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VETERANS GUEST HOUSE

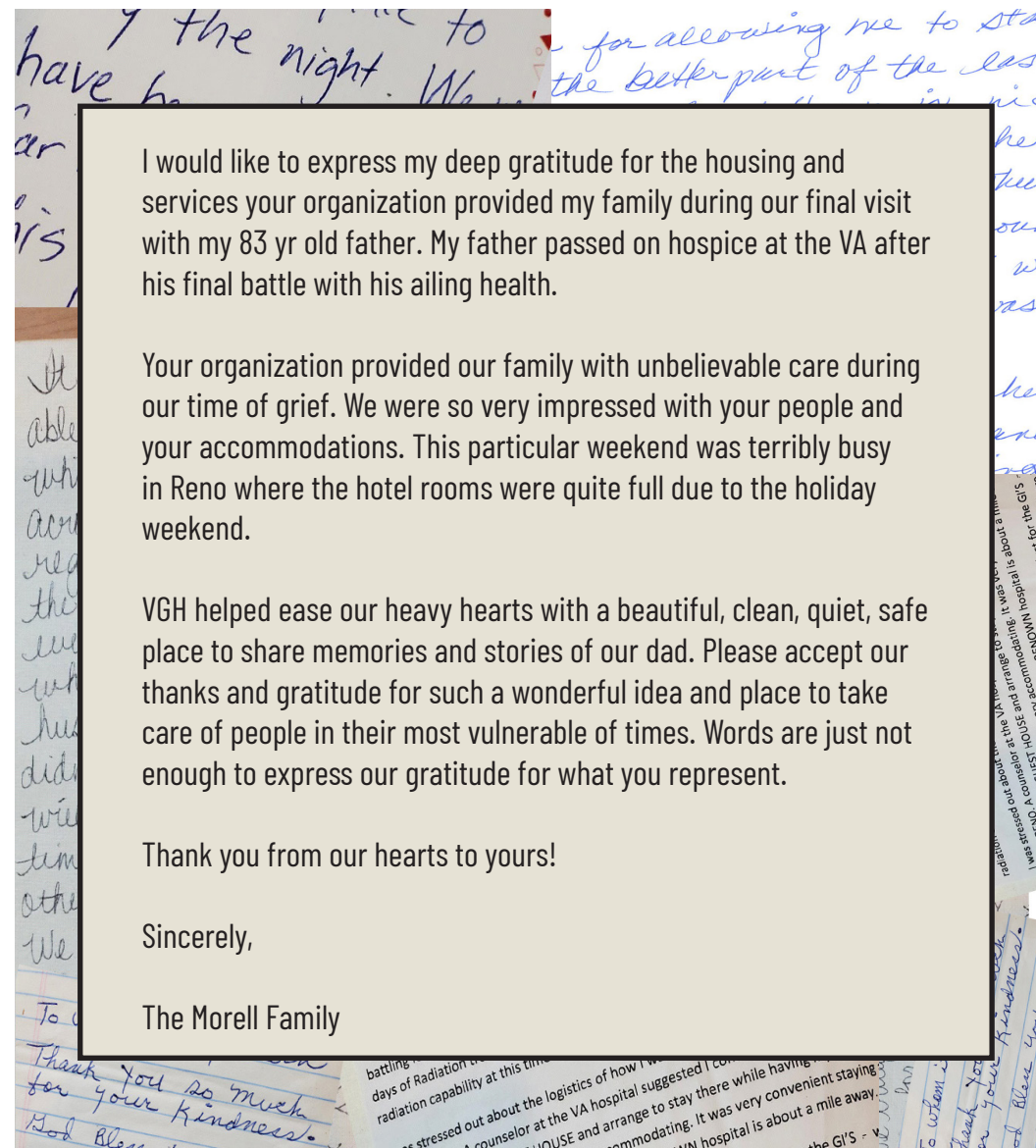
★ Our Mission ★

To promote the health of veterans and their families by providing a warm, inviting temporary home and access to the medical care they need.

Letters From Home

A Special Note for You

Everyday, veterans and their families express their gratitude for the special gifts you give. Their sentiment captures the love felt in every donation—we'd like to share their thanks with you.



I would like to express my deep gratitude for the housing and services your organization provided my family during our final visit with my 83 yr old father. My father passed on hospice at the VA after his final battle with his ailing health.

Your organization provided our family with unbelievable care during our time of grief. We were so very impressed with your people and your accommodations. This particular weekend was terribly busy in Reno where the hotel rooms were quite full due to the holiday weekend.

VGH helped ease our heavy hearts with a beautiful, clean, quiet, safe place to share memories and stories of our dad. Please accept our thanks and gratitude for such a wonderful idea and place to take care of people in their most vulnerable of times. Words are just not enough to express our gratitude for what you represent.

Thank you from our hearts to yours!

Sincerely,

The Morell Family

Winter 2023

in the house

Veterans Guest House Newsletter

Toys for Tots

Gifts accepted at Veterans Guest House through December 21st

Healing Through Comfort and Joy

How You Make Holidays Brighter for Lonely Veterans

For many, the holiday season is a time of togetherness. It's a time to gather with loved ones and celebrate the spirit of the season—but for the 25% of veterans living alone nationwide, the holidays are somber and filled with loneliness. While the comfort and joy felt this time of year may feel distant, your generosity reminds guests that they are not alone.

Comfort—The noise and stress of the holidays are a painful reminder for Navy veteran Ray who lost the love of his life several years back and recently a son to suicide. He reflects, "Lydia and my son are in a better place without suffering. But with the love from the community and my fellow guests, I have the strength to begin each day anew."

For those who have served, there is a sense of comfort in being alone together with fellow veterans.

Joy—Bill, an Army veteran spending Christmas at VGH, remembers the surprise blanket wrapped for him under the tree last year. "It's been years since I had a present to unwrap," he said, "I never expected this—It was just like the joy I felt as a kid on Christmas morning. Watching other guests open their presents, I felt like I was with family."

Because of you, guests have something to look forward to while overcoming loss, isolation, and medical uncertainty. A single gift means more when it is the only one a veteran will receive. Sponsoring a holiday gift for a veteran costs as little as \$50. Your support promises every veteran a merry and bright holiday season.

When medical care prevents guests from spending the holidays with loved ones, the festive spirit resonating throughout VGH creates a sense of togetherness, a place where memories are made and camaraderie combats loneliness. Along with this sense of belonging, your gift signifies that someone, somewhere, is thinking of them this holiday season.

Tony and Michael embrace the spirit of Christmas



Radiothon Success! \$65,000 Raised!

Thank you Flag Store, KOH, our sponsors, and YOU!

How You Can Support Veterans This Holiday Season

- \$25 - Provides round-trip medical transportation for one veteran
- \$50 - Adopts a veteran for the holidays
- \$100 - Gives a veteran one night of accomodation
- \$250 - