2025 ANNUAL REPORT

NDVS
Nevada Department of Veterans Services

NEVER ALONE
NEVER *Forgotten*

CONTACT INFORMATION

Veterans Service Officers (VSOs)

IN NORTHERN NEVADA
(775) 321-4880

IN SOUTHERN NEVADA
(702) 224-6025 OR 791-9000, EXT. 46025

LAS VEGAS
(702) 224-6025 or 791-9000, Ext. 46025
6900 N. Pecos Rd., Room #1C238, North Las Vegas, NV 89086
(Located inside the North Las Vegas VA Hospital)

HENDERSON
(702) 224-6025 or 791-9000, Ext. 46025
400 N. Stephanie St., Suite 180, Henderson, NV 89014
(Henderson Vet Center)

RENO
5460 Reno Corporate Dr., Suite 131, Reno, NV 89511
(Located in the VA's Reno Regional Office)

CARSON CITY
106 E Adams St., Suite 203, Carson City, NV 89706
(Nation's Finest Veteran Services)

ELKO
(775) 321-4880
1500 College Parkway, Elko, NV 89801
(Located in McMullen Hall, Room 114)

PAHRUMP
(702) 224-6025 or 791-9000, Ext. 46025
250 Highway 160, Suite 6, Pahrump, NV 89060
(Located inside Nye County Offices)

MESQUITE
(702) 224-6025 or 791-9000, Ext. 46025
840 East Hafen Lane, Mesquite, NV 89027
(Located inside Mesquite Vet Center)

WINNEMUCCA
(775) 321-4880
475 West Haskell, Suite 38, Winnemucca, NV 89445

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

NORTHERN NEVADA STATE VETERANS HOME

36 Battle Born Way
Sparks, NV 89431

Phone:
(775) 827-2955 (Main) (775) 418-5063 (Direct to VSO)

VSO at this location.

SOUTHERN NEVADA STATE VETERANS HOME

100 Veterans Memorial Drive
Boulder City, NV 89005

Phone:
(702) 332-6787 (Main) (702) 688-5516 (Direct to VSO)

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 – 4:30PM

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, 7AM – 3PM

No VSO at this location.

VFW and American Legion Veterans Stand Down in Laughlin.

NDVS Team and NNSVH residents attend 2025 Military Order of Purple Heart National Convention in Sparks.

Table of **Contents**

MESSAGE FROM DIRECTOR 5

IN MEMORY OF VSC CHAIRMAN MIKE MUSGROVE 6

NDVS OVERVIEW 7

- Vision, Who We Serve, Mission 7
- Organizational Chart 8
- The Heroes We Serve 9

KEY HIGHLIGHTS, ACCOMPLISHMENTS, AND PARTNERSHIPS 10

HONORING NEVADA'S VETERANS 13

- State Veterans Memorials 13
- NDVS Recognition Programs 14

NDVS BENEFITS DIVISION 15

OVERVIEW 15

STATE VETERANS MEMORIAL CEMETERIES 18

- Key Information 18
- Recurring Special Ceremonies 19
- Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery 20
- Northern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery 21

VETERANS ADVOCACY AND SUPPORT TEAM (VAST) 22

- Veterans Service Officers 22
- Welcome Home Program 23

VETERAN OUTREACH PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES 24

- New Programs and Partnerships 24
- Suicide Prevention Program 27
- Healthcare Champions Program 28
- Veteran Education and Employment Program 28
- Patriot Employer Program 29
- Nevada Transition Assistance Program 30
- Women Veterans Program 31

COVER PHOTOS: 1. Solemn salute at SNVMC ceremony for 41-year-old Navy veteran and former SNSVH resident. 2. Marine Corps 250th Birthday Celebration at SNSVH. 3. Ribbon cutting and grand opening celebration of NNSVH Art Garden. 4. Highly decorated Army veteran Andy LePeilbet named in Raiders' recognition, "Hero of the Game," at Allegiant Stadium, Sept. 15, 2025. 5. Residents enjoy gardening at NNSVH.

2025 Military Order of Purple Heart National Convention in Sparks.

NDVS Director Col. Mary Devine (Ret.) prepares in the green room to make remarks before the National DAV Conference in Las Vegas.

Table of **Contents**

LGBTQ+ Veterans Program 32
Justice Reintegration Support Program 32
NDVS-Hosted Roundtables 33
Military Connections 33
Veterans K-9 Corps Peer Support Program 33
Nevada Veterans Advocate Program 34
Veterans in Care Program 34

NDVS HEALTHCARE SERVICES DIVISION 35

OVERVIEW 35

STATE VETERANS HOMES 38

Key Information. 38
Southern Nevada State Veterans Home 39
Northern Nevada State Veterans Home. 41

HEALTHCARE PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES 43

Preventing and Reducing Opioid Use Disorder Programs . . 43
Healthcare Programs and Support Workshops. 44

NDVS ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT SERVICES. 49

OVERVIEW 49

EXPENDITURES 49

REVENUES 50

GRANT AWARDS 51

Highly Rural Transportation Grant 51
Adaptive Sports Programs. 51

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY OPERATIONS 52

Website Redesign 52
S. Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery Upgrades 52
Human Resources 52

VETERANS AND THE NEVADA LEGISLATURE 53

OVERVIEW 53

United Veterans Legislative Council 53
Veterans and Military Day at the Legislature 54

LOOKING AHEAD 55

COVER PHOTOS: 1. Solemn salute at SNVMC ceremony for 41-year-old Navy veteran and former SNSVH resident. 2. Marine Corps 250th Birthday Celebration at SNSVH. 3. Ribbon cutting and grand opening celebration of NNSVH Art Garden. 4. Highly decorated Army veteran Andy LePeilbet named in Raiders' recognition, "Hero of the Game," at Allegiant Stadium, Sept. 15, 2025. 5. Residents enjoy gardening at NNSVH.

MESSAGE FROM THE

Director

COL. MARY DEVINE (RET.)

NDVS DIRECTOR

Dear Veterans, Families, and Friends,

It is my honor to present the Nevada Department of Veterans Services' (NDVS) Annual Report.

This year, our theme, No Veteran Left Behind, guided by the words Never Alone, Never Forgotten, reflects our unwavering commitment to serve every veteran and their loved ones, especially those facing the greatest challenges.

Over the past year, the Department's priorities have focused on suicide prevention and awareness, supporting veterans' recovery in opioid addiction, strengthening data-driven decision-making, and ensuring we have the personnel necessary to effectively serve Nevada's veteran community. This report highlights the many accomplishments and continued progress made in support of our mission.

Across Nevada, many veterans continue to face homelessness, substance use challenges, or thoughts of suicide. NDVS is addressing these challenges by expanding outreach, strengthening partnerships, and enhancing programs designed to ensure no veteran is overlooked and no one is left without support.

We are proud to share that, for the first time in many years, NDVS is fully staffed with 21 Veterans Service Officers statewide.

This year brought profound loss to the Nevada veteran community with the passing of Nevada Veterans Services Commission Chairman Mike Musgrove.

Through connection to benefits, access to care, and continued honoring of service and sacrifice, NDVS remains committed to standing beside Nevada's veterans and their families every step of the way.

We are deeply grateful for your continued support.

With deepest gratitude,

Col. Mary Devine (Retired Nevada National Guard)
Director
Nevada Department of Veterans Services

In Memory of Veterans Services Commission Chairman

IN LOVING
MEMORY

Nevada Veterans Services Commission Chairman Mike Musgrove

The Nevada Department of Veterans Services honors the life and service of Commission Chairman Mike Musgrove. His leadership and dedication to Nevada veterans left a lasting impact on the veteran's community statewide. His passing is a profound loss to all who knew Him or worked alongside him.

Chairman Musgrove's service extended well beyond his military career. His guidance, integrity, and unwavering advocacy strengthened programs and services supporting those who served our nation. He devoted his time, leadership, and experience to improving the lives of veterans and their families across the state.

Because of his vision and commitment, Nevada saw continued VA expansion and engagement in rural Nevada, particularly in the Elko community to include the new VA health clinic and the National Elko Cemetery.

His service, vision, and dedication to those who served will continue to guide the NDVS mission. His legacy will endure in the lives of the veterans and families he championed.

We respectfully recognize his contributions and honor his legacy of service.

NDVS OVERVIEW

Who We Are

Vision

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

Who We Serve

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

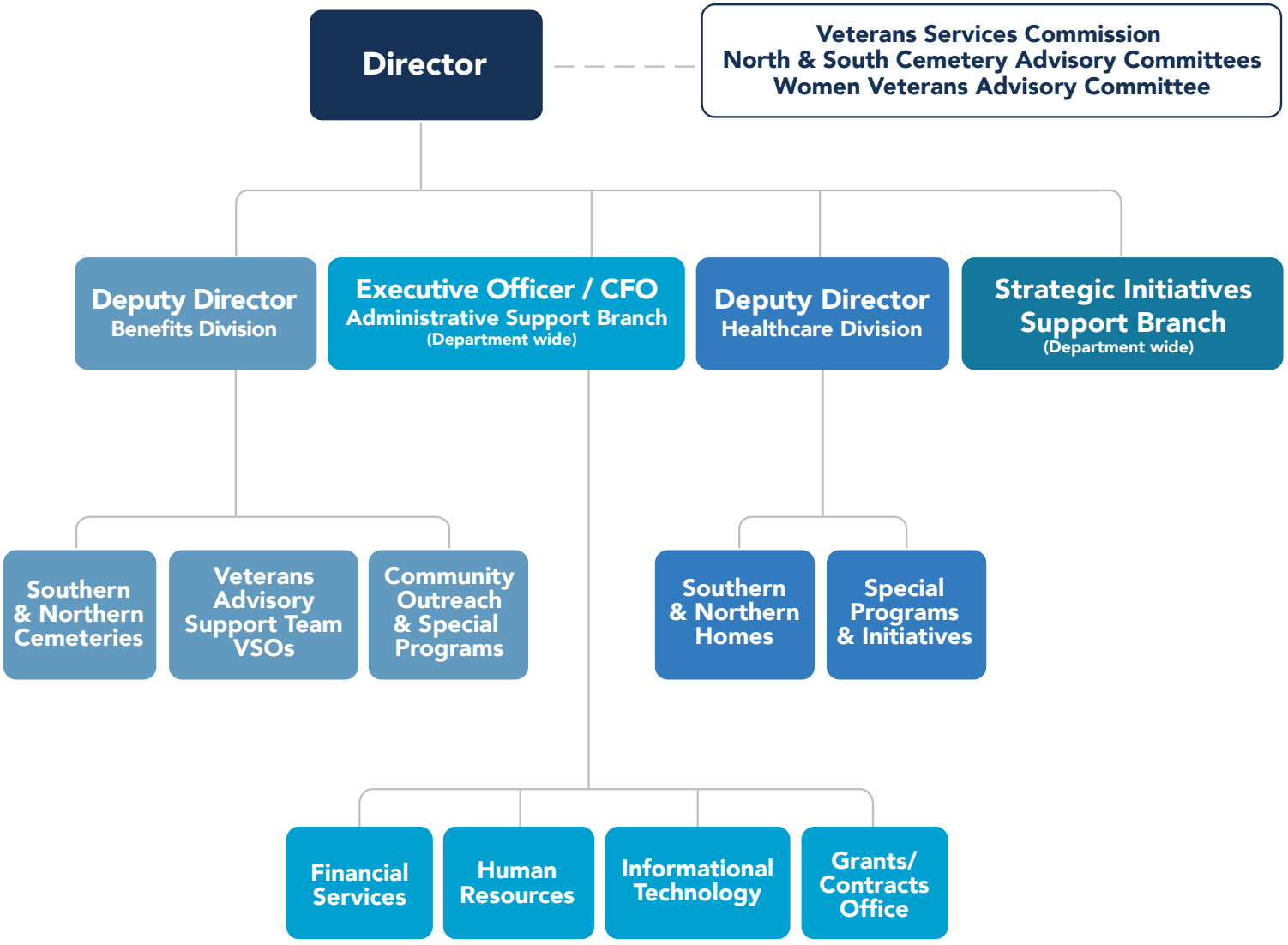
We will always remember, never forget our POW/MIAs.

Mission

To serve Nevada veterans by honoring their remarkable legacy and by connecting them to earned benefits, resources, and services through our seven major efforts:

- Professionally assist veterans and their families in obtaining 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.

Organizational Chart



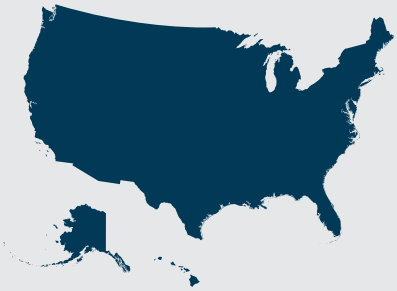
The Heroes We Serve

Number of Veterans[1]

NEVADA:

217,000+

PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL POPULATION **7%**



NATION:

17-18 million

PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL POPULATION **6%**

Veterans and Military Statewide[2]

Army: 164

Navy: 1,023

Marine Corps: 27

Air Force: 10,483

Space Force: 39

Coast Guard: 5

Active Total: 11,741

Army National Guard: 3,274

Air National Guard: 1,138

Army Reserve: 1,266

Navy Reserve: 671

USMC Reserve: 182

Air Force Reserve: 1,169

Coast Guard Reserve: 0

Total NG/Reserve: 7,700

Nevada Veterans Receiving Benefits by Period of Service[3,4]

Gulf War and GWOT: 47,963

Peacetime Era: 10,941

World War II: 55

Korean Conflict: 429

Vietnam Era: 16,265

Total: 75,653

Women Veterans[4]

NEVADA	NATION
24,433	2,100,000
PERCENTAGE OF VETERANS	
12%	12%

65 and Over[3]

NEVADA	NATION
97,396	8,100,000
PERCENTAGE OF VETERANS	
47%	46%

1. U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates, 2020-2024.
2. U.S. Department of Defense Manpower Data Center, Nevada National Guard administrative data.
3. U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Receiving Compensation and Service-Connected Benefits (Y326), FY2023.
4. U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, VetPop2024, Gender Distribution by State.

2025 NDVS Key Highlights, Accomplishments and Partnerships

No Veteran Left Behind - Never Alone, Never Forgotten

NDVS expanded its footprint to reach and support Nevada veterans and their families through new and enhanced programs and initiatives.

Suicide Prevention and Awareness

In addition to spearheading the Mayor's and Governor's Challenge Teams, this NDVS priority program supported a Veterans Retreat in Elko on July 18-20, 2025. On September 20, 2025, NDVS hosted a Color Run and Resource Fair at Reno High School in partnership with the Nevada National Guard, Northern Nevada Veteran Block Party, along with the Banyan and New Dawn Treatment Centers.

Roundtables and Rural Outreach

NDVS hosted a roundtable series in Las Vegas, Pahrump, and Mesquite in May. In October, NDVS hosted a veteran community discussion in Laughlin and a healthcare-focused roundtable in North Las Vegas, Pahrump, and Mesquite.

Statewide Veteran Service Officer Training

For the first time in several years, NDVS conducted a statewide Veteran Service Officer (VSO) professional training from August 4–8, 2025.

Homelessness Outreach

Homelessness outreach, a priority program for NDVS, launched in mid-2025. NDVS participated in a homelessness event alongside the Las Vegas Metro Police Department, demonstrating the program's commitment to addressing critical gaps in outreach efforts across Southern Nevada.

Military Connections

In partnership with Connections Central in Carson City, Military Connections launched in the Fall of 2025. It provides a social setting for veterans, military members, and their families to share stories, make connections, and enhance their lives.

Nevada Buddy Check Awareness Campaign

NDVS launched a statewide peer-to-peer wellness initiative to amplify other similar efforts to combat isolation and enhance connectivity.

Native American Outreach

NDVS focused on Tribal Outreach and successfully connected with all 28 Nevada tribes through a targeted, strategic approach with a designated program manager.

Preventing and Reducing Opioid Use Disorder (PROUD) Program

NDVS received $700,000 from the Fund for a Resilient Nevada (opioid drug settlement) in July 2025 to launch the PROUD program to support treatment and recovery for veterans and their families dealing with opioid use disorder.

Veterans and Loved Ones in Recovery (VALOR) Program

NDVS received grant funding to provide substance use disorder recovery services for veterans and their families.

Building Resilience and Access for Veterans Through Empowerment (BRAVE) Program

NDVS received grant funding to develop a program that supports veterans with serious mental illness.

2025 NDVS Key Highlights, Accomplishments, and Partnerships

Dementia & Alzheimer's Workshops

This free virtual workshop was held in October 2025, to provide information as well as guidance on topics surrounding dementia and Alzheimer's Disease.

SNSVH SAFE Workshops

These free workshops provide support and information to SNSVH residents and family members on various topics such as Vigilance Against Cybercrime to professional caregiving advice and support.

SAFE Support Group Initiative

This initiative provides caregivers and family members with emotional and other support when a loved one is placed in a State Veterans Home. This program is made possible through a partnership with AARP Nevada.

Opening NNSVH Art Garden for Reflection and Healing

This unique sanctuary at the NNSVH opened on June 6, 2025. The garden provides a retreat from life's hustle, a rendezvous for families, and a whimsical wonderland where veterans rekindle bonds and health through art and nature.

Special 104-Year-Old Birthday Celebration at NNSVH

On August 28, 2025, World War II and Korean War veteran Dr. Anthony "Tony" Bruno celebrated his 104th birthday at the NNSVH in Sparks. Dr. Bruno is a U.S. Army veteran who served as a surgeon during the war.

2025 Women Veterans Conference

On March 8, 2025, NDVS hosted this annual conference at the National Automobile Museum in Reno. During the event, 93-year-old Reno Sparks Indian Colony Tribal Citizen Beatrice (Coffey) Thayer was recognized for her service in WWII in the Army Air Corps as a Staff Sergeant. The first Nevada Women Veterans of the Year, Kelley Guidry, was also announced.

First Nevada Women Veteran of the Year Named

Kelley Guidry became the first Nevada Woman Veteran of the Year. The U.S. Air Force veteran is the co-founder of the nonprofit, Forgotten Not Gone and the Women Warriors Wellness Program, which supports healing and resiliency for veterans.

New Grants and Emphasis on Donations

In 2025, NDVS placed special emphasis on applying for and securing new revenue sources through settlements, grants, and donations. Please refer to the Administration section of the 2025 Annual Report for more information and details on settlements, grants, and donations.

Invisible Wounds, Visible Pain Healing Workshop

This year, NDVS launched a groundbreaking, unique series of workshops that explore and address the connection between persistent physical health issues and unresolved emotional trauma.

NDVS Partnership to tackle Teacher Shortage and Support Military Families

This year, NDVS partnered with the Clark County School District, Public Education Foundation, and UNLV to support the Teacher FastTrack program.

250th Marine Birthday Celebrations

Special celebrations were hosted on November 10, 2025, at both the NNSVH and the SNSVH.

2025 NDVS Key Highlights, Accomplishments and Partnerships

2025 Veterans and Military Day at the Legislature

NDVS, in partnership with the Nevada National Guard and the United Veterans Legislative Council, hosted a very successful Veterans and Military Day at the Legislature (VAMDAL) on March 19, 2025, with record breaking attendance and participation. The day provided Nevada veterans and military communities with the opportunity to gather in Carson City to raise the profiles of these communities to lawmakers and the public. Based on the free lunches provided at the event, participation reached an estimated 400 people, which took place in Nevada's Capital, Carson City.

2025 Special Veterans in Care (VIC) in Lovelock

NDVS leadership traveled to Lovelock to host a special Veterans in Care ceremony at the Skilled Nursing Care Center at Pershing General Hospital for 105-year-old, World War II Navy veteran Mercede Starr. NDVS presented Mrs. Starr with a proclamation from Governor Lombardo. Her name and her military service record were read aloud on both the Assembly and Senate floors to become part of the official record of the Nevada State Legislature.

Veterans in Care (VIC) Ceremonies Extends to Elko

On June 10, 2025, the NDVS team extended the VIC program to Elko. These VIC ceremonies honored veterans and spouses residing in Highland Manor, Highland Inn, and Highland Estates. Veterans Services Commission Chairman Mike Musgrove and other dignitaries were on hand to support the ceremonies and honor the resident veterans and surviving spouses.

Veterans in Care (VIC) Ceremonies Extends to White Pine County

On June 11, 2025, the NDVS team extended the VIC program to honor veterans and/or spouses residing in the White Pine Care facility in Ely.

Recurring Outreach

Commanders Convenings

These monthly meetings connect Nevada's Veterans Service Organizations and organizations that serve veterans and their families to the NDVS team.

Interagency Council on Veterans Affairs

This statewide group works to improve collaboration between state agencies to develop priorities and make recommendations for policy changes to better support veterans and their families.

Homeless/Veterans Specialty Courts

The NDVS Outreach Team supports graduation ceremonies for veterans completing the programs overseen by the Clark County Regional Justice Court, Henderson Municipal Court, North Las Vegas Municipal Court, City of Las Vegas Municipal Court, Reno Municipal Court Dept. 2, and the Washoe County Second Judicial District Court. NDVS makes sure these graduates are connected to the benefits, resources, and programs earned through military service.

Veterans Graduations at UNR and UNLV

The NDVS Team works in partnership with the UNLV Military and Veteran Services Center, UNR Veteran Services, as well as veteran services at Nevada's community colleges to ensure these students are connected to the benefits, resources, and services earned through military service. NDVS participates in graduation and other ceremonies to provide these students with support and information.

Honoring Nevada's Veterans

State Veterans Memorials

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

Never Alone, Never Forgotten

Nevada State Veterans Memorial In Storage, Las Vegas

Fundraising is actively underway for the Nevada State Veterans Memorial's relocation to the Thunderbird Family Sports Complex in Las Vegas. A Veterans Day Ceremony on November 11, 2025, kicked off the effort with a $10 million goal to create the new permanent tribute featuring 18 bronze statutes, which were moved from the now-closed Grant Sawyer Building. To make a donation, go here: **https://mayorsfundlv.org/nsvm/**

Battle Born Memorial, Nevada State Capitol Grounds, Carson City

This memorial serves as a sacred place of reflection to honor all 895 Nevadans killed in combat dating back to the Civil War.

Nevada Veterans Memorial Wall, Nevada State Capitol Grounds, Carson City

The Nevada Veterans Memorial Wall is located behind the State Library and Archives building. The memorial wall is dedicated to all Nevada veterans and serves as a place of honor and reflection.

Mustang 22 Memorial, Reno Stead Airport, Stead

Located at the Army Aviation Support Facility in Reno, this memorial honors the fallen soldiers of Mustang 22, a CH-47 Chinook Helicopter that was shot down in Afghanistan on September 25, 2005. The fallen include Chief Warrant Officer 3 John Flynn and Sgt. Patrick Stewart with the Nevada National Guard. Warrant Officer Adrian Stump and Sgt. Tane Baum with the Oregon National Guard, and active-duty Sgt. Kenneth Ross of Arizona were also killed in the incident.

