educational and resource guide, “Veterans Health Care Pocket Card,” to be provided to care providers outside the VA. After receiving language and other updates, the card underwent a second round of printing for continued distribution.

New partnerships were formed between NDVS, Nevada Urban Indians, and the Reno Sparks Indian Colony for continued education related to the distribution of the Veterans Health Care Pocket Card (Exposure Risk Education). The goal of providing education about presumptive conditions, local resources, and federal benefits is to increase the quality of life for Native American veterans in Nevada.

Using data compiled from the Exposure Risk Questionnaire, DHHS releases the Veterans Health Survey<sup>1</sup> 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 source for Nevada veterans to learn about exposure risks and to take the Exposure Risk Questionnaire.
- 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 Top 10 service-connected conditions identified by survey participants were sleep disturbances, anxiety, joint pain, prostate cancer, heart disease, irritable bowel syndrome, lung cancer, diabetes, gastrointestinal symptoms, and kidney cancer.
- The majority of surveyed veterans are receiving health care or benefits from the VA.

<sup>1</sup>Office of Analytics. (March 2023). Veteran Health Survey. Nevada Department of Health and Human Services Division of Public and Behavioral Health.

## Healthcare Division

# 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 Nevada State Veterans' Homes.

VIC has three specific elements:

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



### Key highlights of the program:

In 2023, NDVS hosted 5 VIC ceremonies with approximately 265 veterans being recognized and given the opportunity to connect with a VSO. For more information or to schedule a VIC ceremony, contact [pio.ndvs@veterans.nv.gov](mailto:pio.ndvs@veterans.nv.gov).

## 102-Year-Old Tuskegee Airman Among Those Honored in a 2023 VIC Ceremony

Lt. Col. Lester McCants, who trained with the First Tuskegee Airmen, was among those honored for their service on Wednesday, March 29, 2023, by the Nevada Department of Veterans Services (NDVS). The ceremony took place at Prestige Assisted Living at Mira Loma in Henderson.

More than 40 veterans and spouses were recognized at the ceremony. American Legion Spirit of Freedom Post 76 was in attendance to present the colors and assist in awarding the Nevada Heroes Pin.



Photo of Tuskegee Airman McCants in uniform | Tuskegee Airman Lt. Col. Lester McCants honored in VIC Ceremony

## Healthcare Division

# VETERAN HEALTHCARE PROGRAMS & INITIATIVES

### 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 the 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 the Nevada State Board of Nursing, Board of Examiners for Long-Term Care, and Board of Social Workers.

Participants interested in upcoming training dates of BZ training may check the Sanford Center for Aging at <https://med.unr.edu>

### 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. In 2016, NDVS created an MST Program to help address the impacts of MST. The MST Program consists of three components:

- Providing information to health care providers 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.

#### Key highlights of this program:

NDVS hosted a six-part education series in partnership with the Perry Foundation. The highly attended series kicked off on January 24, 2023, focusing on suicide prevention. The focus shifted specifically to MST on February 23, March 30, and April 20, 2023. These sessions provided training to health care providers and survivors, with high attendance. NDVS partners with the Perry Foundation offering half-day workshops two times a year. Look for MST workshops to continue in 2023.

### Parkinson Disease Support & Education Program

Since Parkinson Disease has been added to the list of presumptive conditions for Agent Orange, NDVS continues to partner with organizations that provide awareness, education, and support surrounding this illness. In 2023, NDVS continued its partnership with the Perry Foundation to offer education to health care providers. NDVS also formed partnerships with the Desert Southwest Chapter of the Alzheimer’s Association and the Parkinson Support Center of Northern Nevada to further connections for veterans and their families living with Parkinsons Disease.



Healthcare Initiative Specialist Zaconia Turner with American Legion Post 76 Color Guard

# VETERAN HEALTHCARE PROGRAMS & INITIATIVES

## 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, 138 veterans and family members of veterans have participated. This program is funded through a grant from NDVS and is a collaboration between the department and the Truckee Meadows Dog Training Club, along with K-9 Corps Director, Carol Chase-Healy. If you know of a veteran who may be interested, contact Kat Miller at [Katherine.miller1@hotmail.com](mailto:Katherine.miller1@hotmail.com) for an application.



