



Veterans Action Foundation

Voice of the VAF

Volume 01 | Issue 01 | Monthly Newsletter | October 2023



Welcome

We're excited to celebrate our first monthly newsletter with you! The Veterans Action Foundation's (VAF) mission is to take affirmative action that assists veterans and organizations that support veterans, families, and survivors by increasing the civilian community's awareness of veterans' needs, issues, and events.

The VAF strives to build strong, lasting, and respectful partnerships with community/business leaders, other organizations, and government departments to harness the community's collective power in support of challenged veterans and their needs.

This also includes ways to provide food, shelter, clothing, furniture, transportation, obtain benefits, healthcare, service dogs, suicide prevention awareness, and other essentials as appropriate for veterans' needs.

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VAF attends Unclaimed Veteran Burial Services at SNVMC

On August 24, 2023, Veteran Action Foundation attended the unclaimed veteran burial services at the Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery (SNVMC) for 7 Army veterans. We were so honored and proud to be there to say the last goodbye to these fellow veterans. The S.A.M. 711 veteran organization members Zane Simpson, Ed Gilmore, and Tom Whitcomb were in attendance as were Ken Sawyer, State Council, Chief of Staff, District Marshall, and many other Nevada Knights of Columbus members.

The unclaimed veteran services are held almost every Thursday at 8:40 a.m. at the SNVMC, 1900 Veteran's Memorial Drive, Boulder City, NV 89005. If you are available, the VAF highly recommends that you attend to say the last goodbye to these veterans.

Bobi Oates, Women Veterans of Nevada, Len Blake, the Patriot Guard Riders, and Neil Johnson, Vietnam Veterans of America, do a fantastic job for our fallen unclaimed veterans.



VAF Supports Las Vegas Asian Chamber of Commerce

On August 24, 2023, the Veterans Action Foundation attended the Las Vegas Asian Chamber of Commerce Luncheon with guest speaker Nevada Governor Joe Lombardo at the Gold Coast Hotel and Casino, Las Vegas. The Veterans Action Foundation set up a marketing table with veteran information and giveaways.

There were many in attendance for the Asian Chamber Luncheon. We want to give a special thanks to Robert Young, Chairman, Raja Mourey, President, and Jeannie Williamson, Vice President of the Las Vegas Asian Chamber of Commerce, for this opportunity.

In addition to the governor, attendees also included many individuals from the local community. We are happy to have had this opportunity and look forward to the next one!



VAF attends Las Vegas Veteran Treatment Court Graduation

On August 23, 2023, the Veterans Action Foundation attended the Las Vegas Veteran Treatment Court Graduation with the honorable Judge Harmony Letizia, courtroom 8C, 200 Lewis Avenue, Las Vegas presiding over the ceremonies.

The Veterans Action Foundation gave \$50 Smith's gift cards (Thank you Smith's) to six Veterans Treatment Court graduates. In addition, representatives of Quilts of Valor presented the VTC graduates with a handmade quilt.

We want to thank Judge Harmony Letizia, Adriana Martines, and Scott Carlson for their assistance as well as other dignitaries in attendance such as Fred Wagar, *Director, Nevada Department of Veteran Service*, and Vincent Palmieri Jr., *Commander, Military Order of the Purple Heart Chapter 711*.



A Message from our Board of Directors

Welcome to the first edition of the Voice of the VAF! This is our first year of helping veterans and other veteran organizations. It takes a lot of time and effort to build a veteran nonprofit to the point where it may create a newsletter. It is even more labor intensive when all the staff are volunteers. We are so fortunate to find a volunteer with the skills and ability to create a newsletter for us that would benefit veterans, their families, and other veterans' organizations. I thank our newsletter Editor and Chief, Aimee Castillo, for all her hard and beneficial work. With her, we have a newsletter. With that said, I hope you find our Voice of the VAF a useful and enjoyable publication. If you have any questions, suggestions, comments, or articles, please email us at info@vafnv.org. Thank you!!!

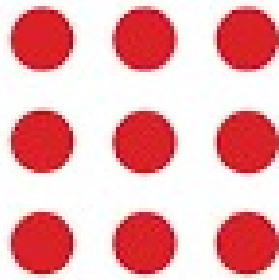
– Ralph “Mac” McNamara

Upcoming Events

TURKEYS FOR TROOPS II

The Veterans Action Foundation is once again raising funds to give away turkeys to enlisted Air Force personnel at Nellis and Creech Air Force Bases for Thanksgiving. This year, we are working in collaboration with the USO Nevada. We need your help to accomplish this mission. Please send (by November 15th) your tax-deductible donation to Veterans Action Foundation Turkeys for Troops II, Veterans Action Foundation, PO Box 91165, Henderson, NV 89009. Please make donation checks payable to VAF Turkeys for Troops. To donate by credit card, please use this link: <https://www.vafnv.org/make-a-donation/>. Please include your name, address, and email address so we can send you a receipt.

RESOURCES FOR YOU



Veterans Crisis Line

DIAL 988 then **PRESS 1**



VETERAN DONATION ABUSE



DON'T BE FOOLED BY AN INDIVIDUAL OR ORGANIZATION WHO SAYS THEY HELP VETERANS!

It is important to remember that some individuals and organizations ask for donations under the pretense of helping veterans when, in fact, none or very little of the donation goes to veterans. They know that saying they are helping Veterans will increase the likelihood of getting donations because most people want to help Veterans who served their country. Individuals, companies, and organizations that want to donate to help veterans must do their due diligence regarding who they are giving money to! If you are an individual, a company, or an organization donor, check the website of the veteran group before you donate to see if they offer receipts for tax purposes, what percentage of your donation goes directly to help veterans, and if any of the donation goes to pay staff. Donors can also add conditions on their donations, such as x dollars to give a needy veteran a service dog, specialized equipment, or help with food/rent/clothing. Always follow up on your donation to ensure the organization uses your donation as intended.

Donation Abuse Examples:

1. Facilities claim to house and serve veterans; however, only a few veterans live in the rooms, and the living conditions are unhealthy and unsafe. Most of the rooms are filled with non-veterans, but by using the word "veteran," they get more funding through donations by individuals and corporations.
2. Individuals or companies claim they give veterans big, expensive items if you donate so much money a month. However, only a portion of that monthly donation goes to the veteran, and the rest goes to the individual or company. Do not be fooled by phrases like "95% of your donations go to our veteran programs." That probably means that they are paying their staff to manage those programs, and less of the donation goes to the veteran.

Help prevent veteran donation abuse by researching who you donate to, checking their record of helping veterans, and following up on your donation. Veteran donation abuse does not help the veterans or the donors, and it only helps the individual/company asking for the donation!

Donation Abuse awareness sponsored by Veterans Action Foundation.



www.vafnv.org

Veterans do not pay for companies/organizations to get the benefits that you've earned! There are so many veteran organizations out there that will help you get the benefits you earned/deserve for **FREE!!!** Veteran organizations that really want to help veterans from their heart, not from their bottom line! Here is a list of organizations that offer **FREE Services:**

- Disabled American Veterans (DAV)
- American Veterans (AMVETS)
- Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)
- American Legion
- Nevada Department of Veterans Services (NDVS)
- Henderson Veteran Service Office (Chapter 730 Military Order of the Purple Heart & Veterans Action Foundation)