Honoring Nevada's Veterans

NDVS Recognition Programs

Veterans in Care (VIC) Program

This program enhances the quality of life for Nevada's veterans living in community-based assisted or skilled nursing care settings. In 2025, the Veterans in Care program extended to Eastern Nevada and also recognized 105-year-old WWII Navy veteran Mercede Starr during a special ceremony in April 2025.

Fiona Jersey named YSVA at VAMDAL on March 19, 2025.

Special Veterans in Care Ceremony held in Lovelock for 105-year-old WWII veteran Mercede Starr

Veteran of the Month Program

The Veteran of the Month (VOM) award honors Nevada veterans who dedicate their time, skills, and passion to serving fellow veterans, strengthening their communities, and supporting our military. This recognition highlights the extraordinary volunteer efforts that continue to uplift our state and our nation. The Nevada Veterans Services Commission reviews all nominations and forwards its recommendations to the Governor for final approval. To submit a VOM nomination, please visit: **https://veterans.nv.gov/benefits-and-services/veteran-of-the-month-program/**

Veteran Supporters of the Month

The Veteran Supporter of the Month (VSM) award honors groups, organizations, and non-military individuals who demonstrate exceptional commitment to Nevada's veterans, active-duty service members, and their families. This recognition celebrates those whose dedication and service strengthen our military community. The Nevada Veterans Services Commission reviews all nominations and provides its recommendations to the Governor for final selection. To submit a VSM nomination, please visit: **https://veterans.nv.gov/benefits-and-services/veteran-supporter-of-the-month**

Youth Serving Veterans Award

The Youth Serving Veterans Award (YSVA) recognizes young Nevadans, individually or as a group, who volunteer their time, energy, and talents in support of veterans, active-duty service members, and their families. This award highlights the meaningful ways Nevada's youth contribute to our military community. The Nevada Veterans Services Commission reviews all nominations and submits its recommendations to the Governor for final selection. To submit a YSVA nomination, please visit: **https://veterans.nv.gov/serving-veterans-youth-award-recognition/**

Overview

The Benefits Division oversees Nevada's two State Veteran Cemeteries and a long list of programs and initiatives.

Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery (Boulder City)

The Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Boulder City continues to serve as one of the nation's most honored resting places for our heroes. As the second busiest state veterans' cemetery in the nation, it provides dignified services to veterans and their families, ensuring each interment reflects the gratitude of a grateful state.

The cemetery's dedicated team works tirelessly to maintain its tranquil grounds, preserve military traditions, and honor the legacy of those who served, ensuring they are never forgotten.

SNVMC professional team dedicated to preserving sacred ground as a place of honor and reflection.

Volunteers plant trees at NNVMC

Northern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery (Fernley)

The Northern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Fernley stands as a solemn and heartfelt tribute to the service and sacrifice of Nevada's veterans and their families. Known for its serene, open landscape and unwavering commitment to honor tradition, the cemetery provides dignified interment services that reflect the deep respect of the State of Nevada.

Its dedicated staff ensures every ceremony is conducted with care, professionalism, and compassion, preserving the memory of those who served, and ensuring they are never forgotten.

♥ THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!

NDVS Benefits Division Programs and Initiatives

Veterans and Advocacy Team (VAST)

Consists of VA-accredited Veterans Service Officers (VSOs) who assist veterans and their families gain access to earned benefits, resources, and programs. Also, houses the Welcome Home and Veteran Information Scanning (VIS) programs.

NEW First Statewide VSO Training

NDVS conducted a statewide Veteran Service Officer (VSO) training from August 4–8, 2025, marking the first NDVS-led statewide training in several years. This multi-day session focused on ongoing professional development, collaborative learning, and enhancing the quality of service provided to Nevada's veterans and their families.

NEW Veterans Homelessness Support Program

Ensures Nevada's most vulnerable veterans are supported in accessing safe housing, essential resources, and coordinated services to help regain stability and independence.

(Enhanced) Suicide Prevention Program

Suicide Prevention is among the department's top priorities. In 2025, the Department co-hosted the first Suicide Prevention & Awareness Color Run and Resource Fair at Reno High School in September to coincide with Suicide Awareness Month.

Healthcare Champions Program (Toxic Exposure Risk Education)

Provides education and awareness to healthcare professionals, veterans, and families regarding the unique healthcare needs of those who have served in the U.S. military to ensure connection to earned benefits and access to the right care for service-connected conditions.

Veteran Employment and Education Program

Provides connection to resources, programs, and services that connect veterans to education or retraining benefits as well as employment and career opportunities.

Nevada Veterans Transition Assistance Program

Known as NVTAP, this program supports service members in successfully transitioning from the U.S. military back into civilian life when they choose Nevada as their new home.

(Enhanced) Native American Tribal Veterans Outreach

Strengthened through a strategic and targeted approach that includes a local Native American veteran serving in the Tribal Liaison role. This position focuses on relationship-building with Native American veterans in partnership with the Nevada Department of Native American Affairs, Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada, Las Vegas Indian Center, and Nevada Urban Indians. On the national level, partnerships include the Office of Tribal Government Relations, the National Congress of American Indians, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, and other national veteran organizations.

Women Veterans Program

Ensures women veterans receive the recognition, support, and access to the benefits they've earned by providing outreach, advocacy, and resources tailored to their unique experiences and healthcare needs.

LGBTQ+ Veterans Program

Ensures LGBTQ+ veterans are treated with dignity and connected to the benefits, services, and resources they've earned by addressing the unique challenges they faced in the military. Promotes an inclusive, welcoming environment across Nevada.

NDVS Tribal Outreach Liaison James Phoenix is a member of the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe. He also works collaboratively with the National Congress of American Indians, VA's Office of Tribal Government Relations, the Nevada Department of Native American Affairs, Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada, Nevada Urban Indians, and Las Vegas Indian Center. In 2025, he conducted outreach to all 28 Nevada Native American communities.

NDVS Benefits Division Programs and Initiatives

Justice Reintegration Support Program

Connects these veterans to their earned benefits, programs, and services. Also supports and amplifies programs designed to help these veterans successfully transition back into their communities.

NEW NDVS-Hosted Roundtables

Held in Las Vegas, North Las Vegas, Mesquite, Pahrump, Laughlin, and Elko to listen, learn, and work with veterans to ensure no veteran is left behind. These roundtables were held in May and July, with a healthcare-focused roundtable held in October 2025.

NEW Military Connections

Launched in the Fall of 2025 in partnership with Connections Central in Carson City. Provides a social setting for veterans, military members, and their families to share stories, make connections and enhance lives.

NEW Invisible Wounds, Visible Pain Healing Workshop

Held on October 25, 2025, in partnership with Annie Emprima. Explored the connection between unresolved emotions and physical symptoms helping participants discover the connection between pain and trauma explaining how this awareness can begin the healing process.

NEW Nevada Buddy Check Awareness Campaign

Through the month of October, NDVS launched an educational campaign to spread awareness on the importance of personally checking in with a veteran to combat isolation and enhance connectivity among our state's veteran community!

Veterans K-9 Corps Peer Support Program

In partnership with Truckee Meadows Community College, this program uses dog obedience training to help veterans build connections with each other while strengthening the bond with their pet or support animal. The eight-week course encourages social and recreational activity to reduce isolation while promoting well-being.

Veterans in Care Program

Ensures veterans (or their spouse) living within a Nevada community-based assisted or skilled nursing care facility are honored and recognized as well as connected to earned benefits, resources, and programs.

Nevada Veterans Advocate Program

(Rebranding and Name Change Coming Soon!)

NDVS is excited to announce its rebranding of this volunteer training program that will include enhanced online training and other opportunities in 2026.

VA Team at Laughlin Town Hall.

VIC ceremony in Sparks honors 103-year-old Army veteran AJ and Mrs. Clanton.

NDVS BENEFITS DIVISION

State Veterans Memorial Cemeteries

Wreaths Across America at SNVMC

Key Information

- Serves eligible veterans, their spouse, legally registered domestic partner, dependents, Gold Star Parents
- No cost for eligible veterans
- Cost for eligible spouse, dependents, and Gold Star Parents is $450 (Prices are subject to change)
- Pre-Registration available, no fees required
- Pre-register in-person or online at **https://veterans.nv.gov/online-cemetery-registration-form**

Areas of Responsibilities

- Casket Interment Sites
- Cremation In-ground Interment Sites
- Cremation Columbarium Interment Sites

Services Offered

- **Casket Interments**
- **Cremation In-ground Interments**
- **Cremation Columbarium Interments**
- **Open/Close Interment Sites**
- **Install Markers and Headstones**
- **Assist with Determining Eligibility**
- **Committal & Memorial Services**
- **Military Honors**
- **Perpetual Care of Interment Sites**
- **Grave Locator Services**

Nevada's State Veterans Memorial Cemeteries

RECURRING SPECIAL CEREMONIES

SNVMC Cemetery Flag-In

Flag-In Day

Held annually on the Saturday before Memorial Day to place American flags on each individual headstone.

Nevada Veterans Coalition Color Guard at NNVMC, Memorial Day

Memorial Day Ceremonies

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

Wreaths Across America at SNVMC

Wreaths Across America

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

Special Forces Ceremony

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

Ceremonies for Unaccompanied Veterans

SNVMC

Held weekly on Thursdays at 8:40 a.m. These ceremonies are supported by many southern Nevada veterans organizations.

NNVMC

Held in summer on 4th Thursday at 9:00 a.m. In winter, on 4th Thursday at 3:00 p.m. These ceremonies are supported by the Nevada Veterans Coalition.

Your Support Makes a Difference!

A Final Salute – Help Keep it Beautiful!

Thank You to all the volunteers who support our ceremonies and events at our beautiful State Veterans Cemeteries!

We cannot thank our volunteers enough!

NDVS BENEFITS DIVISION

Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery (SNVMC)

Second busiest State Veterans Cemetery in the nation!
Opened in 1990. As of Nov. 30, 2025, the SNVMC performed 57,287 interments of eligible veterans and family members.

VETERANS:	DEPENDENTS/SPOUSES:	TOTAL ACRES:	TOTAL ACRES DEVELOPED:	STAFF:
42,050 (Nov. 30, 2025)	15,237 (Nov. 30, 2025)	79	44	17

SNVMC Annual Number of Interment Services

SFY21	SFY22
2,137 (1,484 VETS / 653 DEPS)	2,413 (1,652 VETS / 761 DEPS)
SFY23	**SFY24**
2,271 (1,500 VETS / 771 DEPS)	2,084 (1,413 VETS / 671 DEPS)

SFY25 | 2,061
(1,408 VETS / 653 DEPS)

DONATE TODAY.
HONOR A HERO FOREVER.

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

Thank You for your support!

Outside SNVMC chapel area

NDVS BENEFITS DIVISION

Northern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery (NNVMC)

Provides a dignified place of peace, solitude, and comfort for families to gather, honor, and remember those they have lost. Opened in 1990. As of Nov. 30, 2025, the NNVMC performed 14,687 interments of eligible veterans and family members.

VETERANS:	DEPENDENTS/SPOUSES:	TOTAL ACRES:	TOTAL ACRES DEVELOPED:	STAFF:
11,456 (Nov. 30, 2025)	3,231 (Nov. 30, 2025)	44	21	5

SNVMC Annual Number of Interment Services

SFY21	SFY22
698 (530 VETS / 168 DEPS)	707 (501 VETS / 206 DEPS)
SFY23	**SFY24**
582 (416 VETS / 166 DEPS)	578 (433 VETS / 145 DEPS)

SFY25 | 597

(407 VETS / 190 DEPS)

DONATE TODAY.
HONOR A HERO FOREVER.

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

Thank You for your support!

Entrance to the NNVMC

NDVS BENEFITS DIVISION

Veterans Advocacy and Support Team (VAST)

The VAST Team is comprised of our VA-accredited Veterans Service Officers who serve on the front lines of veteran support. Since the department's founding in 1943, VSOs have been dedicated to guiding veterans and their families through the benefits and claims process with professionalism and care.

FAQs

What Veterans Service Officers (VSOs) Do

Our VSOs are VA-accredited advocates who help veterans, service members, and their families understand and access the full range of benefits they have earned through service at no cost. VSOs provide one-on-one support throughout the claims process and connect individuals to programs, resources, and services that improve well-being and long-term success.

Key Support Areas

Benefits & Claims Assistance

Guide veterans through filing VA disability claims, appeals, dependency benefits, survivor benefits, and other VA programs, ensuring claims are accurate, supported, and submitted in a timely manner.

Navigation & Advocacy

Help veterans understand complex VA systems and advocate on their behalf to secure the benefits of which they are entitled.

Connection to Resources

Provide referrals to community and state programs, including healthcare enrollment, education benefits, housing support, employment resources, financial assistance, and peer support services.

Transition Support

Assist transitioning service members as they move from active duty to civilian life, helping them access benefits early and positioning them for long-term success.

Veterans listen and learn about NDVS programs, resources, and services at a roundtable held in Pahrump.

NDVS leadership team answers questions during a roundtable series held in Las Vegas in May 2025.

Ask a VSO

NDVS offers the online feature, Ask a VSO, at veterans.nv.gov. This feature provides a simple, easy way for veterans and their families to connect directly with a Veterans Service Officer via email.

In 2025, NDVS responded to an estimated 1,313 inquiries.

To connect with a VSO, visit veterans.nv.gov, and click Benefits and Services to find a VSO near you.

NDVS operates **25 Veteran Service Officer positions** across Nevada, providing statewide coverage so veterans and their families receive consistent, accessible support in every region of the state.

Historical Claims Impact from Jan 1 – Dec 31, 2025

NDVS supported claims representing an estimated $318,863,519 in earned benefits for Nevada's veterans and their families. Most of the amount is from VA Disability Compensation, with additional impact from Dependency and Indemnity Compensation, VA Pension, and Survivor Pension benefits.

Average Annual Monetary Award Generated by VSOs: $2,275

Veterans Advocacy and Support Team (VAST)

Welcome Home Program

When a military member leaves the U.S. Armed Forces and chooses Nevada as their new home, the NDVS VAST Team reaches out to welcome these soon-to-be veterans and connect them to important State and Federal resources! These veterans receive a Welcome Home packet that provides a wealth of information, including contact information that connects them to the benefits they have earned!

Welcome Home Packets FAQs (Oct. 2024 – Oct. 2025):

Number of Welcome Home letters and packets sent: **2,156**

Number of packets to Women Veterans: **529**

Welcome Home information includes:

Welcome Letters from Governor Lombardo, NDVS Director Devine, Nevada Housing Division's Home is Possible Program, State of Nevada Veterans Benefits, Job Connect, and State Veterans Homes information. Additionally, gender specific information is included to all women veterans.

NDVS Coins and Pins for Special Events Recognition Celebrations.

Veteran Information System (VIS) Project

The Veteran Information System (VIS) Scanning Project is designed to turn paper DD214's and NGB22's into an electronic record. The project uses specially trained and vetted volunteers to scan paper DD214's and NGB22's that are stored in the State of Nevada Archives and Records.

VIS Project (Oct. 2024 - Oct. 2025)

Number of DD214's scanned: 4,263

Number of NGB22's scanned: 6,248

Number of Volunteers: 2

Number of volunteer hours: 342
(volunteers came in on Tuesdays for 4 hours each)

The Archives project was completed on August 1, 2025.

The Records project started August 6, 2025.

VAST Supervisor Marie Holcomb.

Veteran Outreach Programs and Initiatives

Veteran Outreach 2025

The NDVS Community Outreach Program and Initiatives are 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 2025, chances are the NDVS Outreach Team was also attending!

FAQs

Number of Events Attended: 118

Examples of Events: Community celebrations, recreational activities, educational presentations, and more!

(L-R) NDVS Outreach Officer Christopher Miannay and Health Program Manager Zaconia Turner

(L-R) Employment and Education Officer Amanda Kehrer and Homelessness Program Coordinator Maria Mandaleni-Orozco attended a Las Vegas event aimed at supporting veterans and others experiencing homelessness.

2025 New Programs and Partnerships

Invisible Wounds, Visible Pain Healing Workshop

NDVS proudly launched a groundbreaking and unique workshop series offering a critical resource previously unavailable to the Nevada veteran community.

This inaugural workshop, "Invisible Wounds, Visible Pain: The Link Between Trauma and Symptoms in the Body," was held on October 25, 2025. This series fills a gap by moving beyond traditional approaches to veteran wellness, focusing instead on the often-overlooked connection between unresolved emotional trauma, and persistent physical symptoms like chronic pain, fatigue, and tension.

Participants are guided through a process of discovery to understand how pain may be directly linked to past trauma, introducing the powerful concept that awareness is the essential first step toward true healing and recovery. This pioneering effort was made possible through a partnership with NDVS and Annie Emprima.

Invisible Wounds Workshop was held on October 25, 2025, offering both men's and women's sessions.

Veteran Outreach Programs and Initiatives

NDVS Partnership Tackles Teacher Shortage and Supports Military Families

NDVS enhanced a critical partnership with Clark County School District's and the Public Education Foundation (PEF) to support the Teacher FastTrack program. This accelerated, no-cost initiative, offered in collaboration with UNLV, is designed to recruit and retain teachers by targeting current school employees like aides and staff.

Teacher FastTrack graduation in partnership with the Clark County School District and the Public Education Foundation.

The program has two components: FastTrack Recruit, which provides educational and financial assistance for obtaining certification, and FastTrack Retain, which offers vital professional coaching and mentorship for new teachers.

NDVS partners with PEF to encourage the participation of veterans and military spouses, recognizing that the flexibility and nationwide demand for teachers can provide essential employment stability for those transitioning out of service or facing frequent moves due to military deployments. This initiative is already seeing success! Seven of the 94 newly certified teachers in Clark County were supported by this partnership coming from the veteran and military spouse community.

Congratulations to graduates veteran Bobby Underwood and six military spouses: Valerie Banks, Glenda De La Cruz, Brindee Loveless, Sammi Philips, Ayesha Rush, and Tami Stilson.

NEW In 2025!
Nevada Buddy Check Awareness Campaign

Inspired by the federal STRONG Veterans Act of 2022, NDVS launched a Nevada Buddy Check Awareness Campaign to amplify this peer-to-peer wellness initiative. A Buddy Check simply encourages every veteran to reach out and connect with another veteran to combat isolation and enhance connectivity among our state's veteran community.

While the official annual observance is October 21-25, our Department pledges to extend this crucial work throughout the entire month of October. We are calling on every Nevada veteran to join us each year moving forward.

NDVS launched its Veterans Homelessness Support Program in 2025.

Veteran Outreach Programs and Initiatives

NEW In 2025!

Veterans Homelessness Support Program

This program was added in 2025 with the vision to make Nevada a national leader in ending veteran homelessness by ensuring every veteran has access to safe housing, supportive services, and a path to self-sufficiency.

The program's mission is to empower these veterans to obtain stable housing and healthcare through workforce development, as well as comprehensive support.

Through leveraged partnerships as well as coordinated outreach and education, the program promotes dignity with the long-term goal of providing stability and long-term independence.

Program Goals

- **Provide safe, stable housing**
- **Expand access to healthcare**
- **Strengthen workforce development pathways**
- **Enhance wraparound support services**
- **Coordinate statewide outreach**
- **Leverage strategic partnerships**
- **Advance education and awareness**
- **Support long-term stability**
- **Drive data-informed decisions**
- **Reduce recidivism**

Launch Date: June 23, 2025

Number of Community Partnerships Established: 36 *(Since 2025 program launch)*

Community Partnership Examples

Some key partnerships include Campus for Hope, Care Coalition, Southern Nevada Municipal Courts, Nevada Homeless Alliance and so many, many more. Visit veterans.nv.gov for a full list of our partnerships.

In the coming year, NDVS will:

- Establish Program Infrastructure
- Launch Statewide Outreach Efforts
- Develop Key Strategic Partnerships
- Increase Emergency and Transitional Housing Access
- Create Workforce Development Pathways
- Launch a Public Awareness and Education Campaign
- Implement Data-Driven Tracking

NDVS team supports Southern Nevada Municipal Veterans' Specialty Courts graduation ceremonies.

Veteran Outreach Programs and Initiatives

NDVS Suicide Prevention Program

The NDVS Suicide Prevention Program elevates statewide suicide prevention and awareness efforts bringing together community partners, military organizations, and local leaders to protect the lives of Nevada's veterans, service members, and their families.

The program focuses on outreach, education, early intervention, and coordinated action across the state.

Program Goals

- **Increase Awareness and Connectedness**
- **Promote Programs Supporting Mental and Emotional Health**
- **Reduce Stigma of Seeking Help**
- **Promote Resources on Training and Education**
- **Promote Early Intervention**
- **Strengthen Community Partnerships**
- **Support Mayor's and Governor's Challenge Teams**
- **Use Data to Drive Decisions**

The national 988 Crisis/Suicide Prevention number is easy to remember.

Dial 988, then press 1

Connect with an expert who can help!

First Annual Suicide Prevention Color Run and Resource Fair at Reno High School.

First-Ever Color Run & Resource Fair

Held on September 20, 2025, in partnership with the Nevada National Guard, Northern Nevada Veterans Block Party, New Dawn Treatment Centers, and Reno High School. This event brought together the community as well as NDVS partners to raise awareness and support Nevada's veterans, service members, and their families.

Expanded Outreach

NDVS staff participated in dozens of community events, fairs, and training sessions across Nevada to raise awareness and promote help-seeking behaviors among veterans and family members.

Governor's and Mayor's Challenges to Prevent Suicide

NDVS staff participated in dozens of community events, fairs, and training sessions across Nevada to raise awareness and promote help-seeking behaviors among veterans and family members. Governor's and Mayor's Challenges to Prevent Suicide NDVS serves at the lead for the Governor's Challenge Team and as the liaison to the Mayor's Challenge Teams. These programs are in partnership with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Other partners include the U.S. Department of War and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

NDVS has recruited more communities to participate in the Mayor's Challenge including Las Vegas, Reno/Sparks area, Elko, and Winnemucca. For questions about the Governor's or Mayor's Challenge Teams, contact **pio.ndvs@veterans.nv.gov**.

First Annual Suicide Prevention Color Run and Resource Fair at Reno High School.

Veteran Outreach Programs and Initiatives

Healthcare Champions (Toxic Exposure Risk Assessment) Program

The Healthcare Champions Program empowers Nevada's healthcare providers to identify, access, and address the unique healthcare needs of those who have served in the U.S. military.

Some veterans may have been exposed to substances and environmental hazards during their military service and may be at risk of developing certain health or medical issues. This program raises awareness and provides education to veterans and healthcare providers, so they have a better understanding about exposure risk, presumptive conditions, and illnesses reinforcing the importance of connecting with a NDVS Veteran Service Officer. NDVS encourages veterans to "take the exposure risk questionnaire" by going here: **https://veterans.nv.gov/exposure-risk-questionnaire/**

(L-R) Director Col. Mary Devine (Ret.) and NDVS team attend special graduation ceremony for veterans and military students at UNLV.