Veterans K9 Corps "student"

## Caregiver Support Program

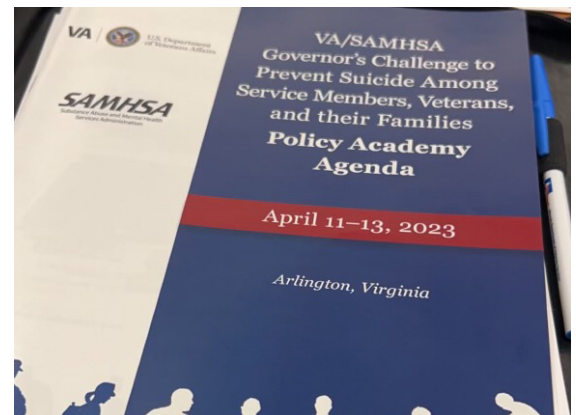
NDVS routinely provides veterans and caregivers of veterans with information about resources, programs, events, training opportunities as well as other helpful information such as community partners and organizations to support them. In the second quarter of SFY23, the Healthcare Program Manager attended a statewide Strategic Planning Session for the Nevada Lifespan Respite Care Coalition which identified key initiatives for the coalition through 2023. NDVS advocated for caregivers of veterans and veterans living with a disability highlighting how the VA, community partners, and the coalition can work together to close respite care gaps in Nevada.

Visit <https://veterans.nv.gov/benefits-and-services/caregivers-guide/> for more information on the Caregiver Support Program.

## 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 our Veterans Service Offices who help survivors find answers to questions about burial benefits, financial compensation, and health care.

Visit <https://veterans.nv.gov/benefits-and-services/survivor-guide> for more information on the Survivor Support Program.



NDVS attends Policy Academy sponsored by SAMSHA

## Caregiver and Survivor Resources

The Caregivers & Survivors Guide is an excellent resource for those 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](https://veterans.nv.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/14x8.5_Caregiver-Brochure_Dbl-ParallelFoldFinal.pdf)



Nevada's team building project at Policy Academy

# VETERAN HEALTHCARE PROGRAMS & INITIATIVES

## Suicide Prevention Program

The Suicide Prevention Program works directly with Nevada’s veterans, active, guard, and reserve service members as well as families, caregivers, survivors, and community stakeholders to connect individuals with suicide prevention initiatives, resources, and direct services.

### NDVS Role in Suicide Prevention Includes:

- Developing and implementing suicide prevention strategies to identify service members, 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 approach to ending veteran suicide.



### Key highlights of the program:

NDVS hosted a Suicide Prevention Educational Session, in partnership by the Perry Foundation, on January 24, 2023. The virtual session was targeted at health care professionals. It provided CEU's for long-term care administrators, social workers, and nurses.

NDVS formed a partnership with the Nevada Urban Indians and the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony to focus on lethal means safety and suicide prevention training for tribal health care providers, service members, veterans, and their families.

NDVS partnered with Western Nevada Community College, Great Basin University, Truckee Meadows Community College, University of Nevada in Reno, and Veterans Upward Bound at Truckee Meadows Community College to implement connectedness programs for younger veterans.

## 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:

- Develop and implement suicide prevention strategies to identify service members, veterans, and their families who may be at risk and to promote connectedness.
- Bring together leaders from government agencies, active guard, and reserve military organizations, healthcare organizations, businesses, nonprofits, veterans’ organizations, clergy, and others to end veteran suicide.
- Help leaders in communities and governmental agencies to work together to prevent suicide.
- Develop and work with interagency military and civilian leadership groups to better understand the issue and work together to develop strategic plans for implementing at the local level.



