

# NMSA

## NEVADA MILITARY SUPPORT ALLIANCE



NMSA Supporters,

After two full years of fundraising and construction, the Nevada Military Support Alliance will join with both the Fisher House Foundation and the U.S. Veterans Administration in opening the Las Vegas Fisher House on February 11, 2016. This 16-room state-of-the-art home sits on the campus of the VA Southern Nevada Healthcare System and will be a free sanctuary for the families of service members and veterans undergoing treatment at the hospital. This is Nevada's first Fisher House and the largest fundraising effort to date for NMSA. It is yet another reminder how much Nevada values our warriors and their families.

The 2016 dates for our annual NMSA Gala's are March 19th at the MGM Grand Hotel Casino in Las Vegas and May 14th at the Silver Legacy Resort Casino. Our Las Vegas Gala will feature Colonel Brian McCoy, USMC (ret) of the best-selling book McCoy's Marines, while we welcome former CIA Director James Woolsey as our Reno Gala Speaker. Our Galas are great opportunities to show the community and potential supporters exactly what the NMSA is all about and how they can get involved – so please consider attending again with a patriotic friend.

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We continue to look for ways to support the transition back to civilian life of those Nevadans returning home from the battlefield. We have done this successfully with a number of our projects at community colleges and universities throughout the state to fund transition offices on these campuses that make it easier for veterans to get the assistance available to them so they can begin acquiring new skills and degrees. We believe this will be a growing part of the mission of the NSMA going forward.

Also, through our work with individual veterans and their families, we understand that not all those who have returned are comfortable asking for help. While teammates in the service, here at home or overseas, servicemen and women are often very independent while in uniform given the importance of the jobs they do. That makes them reluctant to seek help, we at the NMSA know that these veterans are out there and would ask the help of the Nevada community to identify those who we can reach out and talk to. Oftentimes, the friendliest face to a veteran is another veteran.

On behalf of the NMSA Board of Directors, we thank you for your commitment to those who serve us all in wartime and in peace. May you and your family have a wonderful and healthy 2016.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Bensing".

Scott Bensing  
President



# ★★★★★ NMSA ★★★★★

## 2015 4TH ANNUAL RENO GALA

The Nevada Military Support Alliance welcomed guests at the Silver Legacy for the 4th Annual Reno Gala. Attendees were delighted by the words and accomplishments of guest speaker, General Kevin P. Chilton.



As Former Commander of U.S. Strategic Command, United States Air Force (Ret.), General Chilton completed a 34 ½ year career in the Air Force where he was responsible for the plans and operations for all U.S. forces conducting strategic deterrence and the Department of Defense's space and cyberspace operations.

The evening's program included the introduction and announcement of our support for the launch of the Nevada Attorney General's new program, "The Office of Military Legal Assistance." This first of its kind program offers pro bono civil legal services to service members in need.

Additionally and unbeknownst to those in attendance, the NMSA proudly recognized the Veterans Resource Center at Truckee Meadows Community College by presenting TMCC President, Dr. Maria Sheehan with a check for \$300,000 to be paid with \$50,000 installments over six years. The TMCC Veterans Resource Center is dedicated solely to the needs of the growing military population.

The NMSA is so grateful for the generous support of so many here in Northern Nevada. Together we continue to work towards meeting the ever-changing needs of our military community.

**Save the Date: May 14, 2016**



## 2015 3RD ANNUAL LAS VEGAS GALA

Hosted by the MGM Grand Las Vegas, the 3rd Annual NMSA Las Vegas Gala was an evening dedicated to the Las Vegas Fisher House. The NMSA made a promise in 2013 to raise \$3.1 Million locally to assist in the construction of the Fisher House to be built on the campus of the VA Hospital in North Las Vegas. As of March 2015, their mission was complete! The NMSA proudly presented the Fisher House with a check fulfilling their commitment and shared their excitement for the upcoming groundbreaking. Once completed, the Fisher House will provide "a home away from home" for those receiving medical care and their families.

The Nevada Military Support Alliance was honored to welcome General Richard B. Myers, Former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff United States Air Force (Ret.) as guest speaker for the 3rd Annual NMSA Las Vegas Gala. With over 40 years of service to the US Air Force, having held command positions at every level, logging more than 600 combat hours during Vietnam, General Myers captured the attention of all who attended.



**Save the Date: March 19, 2016**



# NMSA

## 2015 FIFTH ANNUAL GOLF CLASSIC

The Fifth Annual Nevada Military Support Alliance Golf Classic held September 10-11 2015, was again a two day celebration honoring the brave men and women of our Armed Forces. Proudly presented by RGJ Foundation and sponsored by Mercedes Benz of Reno, the Golf Classic has become a yearly tradition for many of our local supporters. It is an opportunity to celebrate and give thanks to those who have served and are still serving, through the efforts of the Nevada Military Support Alliance.