Veteran Education and Employment Program

The Nevada Department of Veterans Services' Education and Employment Program connects veterans, service members, and their families to information about earned education benefits, training options, and employment resources. Through guidance, information sharing, and strong community partnerships, the program helps veterans navigate available opportunities and supports their transition into Nevada's workforce.

Veteran Employment Facts

Employment Status

NEVADA:

VETERAN: 4.3%

NON-VETERAN: 4.9%

NATION:

VETERAN: 3.0%

NON-VETERAN : 3.9%

NDVS Education and Employment Officer Amanda Kehrer spoke at the 2025 State of Nevada Approving Agency Conference.

Veteran Labor Force Participation Rate

NEVADA	NATION
77%	77.1%

Median Income in Past 12 months

(In 2024 Inflation-Adjusted Dollars)

18 YEARS OLD+	MALE	FEMALE
Veteran: $54,139 Non-Veteran: $43,645	Veteran: $55,498 Non-Veteran: $46,916	Veteran: $43,645 Non-Veteran: $34,015

DETR https://nevadaworkforce.com/_docs/Research-Notes/2024/Veteran-Statistics.pdf | US Census Bureau Census Bureau Tables

Veteran Outreach Programs and Initiatives

Veteran Education and Employment Program

Some College or Associate's Degree

VETERAN:	NON-VETERAN:
76,097	641,902

Bachelor's Degree or higher

VETERAN:	NON-VETERAN:
56,392	598,837

US Census Bureau Census Bureau Tables

Patriot Employer Program

NDVS is reaching out directly to Nevada businesses to provide awareness and education on the benefits of hiring and retaining veterans. This NDVS program seeks to remove obstacles to veteran employment 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

PATRIOT Employer Program

There are 163 Patriot Employers

participating in Nevada.

For a full list of companies visit
https://veterans.nv.gov/patriotemployers

NDVS connects veterans of all ages to earned benefits, programs, and resources.

NDVS attends job and resource fairs like the 2025 Clark County Public Job Fair. More than 2,500 attendees and 50+ public and federal employees participated in the event this year.

Veteran Outreach Programs and Initiatives

Nevada-Administered Under the State Approval Program Authority

- **Nevada Veterans Using GO Bill or Post 9/11 GI Bill:** 11,005
- **Number of Approved Educational Facilities:** 96
- **Number of Identified Veterans attending NSHE Schools:** 7,404
- **Number Student Veterans Certified by NSHE for VA Educational Payments:** 4,152
- **NSHE Percentage of Student Veterans by Gender:** Male 56.1% and Female 43.9%
- **Number of Nevada Veterans attending Private Schools:** 173
- **Number of Nevada Veterans attending For Profit Schools:** 2,425
- **Veterans Participating in On the Job Training/Apprenticeships:** 18
- **Veterans Attending Licensed Flight Schools:** 27

Department of Veteran Affairs https://www.va.gov/education/gi-bill-comparison-tool/schools-and-employers
State of Nevada Legislative 2024 NSHE Report: https://www.leg.state.nv.us/Division/Research/Documents/RTTL_NRS396.5453_2024.pdf

Nevada Transition Assistance Program (NVTAP)

NVTAP raises awareness and provides Nevada-specific information on resources, services, and programs to transitioning service members to support their success in civilian life once Nevada is identified as their home! NVTAP is available online by visiting veterans.nv.gov and clicking on the Nevada Transition Assistance Program tab.

Enhanced Tribal Outreach

NDVS strengthened Tribal Outreach through a strategic, targeted approach that included relationship building with the Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada, Las Vegas Indian Center, as well as Federal, State, and local veteran organizations.
The outreach efforts extended to all 28 tribal communities in Nevada letting them know what NDVS has to offer and to seek collaborations and partnerships.

The vision of this program is to ensure Nevada Native American veterans and their families are connected to benefits and services earned through U.S. military service. The program also seeks to remember and honor these veterans for their remarkable legacy!

Program Goals

- **Engage in culturally informed, face-to-face outreach engagement.**
- **Strengthen trust, communication, and collaboration with Nevada's tribal nations.**
- **Ensure Native American veterans and their families are fully connected to the benefits, resources, and services they have earned.**
- **Increase on-site visits and listening sessions.**
- **Improve claims assistance as well as health/wellness resources.**
- **Build long-term partnerships with tribal governments, community organizations, and health providers.**

First-Year Highlights

Launch Date: January 6, 2025.

In the coming year, NDVS will:

- Increase awareness on how NDVS serves tribal veterans.
- Continued outreach to tribal events and integrate with the communities.
- Host Tribal Veteran Summit in collaboration with VA/Tribes/Tribal partners.

Key Veteran Outreach Programs & Initiatives

Women Veterans Program

Women veterans are the fastest growing group within the veteran population in Nevada and nationwide! The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) estimates by 2040, women will comprise 18% of the total veteran population, which is a significant increase from 4% in the year 2000.

According to the VA, women warriors may face significant challenges in a wide array of areas from connecting to earned benefits, to gaining employment after military service, and health-related issues. In response, NDVS has created initiatives and events to address the challenges facing women veterans.

Kelley Guidry is named first Nevada Woman Veteran of the Year.

2025 Women Veterans Conference

NDVS hosted the "Sisterhood Reunion" themed event at the National Automobile Museum in Reno. Women veterans, active-duty, Guard and Reservists were encouraged to attend.

In addition to providing information, this event also provided connection to other women warriors for comradery, support and networking opportunities. Topics touched on personal courage, resilience, health and wellness. Featured speakers included Pranava Moody and Annette Whittenberger.

Save the Date!

The 2026 Nevada Women Veteran Conference is set for March 14, 2026, at the Nevada State Legislative Hearing Building at 7120 Amigo Street in Las Vegas!

NEW **In 2025!**

First Recipient of the Nevada Woman Veteran of the Year Award Named

Forgotten Not Gone co-founder Kelley Guidry become the first recipient of the Woman Veteran of the Year Award. The statewide award is designed to recognize and honor women veterans for their volunteer work on behalf of veterans and the veteran community. Guidry was selected by her peers to earn this distinguished honor.

2025 Women Veterans Conference in Reno was held on March 8, 2025.

Veteran Outreach Programs and Initiatives

LGBTQ+ Veterans Program

This program seeks to raise awareness and provide education to connect LGBTQ+ veterans to earned benefits, resources, and services as well as 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 (Education Benefits)
- VA Home Loan Program
- VA Medical Care
- VA Burial Benefits

Program Goals

- Strengthen outreach to LGBTQ+ veterans to ensure they are connected to earned benefits, services, and community support.
- Expand awareness and training for Nevada's healthcare providers, VSOs, and community partners on LGBTQ+ military and veteran experiences.
- Build and maintain partnerships with veteran service organizations, Pride Centers, tribal communities, and mental health providers to support holistic well-being.
- Promote suicide prevention initiatives and mental health resources tailored to the needs of LGBTQ veterans and their families.
- Support pathways for LGBTQ+ veterans to access corrections or upgrades to military discharges relating to previous military policies.

In the coming year, NDVS will:

- In partnership with Las Vegas Pride and Southern Nevada Association of Pride Inc., NDVS supported a series of October events including the October 10, 2025, Pride Parade in downtown Las Vegas.
- Attended House of Vegas Pride Festival Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on August 15, 2025. This event was presented by the LAMBDA Business Association and Plan Nevada.

Veterans seeking more information should contact a VSO by visiting **veterans.nv.gov** and click **Benefits and Services**.

Justice Reintegration Support Program

Collaboration continues with the Veterans Treatment Court programs, Nevada Department of Corrections (NDOC) and community partners to ensure veterans reintegrating after serving their sentence 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 the court program also receive assistance from NDVS on the following:

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

Veterans graduating after finishing the rigorous Veterans Specialty Court program are recognized and honored during a presentation provided by the Quilts of Valor program.

Veteran Outreach Programs and Initiatives

NEW In 2025! NDVS-Hosted Roundtables

In 2025, NDVS expanded its community outreach through a series of Veterans Roundtables designed to increase awareness of programs, encourage dialogue, and strengthen connections between veterans, families, and NDVS leadership.

The first roundtable was held in May. NDVS leadership attended Las Vegas, Pahrump, and Mesquite to provide program overviews, gather feedback, and answer community questions. The second series in July was held in North Las Vegas as well as Pahrump and Mesquite. This second series focused specifically on benefits.

In October, the third series focused on NDVS healthcare and wellness initiatives and was held in North Las Vegas, Pahrump, and Mesquite. Additionally, in Mesquite, vaccinations were provided in partnership with the VA Southern Nevada Healthcare System as well as the Southern Nevada Health District and other partners.

Building on the success of these events, NDVS is planning an additional health-related roundtable for February 2026 as part of its ongoing commitment to keeping veterans informed, engaged, and connected.

NDVS hosted Veteran Community Roundtables each quarter starting in May 2025. This photo is from the series of roundtables held in July 2025 that focused on connecting veterans to their earned benefits.

NEW In 2025! Military Connections

In September 2025, NDVS launched Military Connections, a new partnership with Connections Central in Carson City. This program is designed to help veterans and military families build meaningful relationships and reduce social isolation. Held at NDVS Headquarters in Reno, the program provides a welcoming space for participants to share stories, meet new people, and strengthen their sense of community. Military Connections offers a simple but powerful outlet. It brings people together, fosters friendships, and creates supportive networks that help veterans feel seen, valued, and connected.

Veterans K-9 Corps Peer Support Program

The Veterans K-9 Corps Peer Support Program (K-9 Corps) offers five, seven-week training sessions per year where veterans come together around their shared love of their canine companions. Since the program began in 2021, hundreds of veterans and family members of veterans have participated.

Each year, the K-9 Corps continues to grow offering veterans a unique and supportive environment where veterans and their dogs participate in dog obedience training to facilitate healing, connection, and emotional well-being. Through regular peer support sessions, veterans engage with one another while working alongside their dog who provides comfort, grounding, and companionship. The program fosters a sense of trust and camaraderie, helping participants reduce isolation, build resilience, and strengthen their support networks. By combining peer-to-peer connection with the proven therapeutic benefits of canine interaction, NDVS is creating a welcoming space that promotes mental wellness and enhances quality of life for Nevada's veterans.

If you know of a veteran who may be interested, contact Kat Miller at **Katherine.miller1@hotmail.com** for an application.

K-9 Corps training 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 Lead Trainer, Carol Chase-Healy.

Veteran Outreach Programs and Initiatives

NEW In 2025!

Nevada Veterans Advocate (NV Advocate) Program

Nevada Veterans Advocates, or NV Advocates, are volunteers who expand the reach of the Nevada Department of Veterans Services by sharing information about veterans' benefits and resources within their local communities. Their efforts help guide service members, veterans, and their families to the trained professionals who can provide direct assistance.

Participants can earn an NV Advocate certificate by completing the Nevada Veterans Advocate training program, which includes 20 online courses covering key benefits, services, and support resources. Certified NV Advocates may join the NDVS outreach team by participating in community events. For more information visit **veterans.nv.gov**.

Veterans in Care Program

The Veterans in Care Program (VIC) enhances the quality of life for Nevada's veterans and surviving spouses living in community-based care settings. The program also provides connection to earned benefits, resources, and programs.

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 understand of how military experience affects aging veterans, for the purposes of improving quality of care and healthcare outcomes.