Suicide Prevention Specialist Aimee Green addresses attendees at SAMHSA hosted event in Washington D.C

**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, Mesquite, and Winnemucca.

For more information on suicide prevention visit <https://veterans.nv.gov/benefits-and-services/health-and-wellness>

# Administrative Support Services OVERVIEW

## AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

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

## 2023 FINANCIAL REVIEW EXPENDITURES

### TOTAL HEALTHCARE EXPENDITURES \$36,221,870

Southern Nevada State Veterans Home	\$23,633,205
Northern Nevada State Veterans Home	\$12,587,266
Veterans-in-Care Program	\$1,399

### TOTAL PROGRAMS AND SERVICES EXPENDITURES \$7,922,820

Veteran Advocacy	\$1,778,614
Cemeteries	\$4,769,513
Special Programs and Services	\$1,290,328
Nonprofit Support	\$84,365

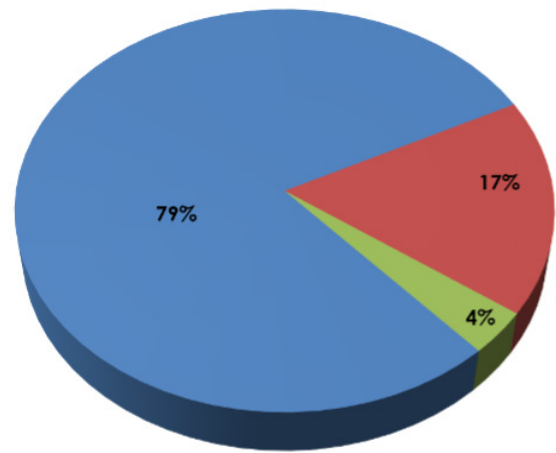
### TOTAL COMMUNITY OUTREACH EXPENDITURES \$173,391

Nevada Advocate Program	\$79,342
Veterans Information System	\$94,049

### TOTAL ADMINISTRATION \$1,595,034

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

### DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS SERVICES FY23 EXPENDITURES BY PROGRAM



- Healthcare - \$36,221,870
- Programs and Services - \$7,922,820
- Administration - \$173,391

#### EXPENDITURES\*\*

Healthcare	\$36,221,870
Programs and Services	\$7,922,820
Community Outreach	\$173,391
Administration	\$1,595,034
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$45,913,116</b>

\*\*Totals Rounded Up & Community Outreach Added



# Administrative Support Services

## 2023 FINANCIAL REVIEW REVENUES

### GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS \$2,660,293

<b>HEALTHCARE</b>	<b>\$296,403</b>
Northern Nevada State Veterans Home	\$296,403
<b>PROGRAMS AND SERVICES</b>	<b>\$2,363,890</b>
Veterans Advocacy	\$1,856,128
Cemeteries	\$507,762

### FEDERAL FUNDS \$36,771,880

<b>HEALTHCARE</b>	<b>\$31,589,162</b>
Northern Nevada State Veterans Home	\$11,565,878
Southern Nevada State Veterans Home	\$20,023,283
<b>PROGRAMS AND SERVICES</b>	<b>\$5,182,719</b>
Cemeteries	\$1,856,128
Special Programs and Services	\$3,326,591

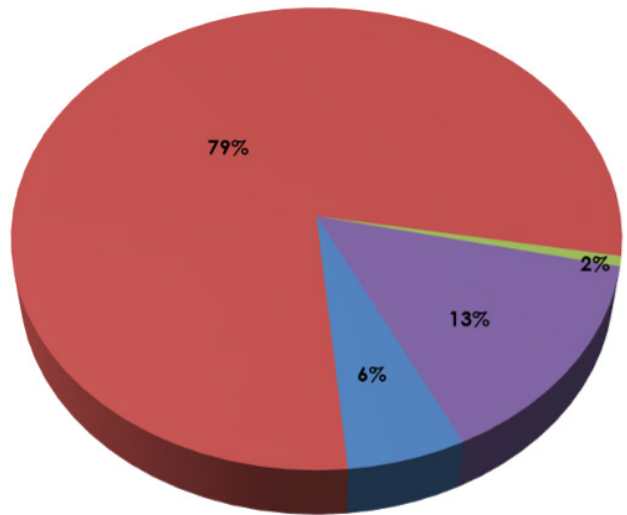
### DONATIONS \$325,792

<b>HEALTHCARE</b>	<b>\$21,954</b>
Southern Nevada State Veterans Home	\$10,460
Northern Nevada State Veterans Home	\$11,494
<b>PROGRAMS AND SERVICES</b>	<b>\$303,837</b>
Cemeteries	\$172,323
Special Programs and Services	\$131,514