The Golf Classic kicked off Thursday, with an honorary dinner alongside the Truckee River in beautiful Wingfield Park. The theme "Saluting Our Heroes" was all the more fitting for the evening as we honored our local heroes, as well as those of our great nation in remembrance of the attacks on 9/11. Some of our very own "Heroes" in attendance for the evening were disabled veterans and participants of the City of Reno Military Sports Camp. Guests enjoyed light hors d'oeuvres, cocktails and a silent auction before the Silver Legacy Resort Casino presented their delectable patriotic dinner spread. The Reno Chamber Orchestra brought the evening to an end as they filled the air with the sweet sound of music followed by an incredible fireworks display presented by PyroGuys.

Somerset Golf and Country Club was the host for the 5th Annual NMSA Golf Classic tournament themed "Playing for Our Heroes" beginning Friday morning. We were pleased to have twenty seven teams join us this year for 18 holes of "Best Ball" tournament play. Golfers were treated to a hosted continental breakfast as they received their swag and loaded their gear upon golf carts each decorated with an American flag. Blowing in the morning breeze were 57 Gold Star

Flags, each symbolizing the loss of a Nevada soldier's life taken in the line of duty. NMSA Board of Director, Dan Morgan shared a few words and introduced NMSA Ambassador Army SGT Dylan Gray prior to the Shotgun Start. Mercedes Benz of Reno and Reno Dodge were our Hole in One sponsors this year providing three opportunities to drive away in a new car or truck. Despite a few close calls, no one was lucky enough to win one though everyone had fun trying! Players enjoyed cocktails, a hosted BBQ with food by Pinocchio's Bar and Grill and some awesome prizes to conclude the NMSA Fifth Annual Golf Classic.



## GOVERNOR'S POINTS OF LIGHT AWARD

On October 8th the Nevada Military Support Alliance was awarded the 2015 Governor's Points of Light Award for the Non-Profit category on behalf of the Nevada Volunteers and Governor Sandoval. This award is Nevada's most prestigious volunteer award. NMSA was included in a group of 20 finalists that a panel of judges selected a winner from for outstanding achievement in voluntary service, addressing an unmet need, using an innovative or unique approach and mobilizing volunteers. The Nevada Military Support Alliance received Congressional Recognition from Congressman Mark Amodei, Congressman Crescent Hardy and Congresswoman Dina Titus. Special recognition from Representative Joe Heck and Senatorial recognition from Senator Dean Heller and Senator Harry Reid.



## Q&D CONSTRUCTION RAISES \$1,000

Through the hard work and dedication to the Reno community the employees of Q&D Construction raised \$1,000 for the Nevada Military Support Alliance.





## FISHER HOUSE GROUNDBREAKING

The Nevada Military Support Alliance (NMSA) announced that the local fundraising efforts for Nevada's first Fisher House were completed ahead of schedule. The organization had originally intended to reach its \$3 million dollar fund raising goal



needed to start construction on the \$6 million dollar construction project by spring of 2016. However, due to overwhelming community support, the NMSA and the Fisher House Foundation broke ground on the project the morning of March 27, 2015 on the VA Southern Nevada Healthcare System campus in North Las Vegas. More than 250 were in attendance to celebrate this significant step forward in services to our states service members and veterans.

"This is a significant occasion, and the Nevada Military Support Alliance is proud to have lead the way. It is a true complement to the Southern Nevada community and because of their generosity, we were able to reach the local goal of \$3.0 million dollars in a remarkably short period of time," said Perry Di Loreto, Chairman of the Nevada Military Support Alliance.

Major contributors to the fundraising effort included The Alfred E. Mann Nevada Foundation, Barrick Mining, Bigelow Aerospace, The Engelstad Foundation, The Heather and Jim Murren Foundation, MGM Resorts International, The Nevada Military Support Alliance, Nevada State Bank, NV Energy, Paragon Gaming, Perry M. Di Loreto and Wells Fargo.

"Nevada continues to demonstrate our commitment to becoming the most military and veteran-friendly state in the nation. I applaud the Nevada Military Support Alliance and the Fisher House Foundation for supporting this commitment and for providing the families of our service men and woman and veterans with this much needed facility," said Nevada Governor Brian Sandoval.

**Save the Date: Fisher House Ribbon Cutting, February 11, 2016**

## THE PATRICK HENRY AWARD

The Nevada National Guard Association enthusiastically nominated NMSA Board of Director, Dan Morgan and NMSA Vice Chairman, Joseph Brown for the Patrick Henry Award (the civilian counterpart to the NGAUS Distinguished Service Medal). The Patrick Henry Award is designed to provide recognition to local officials and civic leaders, who in a position of great responsibility distinguished themselves with outstanding and exceptional service to the Armed Forces of the United States, The National Guard or NGAUS.