In 2025, a total of four VIC ceremonies were conducted in Elko and Ely on June 10, 2025, and June 11, 2025.

Three Elko ceremonies honored residents at Highland Manor, Highland Estates and Highland Inn. These ceremonies received support from VFW Post #2350 with participation from Mike Musgrove, Chuck Sanders, and VFW Commander Brenda Horton.

The fourth VIC ceremony was held in Ely at White Pine Care Center with support from the American Legion White Pine Post #3.

Since its launch in the spring of 2016, more than 500 veterans and surviving spouses have been recognized and honored for their great service, commitment, dedication and sacrifice. These ceremonies also provide the honorees with the opportunity to connect with a VSO.

105-year-old World War II Navy veteran Mercede Marcucci Starr was recognized and honored during a special VIC ceremony in Lovelock in April 2025.

Overview

The Healthcare Division oversees Nevada's two State Veteran Homes and an extensive list of programs and initiatives.

Southern Nevada State Veterans Home

(Boulder City)

The Southern Nevada State Veterans Home (SNSVH) provides exceptional care and unwavering support for Nevada's veterans, their spouses, and Gold Star Parents.

The SNSVH is an award-winning facility that provides both long-term skilled nursing care and short-term rehabilitative care. State-owned and operated by NDVS, the Home accepts Medicare, Medicaid, VA per diem, and private pay, making the Home more affordable than other comparable skilled nursing facilities for most veterans.

Special Korean War Ceremony at SNSVH to honor residents who served during the Korean War or in Korea.

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the NNSVH Art Garden

Northern Nevada State Veterans Home

(Sparks)

The Northern Nevada State Veterans Home (NNSVH) is state-owned facility operated by Health Dimensions Group. The Home is uniquely designed to provide residents with the comfort and experience of a high-end resort, combined with superior nursing care services. The Home provides comprehensive care, from long-term skilled nursing to short-term rehabilitation. NNSVH accepts Medicare, Medicaid, VA per diem and private pay, making the home more affordable than other comparable skilled nursing facilities for most veterans.

Planning for New Home in Las Vegas at Decatur DMV Site

NDVS is in the design phase of construction to build a third Nevada State Veterans Home. This new 128 bed facility will be on State of Nevada land located in North Las Vegas off Decatur Boulevard. The new Home will feature all private rooms with private bathrooms and state-of-the-art amenities.

Healthcare Programs and Initiatives

NEW Preventing and Reducing Opioid Use Disorder (PROUD) Program

$700,000 grant from the Fund for a Resilient Nevada helped NDVS launch the PROUD program. The two-year grant will support treatment and recovery for veterans and their families dealing with opioid use disorder.

NEW Veterans and Loved Ones in Recovery (VALOR) Program

$30,000 grant will help NDVS establish a referral-based structure to support substance abuse disorder for veterans and their families.

NEW Building Resilience and Access for Veterans Through Empowerment (BRAVE) Program

NDVS received grant funding to establish a program to support veterans with serious mental illness or illnesses.

NEW Veterans Community Healthcare Roundtable

October 2025 events in North Las Vegas, Mesquite, and Pahrump provided information on NDVS health and wellness programs and initiatives. In Mesquite, NDVS partnered with VA Southern Nevada Health Care to offer vaccinations.

NEW NNSVH Art Garden

The grand opening and ribbon-cutting celebration for this new feature at the Home was held on June 6, 2025. This interactive outdoor sanctuary offers residents and visitors a peaceful space for reflection and healing at the NNSVH.

Caregiver Support Program

Caregivers play an important role in caring for a veteran at home or in the community. NDVS connects caregivers to earned benefits for eligible veterans as well as resources and programs that support a caregiver's physical, emotional, and financial well-being.

(L-R) Tamara Romero, Ryan Terwilliger, Julian Pineda, Thaverie Dom. Crombie Academy Graduating Class of 2025.

Thank you to the Comstock Lode Quilters' Quilts of Gratitude program for supporting residents at NNSVH.

NDVS HEALTHCARE DIVISION

Healthcare Programs and Initiatives

July 2025 Veterans Community Roundtable in North Las Vegas.

Survivor Support Program

NDVS provides information and resources to support survivors as they navigate the difficulty and pain of losing a loved one who served in the U.S. military. Our team helps survivors understand and access earned benefits, connect with supportive services, and find guidance during one of life's most challenging moments.

Military Sexual Trauma (MST) Workshops

Free virtual workshops for healthcare providers and survivors to increase MST understanding and provide resources to equip healthcare providers with the tools to deliver trauma-informed care while offering survivors a safe, respectful environment for support and empowerment.

Bravo Zulu Military Culture Training Program

For healthcare professionals to provide a better understanding of military culture in a healthcare setting to improve quality of care and outcomes.

NEW SNSVH SAFE Workshops

Free series of workshops provided support and information to SNSVH residents and family members on various topics ranging from cybersecurity to professional caregiving advice and support.

NEW Dementia & Alzheimer's Education and Awareness Workshop

Free virtual workshop, held in October 2025, provided information as well as guidance on topics surrounding dementia and Alzheimer's Disease.

NEW End-of-Life Planning Workshop

For veterans, families, and caregivers to provide information that assists with planning and ensures connection to earned benefits. First workshop was held in partnership with AARP Nevada at the Atomic Museum (LV) on May 29, 2025.

NEW Nevada's Non-Emergency Veteran Medical Appointment Transportation Program (NEV-MAT)

Provides non-emergency medical transportation assistance for Nevada veterans through a statewide directory. Access to reliable transportation is often the first barrier to care for veterans, particularly in rural areas or for veterans with limited mobility.

NDVS HEALTHCARE DIVISION

State Veterans Homes

Key Information

- NDVS manages and oversees two State Veterans Homes, one in Boulder City and in Sparks, Nevada.
- Each home provides 24/7 skilled nursing and rehabilitation services.
- Both homes serve eligible veterans, their spouse, and Gold Star parents.

Veteran-Focused Care Makes Us Unique

Understanding the difference between civilian culture versus military culture when providing skilled nursing care is what sets Nevada's State Veterans Homes above all others. This understanding leads to better healthcare outcomes for the residents we are honored to serve. In addition to physical care, our veterans home teams focused on the social and emotional needs of residents. That is why our homes are designed and operated to foster a sense of community and to feel just like home!

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Jialu Tian, RN and Anna Francisco, RN for completing training and certification to become the newest Crombie Academy faculty members at SNSVH. Anna is our Quality Assurance Performance Improvement Nurse and Jialu is our newest Nursing Assistant Training Instructor. The Crombie Academy provides free certified nursing assistant training to eligible participants.

(L-R) Jialu Tian, RN and Anna Francisco, RN.

U.S. Marine Corps 250th Birthday celebration at SNSVH.

NDVS HEALTHCARE DIVISION

Southern Nevada State Veterans Home (SNSVH)

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.

180 Beds

State-owned and operated

Accepts Medicare & Medicaid
VA per diem, private pay.

Affordable
More affordable than other comparable nursing homes for most veterans.

24/7
24-hour licensed skilled nursing care and rehabilitative services, seven days a week.

Long-Term Care
Assistance with daily living, showering, dressing, meals, personal care.

Short-Term Care
Typically follows a hospital stay and may involve physical, occupational and/or speech therapy, rehabilitation.

Memory Care
Secure community for those with dementia, Alzheimer's, history of wandering.

Cost For Care
VA subsidizes eligible veterans but not spouses. Medicaid is accepted. Medicaid certified beds are available for long-term care.

Amenities
On site dining hall, therapy gym, beauty/barber shop, general commissary, and front, outdoor area for events/ceremonies.

Total Number Served 7/1/24 – 6/30/25

Who We Serve

66	Male
3	Female
10	Non-Veteran Spouse
833	Total Since 8/12/2002 *(male & female)*

Occupancy	161 per day average

*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 issues completing the application and providing the necessary records.

Service Era

WWII:	1
Korea:	10
Vietnam:	37
Gulf War:	1
Lebanon:	2
Afghanistan:	1
Desert Storm:	0
Peacetime:	8
Iraq:	0

Occupancy

2025 Admission Average:	19 per month
2025 Discharge Average:	18 per month

U.S. Military Branch

Army:	28
Marine Corps:	11
Navy:	16
Air Force:	15
Coast Guard:	1

NDVS HEALTHCARE DIVISION

Southern Nevada State Veterans Home (SNSVH)

Veterans Day celebration and Cruisin' Parade at SNSVH.

2025 SNSVH Pinnacle Quality Survey

Our residents and their families consistently rate SNSVH well above the national average in this year's Pinnacle Quality Insight Customer Satisfaction surveys. Some of the areas highlighted in this survey include overall satisfaction, nursing care, cleanliness, dignity and respect, as well as recommending SNSVH to others, and safety/security. Congratulations to the SNSVH team!

Crombie Academy Supports Certified Nursing Assistant Training at SNSVH

The PFC David "Nick" Crombie Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) Training Academy, called the Crombie Academy, is housed within SNSVH. It 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 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
- 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.

Important SNSVH Renovations & Improvements

While construction is contingent upon VA funding appropriation, plans are in place to substantially upgrade and renovate SNSVH. 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. The building saw its first residents admitted two decades ago, in August of 2002. In 2022, SNSVH received $4,229,717 for advanced planning to make improvements that will include:

- Converting shared bedrooms into private rooms with private baths. This will reduce infection risk and enhance quality-of-life and privacy for residents.
- Creating common areas that feel like home, including adding a Town Hall, restaurant-style dining, as well as audio and movie theater entertainment areas.
- Improving the parking lot, main entryway, resident pick-up and drop-off area, kitchen, physical therapy room, nursing stations, and employee break spaces.

Additionally, the SNSVH received $445,600 from a $588,144 grant to replace the home's 20-year-old digital temperature control system. This upgrade is critical to maintaining safe indoor conditions given Boulder City's extreme desert temperatures.

NDVS HEALTHCARE DIVISION

Northern Nevada State Veterans Home (NNSVH)

The Northern Nevada State Veterans Home (NNSVH) in Sparks opened in late 2019. It is uniquely designed, offering a host of amenities that provide residents with the feel and experience of a high-end resort while delivering superior nursing care services.

96 Beds

State-owned and operated
By Health Dimensions Group: Senior Living Management.

Accepts Medicare & Medicaid
VA per diem, private pay.

Affordable
More affordable than other comparable nursing homes for most veterans.

24/7
24-hour licensed skilled nursing care, seven days a week

Long-Term Care
Assistance with daily living, showering, dressing, meals, personal care

Short-Term Care
Typically follows a hospital stay and may involve physical, occupational and/or speech therapy, rehabilitation

Memory Care
Secure community for those with dementia, Alzheimer's, history of wandering

Cost For Care
VA subsidizes eligible veterans but not spouses. Medicaid is accepted. Medicaid certified beds are available for long-term care.

Amenities
Private rooms, bathrooms, and showers. Shared den, living room, kitchen, to encourage socialization. On site restaurant, coffee bistro, sports bar, therapy gym, beauty/barber shop, general commissary, parade ground for events/ceremonies.

Total Number Served 7/1/24 – 6/30/25

Who We Serve

167	Male
15	Female
4	Non-Veteran Spouse
460	Total Since 8/12/2002 *(male & female)*

Occupancy	98.85%

*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 month

In both cases it could be more than 6 months if there are issues completing the application and providing the necessary records.