### OTHER REVENUE \$6,646,510

<b>HEALTHCARE</b>	<b>\$4,884,389</b>
Southern Nevada State Veterans Home	\$3,916,022
Northern Nevada State Veterans Home	\$968,367
<b>PROGRAMS AND SERVICES</b>	<b>\$1,762,121</b>
Cemeteries	\$10,317
Special Programs and Services	\$1,751,804

### DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS SERVICES FY23 REVENUE SOURCES



- General Fund - \$2,660,293
- Federal Funds - \$36,771,880
- Donations - \$325,792
- Other - \$6,646,510

#### REVENUES

General Fund	\$2,660,293
Federal Funds	\$36,771,880
Donations	\$325,792
Other	\$6,646,510

**Total Revenues** **\$46,404,475\*\***

\*\*Totals Rounded Up

# Administrative Support Services

## GRANT AWARDS HELPING VETERANS

### Rural Transportation

Rural Transportation grants are offered through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and Veterans Health Administration. The Highly Rural Transportation Grants (HRTG) offer free transportation to VA and non-VA health care providers and facilities in specific rural areas to eligible veterans.

- NDVS applied for and was awarded \$100,000 in SFY23.
- Funds were divided equally between the Elko County Transit District and the Nye Communities Coalition.

### Expansion at Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery (SNVMC)

In 2023, NDVS received grant funding of up to \$5,268,723 in Federal VA funds for expansion and other projects at the SNVMC. The project was completed in November 2023. The expansion included four in-ground cremation sections (5,432 plots), eight columbarium walls (5,740 niches), two roundabouts, roads, and sidewalks. This expansion enables the cemetery to continue to meet demand for 8 additional years.



Flag-In at SNVMC



Memorial Day at NNVMC

### Expansion at Northern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery (NNVMC)

In 2023, NDVS received a grant funding award of \$5,182,845 in Federal VA funding for expansion and other projects at the NNVMC. The project was completed in August 2023. The funding added 3,580 wall niche sites, 806 double casket sites, and 757 in ground cremation sites. This expansion enables the cemetery to continue to meet demand for an additional 11 years.

Additionally, the State set aside \$297,774 to renovate the cemetery's main pavilion structure. The pavilion provides shelter for cemetery ceremonies. In 2023, construction on the pavilion renovation got underway.

# Administrative Support Services

## GRANT AWARDS HELPING VETERANS

### Information Technology Operations

Information Technology (IT) Operations plays an important role in overseeing and supporting the wide-ranging technological needs of the department.

## 2023 ACCOMPLISHMENT HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

### Veteran Information System (VIS) Scanning Project

In February, the VIS team completed scanning paper DD214s to convert the documents stored in the State of Nevada system into electronic copies. Since the project started, 94,259 have been scanned!

The second phase of this project is now underway. Approximately 36,000 paper DD214s that were generated by the VAST team are being scanned. So far, of those documents, 14,498 have been scanned.

The Nevada National Guard (Air Force and Army) has agreed to allow the VIS team to scan and upload the NGB 22 Forms. There are 559 boxes of forms located at the Nevada State Archive alone. It is estimated it will take 10 years to complete this project.



### “Find Your Loved One” (FYLO) Grave Locator GPS/GIS Mapping Project

This project at the Northern and Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemeteries will enable visitors to locate loved ones using a cell phone. Phase 1 of this project is complete. It is anticipated Phase 2 will launch in 2024.

Flag-In at NNVMC



### Technology Upgrades

New, advanced phone systems were installed at the State Veterans Homes and Memorial Cemeteries allowing for better video conferencing and other features.

SNSVH in Boulder City

# Veterans and the Nevada Legislature

## OVERVIEW



Nevada State Legislative Building in Carson City

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

### **United Veterans Legislative Council (UVLC)**

The UVLC is a nonpartisan, politically neutral organization that serves as a “voice” for veterans, military members, and their families. Every veterans’ organization in Nevada is represented. Leadership is elected among UVLC members every two years. Currently, U.S. Army veteran Andy LePeilbet is serving as the Chairman.

