



NMSA



NEVADA MILITARY SUPPORT ALLIANCE



Dear NMSA Board Members, Advisory Board Members and Supporters,

As you read this Newsletter the holidays are quickly approaching and 2011 is near completion. It is with great pride that we share with you the numerous events that we, the Nevada Military Support Alliance, have benefitted from, participated in or supported on behalf of Nevada's men and women of our armed forces and their families.

Our beloved state was dealt some difficult hands this year with the IHOP tragedy in Carson City, the loss of yet another fine young soldier, Doug Green, remembering the horrific events of 9/11 and the crash at the Reno Air Races.

Yet out of despair so many of you continue to come together and support the mission of the Nevada Military Support Alliance allowing us the opportunity to "step up to the plate" to provide support and assistance where needed.

The successes from 2011 are many and we will continue to strive to touch even more of Nevada's men and women of our armed forces and their families in 2012. We recognize the challenges our military face and can attest with the greatest conviction that we are here to respond.

On behalf of the NMSA Board of Directors, thank you for your continued support and for those local businesses that took the time away from their day-to-day business to organize fundraisers in support of our mission! Wishing you a happy holiday season and all the best for a healthy and happy 2012.

Perry M. Di Loreto, President

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Fallen Hero

Army Specialist Douglas J. Green
Died: August 28, 2011
Age: 23
From: Las Vegas, NV
Combat Zone: Kandahar



U.S. Army Specialist Douglas J. Green was killed in action in Kandahar on August 28, 2011. He died from injuries received when insurgents detonated a bomb against his unit and opened fire with small arms. Green served with the 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, based at Fort Wainwright. Specialist Doug Green joined the U.S. Army more than four years ago. His family says he always wanted to serve his country, and only had two months left on his tour of Afghanistan.

SAVE THE DATE
2ND ANNUAL NEVADA MILITARY
SUPPORT ALLIANCE GALA
MAY 19, 2012 • SILVER LEGACY





NMSA



Homes for Our Troops with the Assistance of the Nevada Military Support Alliance Presents Severely Injured Nevada Marine with Keys to New Home



Wellington, NV (October 22, 2011) – Homes for Our Troops (www.homesfourtroops.org), a national non-profit organization dedicated to building specially adapted homes for severely injured veterans, presented the keys to a new home to Marine Sgt. Kenneth “Dylan” Gray and his family in Wellington, Nevada on October 22, 2011. Construction on the home began in March with a three-day Build Brigade during which volunteers finished the home’s framing, siding, and roof, and installed windows and doors.

On his third deployment, Sgt. Gray was left a double amputee after driving over an anti-tank mine in Al Qaim, Iraq on February 16, 2007. The new specially-adapted home, which goes beyond ADA compliance, features open

floor plans, automatic door openers, hard-surfaced floors, roll-in showers, roll-under cook tops, sinks, and more; it will allow him to live with more freedom and independence and help his wife Kelly with their three young children.

“The Key Ceremony for Dylan Gray was an opportunity for us to show our appreciation for all he and his family have sacrificed,” said John Gonsalves, Founder and President of Homes for Our Troops. The NMSA also presented the Gray Family with a limited edition painting entitled “Reflections of Freedom” by renowned artist Rick Kelley.

“We salute each and every volunteer for helping to give back freedom and independence to this very deserving family.”





NMSA



Tim Hall - A Nevada Hero!



While defending our country, Army soldier SPC4 Timothy Hall at the age 20 from Hawthorne, Nevada was critically injured during an indirect mortar attack at FOB Shank in Afghanistan in June of 2010. Timothy immediately underwent surgery while in Afghanistan in an effort to stabilize him enough to transport him to a hospital in Germany. Tim's mother and stepfather, Tammy and Eric Hamrey, were later notified that both legs and right hip were amputated. Tim has continued to endure countless surgeries, treatments, physical and occupational therapy while at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington DC.

Substantial progress has been made and because of Tim's once again heroic strength he is able to travel home periodically for visits. Unfortunately, his physical limitations have made it difficult for him to maneuver in his parent's home. In true Nevada fashion and despite tough economic times the already patriotic community of Hawthorne did all that it could to assist the Hamrey's in quest to better adapt their home to facilitate Tim's needs. Financially all that could be done was given the limited resources.