Both gentleman have distinguished themselves by providing selfless and dedicated service to the National Guard, the United States Military and the State of Nevada, through dedication and leadership at all levels.

NMSA past recipients include: Perry Di Loreto, Susan Fisher, Scott Bensing and Teresa Di Loreto



# ★★★★★ NMSA ★★★★★



## THE OFFICE OF MILITARY LEGAL ASSISTANCE

On November 19, 2015, Nevada Attorney General Adam Paul Laxalt announced the launch of a new program, "The Office of Military Legal Assistance," which will offer pro bono civil legal services provided by local attorneys to our military communities. Nevada's active duty, Guard and reserve service members will receive legal assistance for civil matters such as consumer fraud, military rights, immigration, landlord/tenant, creditor/debtor issues and more.

The Nevada Military Support Alliance proudly agreed to partner with the Nevada Attorney General and his Office of Military Legal Assistance in an effort to help shape the parameters of the program. On December 8, 2015, the NMSA issued a check for \$65,000.00 to The Office of Military Legal Assistance to help fund their efforts.

## PENTA BUILDING GROUP 11TH ANNUAL CHARITY GOLF CLASSIC

The PENTA Building Group hosted their 11th Annual Charity Golf Classic at The Revere Golf Club in Las Vegas in May. Proceeds from this wonderful event benefitted the Nevada Military Support Alliance, Nevada Childhood Cancer Foundation and the

Women's Development Center. Following a great day of golf, the evening concluded with dinner, raffle prizes and a presentation made by each of the Charitable recipients. Nevada Military Support Alliance proudly received a \$25,000.00 check.

**Save the Date: 2016 Penta Building Group Golf Tournament, May 6**



## CASINO FANDANGO DONATES TO NMSA

Court Cardinal, President of Casino Fandango presented Teresa Di Loreto, Executive Director of NMSA and Eathan O'Byant, Director of NMSA with a \$6,500 check to the Nevada Military Support Alliance on Thursday, December 3rd, 2015.

On Wednesday, November 11th Casino Fandango ran a 5X Points Veterans Day promotion in honor of our Veterans.

Club Fandango card members earned  $\frac{1}{2}$  the points while the other  $\frac{1}{2}$  were donated to the Nevada Military Support Alliance. Casino Fandango is proud to be able to give to a great organization like NMSA that keeps all the money right here in Northern Nevada to help our local veterans.





# NMSA



## ATO FUNDRAISER

In October, the local Alpha Tau Omega Delta Iota fraternity hosted a two week long fundraiser led by Dylan Tedford, on the campus of the University. In an effort to give back to their community, the fraternity chose to support the Nevada Military Support Alliance with the hope to improve the lives of the men and women of our armed forces and their families living in our state.

To promote awareness, three fraternity brothers volunteered to spend the first week in wheelchairs. Their hope was to enlighten others of the challenges disabled veterans face when returning home while attempting to adapt to normal every day activities.

Each brother was interviewed and asked how the experience affected him and those around him. During the second week, brothers were asked to promote their “Taug-Of-War” event where proceeds would go to the NMSA. In addition, brothers were also asked to reach out to family and friends, share the mission of the Nevada Military Support Alliance and invite them to donate.

The efforts of ATO Delta Iota, graciously supported the NMSA with a check for \$8,970.00.



**TSgt. Stephanie Ronecker  
McLaughlin “Stephie”  
Born April 24, 1974 –  
Summit, New Jersey  
Returned to Heaven  
September 25, 2015 –  
Reno, Nevada**

TSgt. Stephanie Ronecker McLaughlin “Stephie” was born on April 27, 1974 to Sharon and Fred Ronecker. Stephie earned her angel wings very suddenly on September 25, 2015. She was serving her country as a Nevada Air Guardsman in Reno, NV. Stephie was the confidential assistant to The Adjutant General of Nevada, Brig. Gen. William Burks, where her colleagues describe her as “tireless, fearless, extraordinary and passionate” in all she did.

Stephie served her country with pride during her career in the United States Air Force and Air National Guard. She worked for many two, three and four star generals, including Maj Gen (ret) Ron J. Bath, who referred to her as “the most efficient human on the planet”. In 1993, McLaughlin joined the U.S. Air Force. She eventually joined the New Jersey Air National Guard in 1997 and during her Air Force Career served at Langley Air Force Base, Virginia; The Pentagon, Washington D.C; McMurdo Station, Antarctica; Ramstein Air Base, Germany and Carson City Joint Force Headquarters, Nevada.

Stephie was also a tireless supporter of the Nevada Military Support Alliance (NMSA) and its mission.

She will be laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery on May 20, 2016.

### CHAIRMAN

Perry M. Di Loreto

### VICE CHAIRMAN/SECRETARY/ TREASURER

Maj Gen (ret) Ronald J. Bath

### VICE CHAIRMAN

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