The UVLC 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.**

For more information on the UVLC visit: <https://veterans.nv.gov/about-the-united-veterans-legislative-council>

### **Nevada Veterans Legislative Symposia and Summit**

The symposia and summit provide a process for the Nevada veterans’ community to learn about and engage in Nevada’s legislative process as well as identify and prioritize legislative concerns. Both the symposia and summit are held in partnership with the UVLC.

The Nevada Veterans Legislative Summit is held during the years the Nevada Legislature is in session. The most recent summit was held in Las Vegas on January 14, 2023, with 67 attendees and in Reno on January 21, 2023, with 78 attendees.

# Veterans and the Nevada Legislature

## OVERVIEW

### 82nd Legislative Session Bill Overview

There were 29 bill draft requests (BDRs) supporting veterans, military, and their families that were assigned a bill. Of those, 18 important veterans' bills were signed into law by Governor Lombardo and one Senate Joint Resolution was enrolled and sent to the Secretary of State, comprising 66 percent of bills considered favorably. 10 bills failed by the Legislative deadline. Four of the five state-wide themes identified in the 2022 Legislative Symposia were addressed through 18 bills that the Governor signed, or through the passage of Governor Lombardo's SFY 24-25 Budget as shown below.

Additionally, funding was approved in the Governor's CIP Budget to remodel the Southern Nevada State Veterans Home, for planning the North Las Vegas State Veterans Home, and for other projects. Based on the Governor's budget requests, the Legislature approved two full-time grounds maintenance workers, two full-time Veteran Service Officers, Suicide Prevention Specialist, Healthcare Initiative Specialist, Education & Employment Officer, and a Northern Outreach Officer. The Governor's recommended budget was also approved with funding for the Adopt a Vet Dental Program, the number one priority identified in the March 2022, Nevada Veterans Legislative Symposia.



Governor Lombardo signs proclamation honoring the late UVLC Chairman, Tony Yarbrough

#### ★ THEME 1:

Improve medical and mental health care programs: AB 7, AB 108, AB311, AJR 1, SB 178, SB 218, SB 298.

#### ★ THEME 2:

Require service providers to implement the, "Ask the Question" Program: No BDRs.

#### ★ THEME 3:

Honor and recognize veterans' service by reducing certain state fees, offering veterans preferences, and providing medical time off for veterans employed by the State of Nevada: AB 203, AB 260, AB 279, AB 295, AB 306, SB 50, SB 374.

#### ★ THEME 4:

Improve occupational licensure for veterans and military spouses: AB 158, SB 97, SB 175, SB 270, SB 399, SB 442.

#### ★ THEME 5:

Improve programing for veterans in/transitioning from justice system: AB 35.