Service Era

WWII:	3
Korea:	13
Vietnam:	137
Gulf War:	3
Lebanon:	0
Afghanistan:	0
Desert Storm:	5
Peacetime:	13
Iraq:	0

Occupancy

2025 Admission Average:	5.92 per month
2025 Discharge Average:	5.58 per month

U.S. Military Branch

Army:	69
Marine Corps:	30
Navy:	53
Air Force:	27
Coast Guard:	0

Northern Nevada State Veterans Home (NNSVH)

NEW In 2025!
Dedication Ceremony of Veterans Art Garden!

The NNSVH Veterans Art Garden opened on June 6, 2025. The garden is a fantastical outdoor visitation area for residents and their loved ones, featuring vibrant sculptures by professional artists and colorful flowers that bloom at different times throughout the seasons. Interactive, playful elements offer bright colors, movement and sound, creating opportunities for outdoor engagement and entertainment. The Veterans Art Garden also features a beautiful water feature and kinetic art pieces that move with the wind.

Donate or learn more:
https://www.veteransartgarden.org

Grand opening ceremony of NNSVH Art Garden.

Dr. Bruno's 104th birthday celebration at NNSVH.

NNSVH Hosts 104th Birthday Celebration for Dr. Anthony "Tony" Bruno

On August 28, 2025, Dr. Anthony "Tony" Bruno celebrated his 104th birthday at the NNSVH. The highly respected surgeon served in the U.S. Army with distinction and honor during World War II and the Korean War. Dr. Bruno was surrounded by family, loved ones, residents, and staff as they gathered to recognize his extraordinary life and service. It was a privilege for the Home to honor Dr. Bruno on his remarkable milestone and to thank him for his enduring contributions to our state and nation.

Healthcare Programs & Initiatives

The NDVS Healthcare Services Division oversees several programs and initiatives aimed at addressing specific healthcare needs of veterans, military members, and their families to enhance quality of life and wellbeing.

NEW In 2025!
Preventing and Reducing Opioid Use Disorder (PROUD)

The Preventing and Reducing Opioid Use Disorder (PROUD) initiative is a new program at NDVS. It is designed to address one of the most serious challenges facing the nation, including Nevada's veterans.

The $700,000 in funding from this two-year grant comes from the Fund for a Resilient Nevada. This initiative will focus on outreach, education, and partnerships. PROUD will connect eligible veterans and their families struggling with opioid dependence to evidence-based treatment, peer support, and recovery resources. The program will also focus on reducing stigma to ensure veterans know that seeking help is a sign of strength.

Program Goals

- Prevent opioid misuse through education and early intervention.
- Connect eligible veterans and their families to treatment and recovery services.
- Strengthen community partnerships and care coordination.
- Reduce stigma associated with substance use disorder.

(L-R) NDVS PROUD team leaders Samm Warfel and Karina Tomco attend Nevada Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada Tribal Opioid Summit

First-Year Highlights

Launch Date: July 1, 2025

Highlights: In 2025, NDVS partnered with Behavioral Health Group (BHG), one of 16 providers in Nevada recognized by the state as operating what is considered a "gold-standard opioid treatment center." BHG maintains four locations across Nevada, expanding access to high quality care for veterans seeking support. Additionally, NDVS has engaged more than 15 organizations statewide to raise awareness of its new opioid treatment program, ensuring veterans and their families know where to turn for help, hope and recovery.

In the coming year, NDVS will:

- Expand outreach to rural and underserved areas.
- Increase the number of veterans reached by target number.
- Offer quarterly opioid awareness and overdose prevention workshops.
- Implement a statewide data tracking system to measure outcomes and referrals.
- Strengthen collaboration with VA behavioral health teams and local recovery networks.
- Integrate PROUD resources into NDVS events, community fairs, and outreach campaigns.

Healthcare Programs & Initiatives

NEW In 2025!
Veterans and Loved Ones in Recovery (VALOR)

In FY 2025, NDVS was awarded $30,000 to launch the Veterans and Loved Ones in Recovery (VALOR) Program. It will expand peer-to-peer recovery support services for veterans and their families. The program strengthens NDVS' continuum of care for veterans experiencing homelessness, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), or severe mental illness.

Program Goals

- Strengthen recovery for Nevada veterans with a history of substance use disorder.
- Provide friendly, peer-to-peer support.
- Reduce stigma and barriers to care.
- Reduce stigma and barriers to employment.

(L-R) NDVS Deputy Director Mark McBride, Health Program Managers Samm Warfel and Zaconia Turner attend 6th Annual Substance Misuse and Overdose Prevention Summit

In the coming year, NDVS will:

- Expand peer-to-peer networks statewide.
- Increase training for peer support specialists.
- Build new partnerships with behavioral health and employment service providers.
- Host recovery-friendly community events.
- Collect and analyze data to evaluate program outcomes to guide future funding opportunities.

NEW In 2025!
Building Resilience and Access for Veterans through Empowerment (BRAVE) Program

The Building Resilience and Access for Veterans through Empowerment (BRAVE) Program was established to improve access to care, reduce stigma, and enhance overall | quality-of-life for Nevada veterans living with serious mental illness. The vision of BRAVE is simple, yet powerful! It is to create a Nevada where every veteran facing mental health challenges receives understanding, support, and timely access to care.

Program Goals

- Expand early intervention and support.
- Combat mental health stigma through education.
- Address geographical and other access barriers.
- Remove structural barriers.
- Address homelessness.

In the coming year, NDVS will:

- Deepen collaboration with the National Alliance on Mental Illness and Department of Health Services to increase access to community-based care.
- Host mental health and wellness events across rural and urban Nevada.
- Expand outreach to homeless and at-risk veterans with serious mental illness.
- Launch a stigma-reduction education campaign tailored for veterans and their families.
- Identify new statewide and regional partners to strengthen referral networks.
- Establish data-tracking tools to measure engagement, access, and outcomes.
- Increase staff participation in national and state-level behavioral conferences.

Healthcare Programs & Initiatives

NEW In 2025!
Veterans Community Healthcare Roundtables

The NDVS Healthcare Division team participated in a Veterans Community Roundtable in May 2025. The success of the event launched two more NDVS-hosted roundtables with one focusing on the Benefits Division and another focusing on healthcare programs and initiatives.

In October 2025, NDVS hosted a Veterans Community Healthcare Roundtable in North Las Vegas, Mesquite, and Pahrump. These events brought together veterans, community partners and healthcare providers where NDVS discussed key health and wellness programs and initiatives available to Nevada's veterans and their families. In Mesquite, NDVS also partnered with the VA to provide vaccinations to ensure veterans received essential preventative care.

Building on the success of the October roundtables, NDVS plans to host additional healthcare-focused roundtables in 2026 to continue fostering collaboration, awareness, and access to quality care for Nevada's veterans.

NDVS partnered with the VA, Southern Nevada Health District, and other organizations during the October roundtable series in Mesquite, where vaccinations were provided.

The Southern Nevada VA outreach team provided support for the NDVS October roundtable series in Mesquite.

NEW in 2025!
SNSVH SAFE Workshops

In partnership with AARP Nevada, the Southern Nevada State Veterans Home began providing Supporting and Assisting Families through Education (SAFE) workshops for veterans and their families. Topics range from cybersecurity to caregiving support and advice!

A total of seven free workshops were held in 2025 beginning on February 24, 2025, through December 5, 2025. These workshops are aimed at supporting veterans and family members who have loved ones residing at the Southern Nevada State Veterans Home.

These free workshops provide veterans, families, and caregivers with valuable tools, shared experiences, and supportive connections to foster a stronger, more informed community around those who have served!

Look for more SAFE workshops in 2026!

SAFE Support Group at SNSVH.

Healthcare Programs & Initiatives

Caregiver Support Program

NDVS provides veterans and caregivers with information about resources, programs, events, and training opportunities in partnership with our community partners.

First One! End-of-Life Planning Workshop

In 2025, NDVS and AARP Nevada teamed up to provide the first End-of-Life Planning Workshop at the Atomic Museum on May 29, 2025. This workshops assists veterans, their families, as well as caregivers prepare for life's final chapter with dignity, understanding and peace of mind. This planning also ensures veterans are connected to the benefits they have earned through their military service.

Free Caregiving Workshop Webinar

Free Caregiving Workshop Webinar On May 22, 2025, the first of a three-part webinar series kicked off to support caregivers of veterans and their families. This educational webinar offered tools and strategies to enhance care, reduce stress, and improve quality of life for both caregivers and those we serve. Participants learned about available resources, best practices in caregiving, and ways to connect with supportive networks within Nevada's veteran community.

Parkinson's Disease Support

NDVS was there to support and participate in the "Moving Day Las Vegas," walk for Parkinson's at Sunset Park in Las Vegas on May 3, 2025. A month later, on April 1, 2025, NDVS also supported the ribbon cutting ceremony to mark the new location for the Parkinson Support Center of Northern Nevada at 675 West Moana Lane, Reno, NV 89509.

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.**

Residents at NNSVH enjoy weekly art activities, thanks to the David J. Drakulich Foundation.

Healthcare Programs & Initiatives

Free Community Partnership Workshops and Trainings in 2025 Military Sexual Trauma (MST) Program

Held in partnership with The Perry Foundation, these workshops support survivors, their families as well as healthcare professionals to provide education about local resources for those dealing with the aftermath and effects of Military Sexual Trauma (MST).

The Department of Defense defines 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. These half-day MST workshops occurred on June 26, 2025, and August 28, 2025.

Healthcare professionals and administrators who completed the full series could receive continuing education units by the Nevada State Board of Nursing and Board of Examiners, with a certificate of completion from The Perry Foundation. Look for MST workshops to continue in 2026!

Free Workshops and Webinars with Community Partners

NDVS joined with community partners to offer free workshops, webinars, and events to support veterans, families, caregivers as well as healthcare professionals.

Presumptive Conditions Workshops

Held in partnership with the Perry Foundation, this free series of workshops focused on the history of presumptive conditions and how Nevada's Healthcare professionals can improve treatment options for those impacted due to their military service.

Participants include veterans, families, and caregivers. These workshops recognize the vital role caregivers play in serving as the first line of support in managing complex health challenges.

These workshops support the continuing education of healthcare professionals and administrators by offering continuing education units to those who complete the full series.

(L-R) Nevada women veterans Linda Dickinson (U.S. Air Force Nurse Corps) and Susan Malone (U.S. Marine Corps) boast a long list of accomplishments and titles, too numerous to list here! We can't thank them enough for all they do on behalf of Nevada's veterans, military members, and families!

Culinary excellence is showcased at the NNSVH.

Healthcare Programs & Initiatives

Dementia & Alzheimer's Education and Awareness Training

This training takes a deeper look into this topic, diving into the history of dementia, types of dementia, signs of dementia, as well as what to do next if dementia is suspected.

This presentation was held on October 28, 2025. It was facilitated by Bradlyn Wissert, MPH, Community Programs and Education Coordinator and held in partnership with Dementia Friendly Nevada, Dementia Engagement, Education, and Research (DEER) Program School of Public Health, and the University of Nevada, Reno.

Bravo-Zulu Military Culture Training for Healthcare Providers

This program is being revamped in partnership with the University of Nevada Reno's Sanford Center for Aging.

Offered to community-based healthcare providers, including licensed administrators, nurses, and social workers, the training supports the understanding of how military service may impact aging and care, leading to better healthcare outcomes.

Look for more information in 2026!

Nevada's Non-Emergency Veteran Medical Appointment Transportation Program (NEV-MAT)

Supporting transportation to VA healthcare providers

Access to reliable transportation is often the first barrier to care for veterans, particularly those in rural areas with limited mobility. Establishing non-emergency medical transportation assistance ensures veterans can keep their appointments, receive timely care, and maintain their health and independence. This program seeks to establish a referral-based structure designed to support veterans in need of transportation to see their VA healthcare provider.

