NEWS RELEASE

Nevada Department of Veterans Services
"SERVING NEVADA'S HEROES"

Contact:
Terri Hendry
Communications Director
6630 S. McCarran Blvd.
Bldg. C., Suite 204
Reno, Nevada 89509
Hendryt@veterans.nv.gov

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NDVS Announces the Launch of the Heroes for Heroes Program

(Reno, Nev.) – The Nevada Department of Veteran Services (NDVS) has launched a new statewide initiative called Heroes for Heroes to combat the isolation many veterans are experiencing because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Heroes for Heroes aims to connect community volunteers with veterans to provide online- and phone-based social support to offset loneliness and offer support into the new year.

The Heroes for Heroes program is a product of the NDVS Family Connections Task Force, an interagency group working to respond to the isolation many veterans are facing. Heroes for Heroes will train volunteers on topics like veteran culture, age- and dementia-friendly communication strategies, suicide prevention, and elder abuse prevention. Volunteers will also have access to program guides who assist in finding available resources or handling intricate situations. After the training is complete, volunteers will connect with their veteran partners on a regular basis to check-in and provide a listening ear.

"We hope that Heroes for Heroes will serve as a resource of support and camaraderie for veterans in the community looking for connection," said NDVS Deputy Director Amy Garland. "The COVID-19 pandemic has been one of the most difficult turn of events we have yet to face, and Heroes for Heroes can serve as a sense of social stability that many have been missing."

Heroes for Heroes is a collaboration between NDVS and the Nevada Ensures Support Together (NEST) Collaborative to better connect veterans with their community throughout the pandemic, holiday season, and into the new year. As part of this program, veterans who want to receive the online- and phone-based support are asked to complete an online application before being partnered with a volunteer. These efforts aim to help with the lack of socialization brought on by COVID-19 restrictions for populations with underlying health conditions, such as veterans.

Registration options are open for both volunteers and veteran participants, which can be found at https://veterans.nv.gov/heroes.

NDVS is dedicated to helping Nevada veterans get the services, benefits and quality of life they deserve. In addition to offering benefits counseling and assistance, which includes filing VA claims at no cost, NDVS manages the Northern and Southern Nevada State Veterans Homes and Veterans Memorial Cemeteries. For more information, please visit www.veterans.nv.gov.

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