# Veterans and the Nevada Legislature OVERVIEW

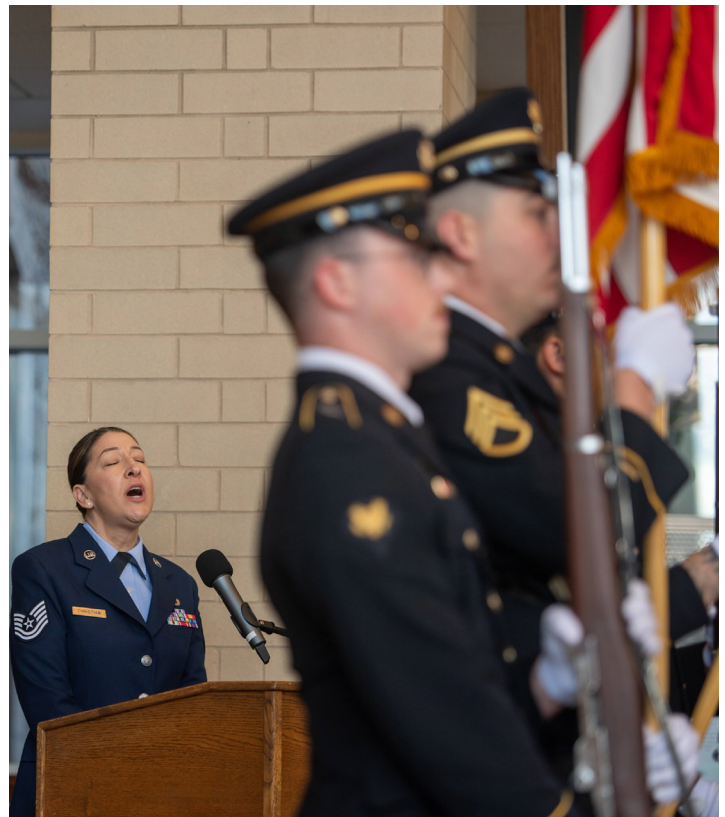


Veterans cheer during VAMDAL Opening Ceremony

## Veterans and Military Day at the Legislature (VAMDAL)

Veterans and Military Day at the Legislature (VAMDAL) is outlined in NRS 236.047 as a day of recognition for the contributions veterans have made to the prosperity of Nevada and the United States. VAMDAL was held in Carson City on March 15, 2023, and was jointly hosted by NDVS, the UVLC, and the Nevada National Guard.

During the VAMDAL Opening Ceremony the speakers included Governor Joe Lombardo, Senate Majority Leader Nicole Cannizzaro, and Assembly Speaker Steve Yeager. Additionally, Governor Lombardo signed a proclamation honoring the late UVLC Chairman Tony Yarbrough. The proclamation was received by Tony Yarbrough's son, Mark and his wife.

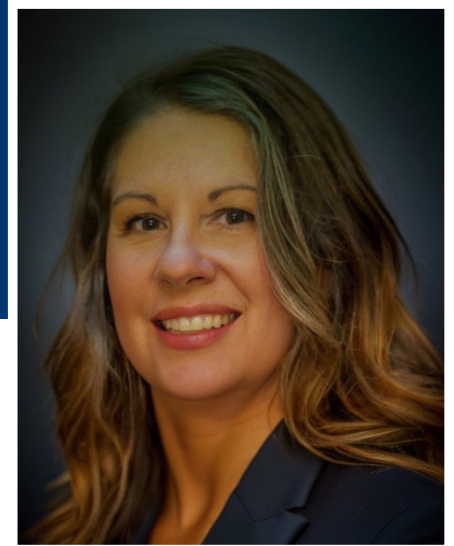


Veterans cheer during VAMDAL Opening Ceremony

**THE NEXT VAMDAL IS SET FOR MARCH 19, 2025.**

# THE NEXT HORIZON

**LISA MACIEL**  
NDVS INTERIM DIRECTOR



I'm so proud of the accomplishments made in 2023 by the NDVS team! It shows their passion and commitment. While I could write volumes about their drive and talent, the veterans we served in 2023 say it much better. The testimonials below are a small sampling of the comments made in our VSO Customer Satisfaction Survey. I'm proud to share a few of these remarks with you:

- **"I was extremely pleased with all aspects of the assistance received in filing my claim."**
- **"I'm just now exploring what benefits I may have and my VSO was very helpful in getting me started."**
- **"Timely and very helpful!"**
- **"Our VSO was AMAZING, COMPASSIONATE, CARING, AND FUNNY! He really knew his stuff. He really made us feel like he cared and made it such an easy process."**
- **"On the spot, my VSO typed out and filed a claim for me relative to what I told him about my enlistment and service in the USMC from 1953 to 1955 and submitted it to the VA. That was two or three months ago. Two days ago, the VA deposited a \$1,710 benefit check in my bank account for an injury that I received in Boot Camp in 1953. It still causes me a problem breathing."**
- **"THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU, the Nevada VSO OFFICE!"**

I'm honored to serve alongside the men and women who make up our NDVS team. I know together, we will be able to celebrate many more successes in 2024, thus ensuring we will continue to make a difference in the lives of the veterans, service members, and families we serve.

In closing, I look forward to the next horizon and I will always be grateful to all of you who continue to support our vital mission of "Serving Nevada's Heroes."

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lisa Maciel". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Lisa Maciel  
NDVS Interim Director

# Serving Nevada's Heroes Since 1943

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NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS SERVICES



Terri Hendry  
Communications Director



NDVS Annual Report SFY 2023 overseen by NDVS Communications Director, Terri Hendry. Designed by The Factory, Reno, NV. For more information contact: [hendryt@veterans.nv.gov](mailto:hendryt@veterans.nv.gov)



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