Program Goals

- Reduce perceived barriers to cancelling non-emergency medical appointments.
- Expand a web-based, non-emergency transportation resource roster on the NDVS website.
- Create and expand a NEV-MAT stakeholder task force with regional representation.
- Secure grant awarded transportation funds, under the NEV-MAT program, to Nevada veterans in need of transportation assistance.

For more information visit the NDVS website at

https://veterans.nv.gov/non-emergency-medical-transportation-support/

Overview

Areas of Responsibility

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

The following pages are the financial summary for State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2025.
***Note: All figures are rounded to nearest dollar amount.**

2025 Financial Review Expenditures

Total Healthcare Expenditures: $44,447,679

Southern Nevada State Veterans Home	$25,923,899
Northern Nevada State Veterans Home	$18,522,795
Veterans-in-Care Program	$985

Total Programs and Services Expenditures: $6,841,403

Veteran Advocacy	$2,598,381
Cemeteries	$2,330,272
Special Programs and Services	$1,824,549
Nonprofit Support	$88,201

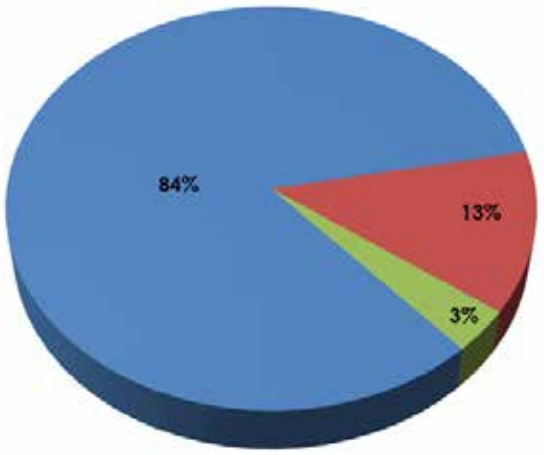
Total Community Outreach Expenditures: $24,690

Nevada Advocate Program	$9,551
Veterans Information System	$15,139

*** TOTAL ADMINISTRATION $1,833,502**

*Majority of NDVS expenditures are for Healthcare

Department of Veterans Services FY25 Expenditures by Program



Expenditures

Healthcare	$44,447,679
Programs and Services	$6,841,403
Community Outreach	$24,690
Administration	$1,833,502
Total Expenditures	**$53,147,274**

State Fiscal Year 2025 Financial Review Revenues

General Fund Appropriations
$4,965,160

HEALTHCARE	**$852,428**
Northern Nevada State Veterans Home	$852,428
PROGRAMS AND SERVICES	**$4,112,732**
Veterans Advocacy	$2,057,193
Cemeteries	$2,055,539

Federal Funds
$43,899,070

HEALTHCARE	**$41,687,007**
Northern Nevada State Veterans Home	$15,187,225
Southern Nevada State Veterans Home	$26,499,782
PROGRAMS AND SERVICES	**$2,212,063**
Cemeteries	$2,139,044
Special Programs and Services	$73,019

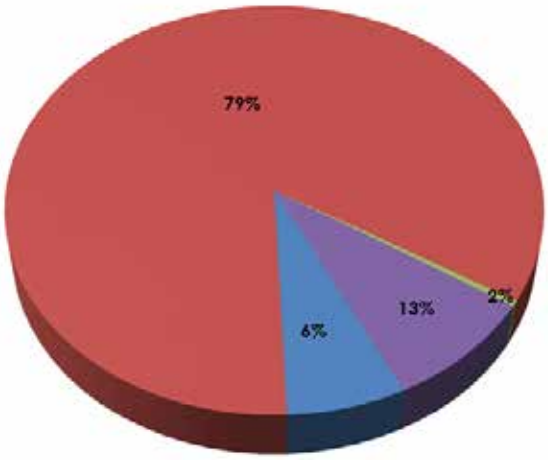
Donations
$318,207

HEALTHCARE	**$62,539**
Southern Nevada State Veterans Home	$38,668
Northern Nevada State Veterans Home	$23,871
PROGRAMS AND SERVICES	**$255,668**
Cemeteries	$116,833
Special Programs and Services	$138,835

Other Revenue
$6,602,066

HEALTHCARE	**$4,590,914**
Southern Nevada State Veterans Home	$4,443,892
Northern Nevada State Veterans Home	$147,022
PROGRAMS AND SERVICES	**$2,011,152**
Cemeteries	$20,135
Special Programs and Services	$1,991,017

Department of Veterans Services FY25 Revenue Sources



- General Fund - $4,965,160
- Federal Funds - $43,899,070
- Donations - $318,207
- Other $6,602,066

Revenues

General Fund	$4,965,160
Federal Funds	$43,899,070
Donations	$318,207
Other	$6,602,066
Total Revenues	**$55,784,503**

Grant Awards

Highly Rural Transportation Grant

Amount: $100,000 (SFY25)

Secured through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Health Administration. Provides non-emergency transportation to VA medical appointments **at no cost to veterans**.

The funds are divided equally between the Elko County Transit District and the Pahrump Valley Public Transportation Inc. Funding paid for a total of 475 trips covering 9,985 miles.

Adaptive Sports Programs

Amount: $36,565,00 (SFY25)

Secured through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Health Administration. Provides health, wellness, athletic, social, and recreational support for disabled veterans and disabled members of the U.S. Armed Forces **at no cost to participants.**

Grants are used by the Cities of Las Vegas and Reno Funding provides:

- Military Sports Camp for City of Reno.
- Adaptive sports instruction, participation, and competition.
- Training, technical assistance to coaches, recreation therapists, instructors.
- Athlete assessment, sports-specific training, techniques.
- Sports equipment, supplies.

City of Reno Military Sports Camp

City of Las Vegas Adaptive Sports Program

Information Technology Operations

Information Technology (IT) Operations plays an important role in overseeing and supporting the Department's wide-ranging technological needs. Listed below are some of the 2025 accomplishments.

NDVS Website Redesign

This project supports the Department's mission by connecting veterans and their families to earned benefits, programs, and services. The redesign will enhance end-user experience, provide easier access to information with minimal clicks, and improve overall site design. Anticipated launch of the new site will be in the first quarter of 2026.

Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery Upgrades

Chapel Audio Upgrade

The new 2025 chapel audio system replaces the original equipment installed in 2002, delivering improved sound quality. This ensures every word of honor, prayer, and eulogy is heard with clarity and respect during the cemetery's special events and ceremonies.

Wireless Irrigation Control System

The new, modernized wireless system delivers precise, scheduled watering, and allows staff to control and adjust all watering functions remotely, through a secure website. This upgrade provides consistent, controlled watering to meet the needs of the extreme southern Nevada climate which preserves the beauty and dignity of the cemetery grounds.

Human Resources

NDVS Human Resources (HR) ensures NDVS has the right people, with the right skills, in the right roles – now and into the future.

From July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025, NDVS HR processed 64 new state employees and hired a dozen key contract staff to support the Department's strategic planning initiatives and manage grant-funded program initiatives.

NDVS HR worked closely with the State of Nevada Division of Human Resource Management (DHRM), participating in multiple training sessions to ensure the successful implementation of the CORE.NV, the new State of Nevada Human Resources Management System, and the new Integrated Recruitment and Training Platform, NEOGOV.

The team also launched its first employee newsletter, focusing on educational resources and morale-boosting topics. Additionally, NDVS HR successfully organized the 2025 Employee Appreciation Week in May, a highly successful and morale-building event. Finally, HR/Payroll conducted multiple timesheet training sessions to proactively prepare employees for the implementation of the positive reporting system introduced by DHRM for all state employees.

NDVS HR achieved full staffing and completed a reorganization, reassigning a Personnel Analyst II to the southern region to enhance professional HR support to NDVS Southern Offices. In recognition of the department's continued growth and expanding responsibilities, a new Personnel Analyst I position was approved during the legislative session and has been added to the HR team.

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) 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.

United Veterans Legislative Council (UVLC)

The UVLC is a nonpartisan, 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.

https://veterans.nv.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/2024-NV-Veterans-Legislative-Symposia-FINAL.pdf

2025 Veterans Legislative Symposia

The Veterans Legislative Symposia events are held during the years the Nevada Legislature is not in session. In 2024, one symposium was held in Las Vegas and the other in Reno. The two events provided participants with the opportunity to identify and prioritize issues for legislative consideration by state lawmakers.

To view the full report on the symposia, visit:

https://veterans.nv.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/2024-NV-Veterans-Legislative-Symposia-FINAL.pdf

Veterans and the Nevada Legislature

Overview

(L-R) Quilts of Valor recipients Mark Prizina, David Connolly, Rommel Ferrer, Mary Devine (NDVS leadership), NVNG Brig. Gen. Dan Waters

Northern Nevada Veterans Coalition

Veterans and Military Day at the Legislature (VAMDAL)

VAMDAL was jointly hosted by NDVS, the UVLC, and the Nevada National Guard. This year, the event was held on Wednesday, March 19, 2025, inside the Nevada State Library, Archives and Public Records Building in Carson City.

The event provides an opportunity for veterans to talk directly to state lawmakers about legislation important to them and to learn more about the Nevada National Guard capabilities and equipment.

VAMDAL is held on the third Wednesday during the month of March when the Legislature is in session. The next VAMDAL is set for Wednesday, March 17, 2027.

Liberty Dogs presentation

VSC member Jerome Washington

Looking Ahead to 2026

As we close out 2025, our theme, "No Veteran Left Behind – Never Alone, Never Forgotten," continues to guide every NDVS program, service, and initiative. While we reflect on this year's accomplishments, we also look ahead with renewed purpose and commitment.

In 2026, NDVS will build upon the foundation we have strengthened with a focus on collaboration, engagement, recognition, and advocacy for Nevada's veterans and their families. We are proud to announce several upcoming events that will continue this momentum forward.

Day of Gratitude Events – In Las Vegas, on June 6, 2026, we will honor Nevada's veterans, military members, and their families by participating in the Day of Gratitude gathering at Allegiant Stadium. This is one-day event brings together Nevada's veteran and military communities to ensure every veteran and military member feels seen, celebrated, and supported. It will also mark a historic moment as part of the nationwide celebration of America's 250th anniversary in 2026. NDVS will showcase its programs and services as it stands proudly alongside its partners in this observance.

Annual Women Veterans Conference – Hosted in Las Vegas, this March 14, 2026, event will continue to spotlight the unique experiences and contributions of Nevada's women veterans while providing resources, networking, and empowerment opportunities.

Nevada Veterans Legislative Symposia – In addition to Reno and Las Vegas, we will add Elko as a location to host the symposia to give veterans and advocates the opportunity to help shape the legislative priorities for the upcoming session.

Together, these efforts demonstrate our commitment to building a stronger community of support, one where every veteran knows they are valued, remembered, and never left behind.

As we look forward to 2026, I invite you to join our mission. Whether through attending an event or simply reaching out to a veteran in your life, your involvement ensures our theme continues to resonate: Never Alone, Never Forgotten.

With Gratitude,

Col. Mary Devine (Ret.)
Director
Nevada Department of Veterans Services

Serving Nevada's Heroes
Since 1943

Nevada Department of Veterans Services

NDVS Communications Officer Terri Hendry speaking at VAMDAL.

NDVS
Nevada Department
of Veterans Services

www.veterans.nv.gov

NDVS Annual Report FY 2025 overseen by NDVS Communications Director Terri Hendry. Designed by The Factory, Reno NV.
For more information contact: hendryt@veterans.nv.gov