



Veterans Guest House receives hefty donation for NNVC

Written by

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Editor

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FERNLEY--Veterans groups combined efforts to hold a Poker Run for the Veterans Guest House, bringing together 265 motorcycle riders and over 600 people on June 25, and raising thousands of dollars.

Last Thursday, Northern Nevada Veterans Coalition officials handed a \$8,000 check to Richard Shuster, vice president of the Veterans Guest House Board.

"A lot of kudos goes to (NNV) Coalition and Brett (Palmer); we appreciate the help--\$8,000 can go a long way," said Shuster.

Other veterans groups that helped included the American Legion and Patriot Guard.

The Veterans Guest House provides a place for families of veterans to stay when a loved one is hospitalized at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Reno.

The Guest House is located at 880 Locust Street, near the VA Hospital. Guests are

encouraged to donate \$25 per night to help defray costs of the building, but if they cannot pay, no person is denied a place to stay.

The facility began in 1994, when two veterans, Chuck Fulkerson and Dick Rhyno, found a woman sleeping in her car outside the VA Hospital. She told them she couldn't afford a hotel room, and she wanted to be near her husband, who was in the hospital.

The pair began with a credo, "Never again on our watch;" and from there, a house was rented and later purchased to provide a place for families to stay. Later on, that older home was torn down and replaced with a three-story house with six full bedrooms, a conference room, a kitchen, a laundry room, a television room, and bathrooms.

Now more expansion is being made, as Shuster reported the VGH Board has acquired property next door to the Guest House where six additional bedrooms will be made available for more families.

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Last year at the Locust Street venue, over 4,700 families received a place to stay.

The Veterans Guest House is a non-profit organization that receives no government funds from federal or state entities.

Shuster indicated the VGH's operating budget is \$300,000 ,and it couldn't function without the generosity of people, saying, "It couldn't operate without the open hearts of people."

Palmer indicated that next year, he is hoping the Poker Run will bring in more money, and already, NNVC members are talking about making the event bigger and better.

For more information, call about the Veterans Guest House call 324-6958.

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