Tim's story was heard and the NMSA reached out. Following a visit by two NMSA Board members a request was made to financially assist with the heating and air conditioning system for their home. Thanks to Cavallero Heating & Air Conditioning, Inc. of Carson City and the funds from the NMSA, Tim's family can appropriately help keep Tim comfortable with the new furnace and air conditioning system. Tim, in his youth, enjoyed basketball and driving his off road buggy. Once again the NMSA assisted with adapting the vehicle with special controls so that Tim could once again enjoy the thrills of his off road vehicle without being dependent on anyone else.

Iron Nation 911 Run



The first Iron Nation 911 run was on 9-14-01. A group of about 35 friends got together to do a memorial ride. They met at Bully's on Pyramid Highway and McCarran and rode to the Bully's located on Mt. Rose Highway. Word spread

quickly as friends told friends, who told friends. Before they knew it the ride drew nearly 150 motorcycles in 2002 and 2003. Monies raised during the first few years went to support the local firefighters. The Iron Nation Motorcycle Club organized as a nonprofit in 2004 and hosted its First INMC Never Forget 911 Run with 500 participants and raised \$5,000.00.

Since that first run, the event proudly hosts over 1,500 participants and has contributed to date over \$120,000.00 to the Nevada Military Support Alliance. This year's event alone raised \$20,000.00 to support our dedicated heroes and their families.

NVOS Supports NMSA

The Nevada Orthopedic Society (NVOS) presented the Nevada Military Support Alliance with a check at their most recent dinner held at the Eldorado Hotel Casino. Guest speaker LTC Scott B. Shawen, MD from Walter Reed Army Medical Center presented his indepth experience while in Afghanistan where he supported the 7th Group Special Forces as part of a forward surgical element. While there he performed over 300 operations on local nationals and injured coalition soldiers. Dr. Shawen also showed a power point demonstrating the extensive rehabilitation program that our wounded soldiers endure while at Walter Reed Army Medical Center.





NMSA



City of Reno Military Sports Camp



For the first time ever, the City of Reno hosted a Wounded Warriors Sports Camp for Nevada Servicemen and women September 14 – 18. Together with the Nevada Military Support Alliance, the Wounded Warrior Project and Disabled Sports USA, the City of Reno was able to provide recreation opportunities to wounded service members from the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts.

Experience has shown that early intervention with active sports results in successful rehabilitation after injury. 18 participants, 9 disabled veterans/wounded warriors and their guests, representing all branches of the service, having served various tours of duty spent 4 days participating in adaptive sports such as: whitewater rafting/kayaking, sailing, scuba, paddle boarding, land sailing, rock wall, wheelchair rugby and adaptive cycling. These participant's disabilities

include spinal cord injury/mobility issues, traumatic brain injury, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and visual impairment. Veterans traveled from as far as Seattle/Tacoma, home of the Warrior Transitions Unit for the State of Nevada, Las Vegas, Gardnerville and the Carson Valley. The others are from right here in Reno/Sparks.

A special thanks to the staff that dedicated their time to this event: April Wolfe, Therapeutic Recreation Specialist (City of Reno), Sgt. Tim Lee (volunteer nurse with Saint Mary's) and Gena Tadych (volunteer nurse with the VA Hospital and various adaptive sports programs).

2011 Reno Tahoe Open Patriots Luncheon



The 2nd annual Patriots' Luncheon was held on Tuesday, August 2, 2011 at Montreux Golf & Country Club to honor the outstanding servicemen and women that serve in our country's military.

Commander Kirk Lippold, USN (Ret.), commanding officer of the USS Cole during the terrorist attacks in Yemen in the year 2000 captivated those in attendance as he narrated in great detail, the events of that fateful day. Following Commander Lippold's presentation, members of the audience participated in reciting, one by one, the names of those 17 Americans whose lives were lost.

The Nevada Military Support Alliance was presented a check at the RTO Charity Check presentation ceremony in the amount of \$11,770.00, for a total contribution from the Reno Tahoe Open Foundation of \$37,770.00 for 2011.





NMSA



Never Forget 9/11



On Friday, September 9, 2011 the Flag Store, Sign & Banner in Sparks, hosted a “Never Forget 9/11” event. Sean Patrick and Bill Manders joined the Flag Store for a live broadcast.

The intent of this event was 9/11 awareness and fundraiser for both the NMSA and Operation Cookie Jar. During the event, on display we’re Military vehicles provided by the Reno Military Vehicle Preservation

Group, a 9/11 art display as well as 57 Gold Star Flags and photos representing the fallen heroes from Nevada who lost their lives defending our freedom since 9/11. The Flag Store had several giveaways, an on Air auction which included two Nevada flagpoles and two Nevada flags that had been flown over the State Capitol and signed by the Governor. Governor Brian Sandoval joined the Flag Store Team to kick off the day. Proceeds from this event were \$3,137.54.

Luva Bella Supports NMSA



On September 11, The Luva Bella Wine Gallery located at The Summit Sierra hosted a wine walk in memory of 9/11 and the victims of the Carson City IHOP tragedy. Proceeds from this walk benefited the NMSA.

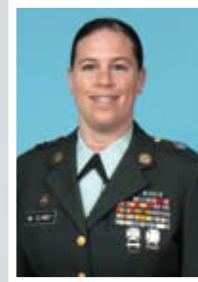
A check was presented by Debbie Bullentini in the amount of \$300.00.

Nevada Guard Association Hosts Fallen & Injured Soldier Memorial Golf Tournament

The Nevada National Guard Association, in conjunction with Thunder Canyon Country Club, hosted a golf tournament to support the soldiers and families affected by the September 6 shooting in a Carson City IHOP restaurant. The event was held Monday, October 10 at the Thunder Canyon Country Club, which generously opened its doors to the public to support these northern Nevada military families. The tournament raised more than \$13,000.00 to support the victims of the September 6 tragedy and the mission of the Nevada Military Support Alliance.



Heath Kelly
MAJ



Miranda McElhiney
SFC



Christian Riege
SFC

Grand Chapter of Nevada, Order of the Eastern Star



On October 1, 2011, Joseph W. Brown, NMSA Board of Director, joined the Grand Chapter of Nevada, Order of the Eastern Star’s Celebrating Our Stars & Stripes 2010-2011 106th Grand Chapter Session.

During this event the NMSA was presented a check in the amount of \$2,100.00 in recognition of the NMSA’s dedication to the Health of Humanity. The check was presented by Barbara Ann K. Holmes – Worthy Grand and Joseph E. “Jay” Dini III – Worthy Grand.





NMSA



National Guard Association of the United States Names Perry Di Loreto Recipient of Patrick Henry Award



Chairman of the Nevada Military Support Alliance (NMSA), Perry Di Loreto, was honored by the National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS) and presented with the **Patrick Henry Award** for his continuous commitment to and support of military servicemen and their families. The award ceremony was a part of the 133rd NGAUS General Conference and Exhibition in Milwaukee on August 27, 2011.

The **Patrick Henry Award**, the civilian counterpart to the NGAUS Distinguished Service Medal, was created in 1989 and is awarded to distinguished local officials and civic leaders who demonstrate outstanding and exceptional service to the United States Armed Forces, National Guard or NGAUS. Recipients hold positions of great responsibility, and must convey a long-term and lasting commitment to one or more of these organizations.

“Mr. Perry Di Loreto has been a driving force in the support of and to the benefit of Nevada military service members and their families,” said Nevada Adjutant General and Brigadier General William Burks. “His commitment and the leadership he has provided the NMSA and the Nevada Patriot Fund clearly demonstrate his passion and support for the servicemen and women of our great state.”

Support for IHOP Victims



Former Marine and Vietnam Veteran Wally Gunderson was having breakfast with his beloved wife, Florence Donovan-Gunderson, when a gunman walked into the Carson City IHOP where they were eating and started shooting. Wally was hit once in the leg and the bullet destroyed the electric wheelchair to which he was confined. Horribly, his wife suffered a fatal gunshot wound, along with three of Nevada’s National Guardsmen in uniform.

The Nevada Military Support Alliance responded immediately. Working with the Disabled American Veterans of Northern Nevada, the NMSA purchased a new wheelchair for Wally and delivered it to him as soon as he was ready to be released from the hospital. In addition to the direct support for the families of those Nevada Guardsmen killed that fateful day, the NMSA hoped to honor Mrs. Florence Donovan-Gunderson memory by helping

Wally continue to be independent and strong while surviving her loss.

Wally was featured on Channel 4 news when the NMSA delivered his wheelchair on September 18. The NMSA has been checking on him and reports that he is recovering physically from his wounds, and he thanks the NMSA and their supporters for helping him look forward while honoring his wife. Please visit www.nvmilitarysupport.org to view the story of Wally and his wife Florence.

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To donate to the NMSA, please visit:
www.nvmilitarysupport.org

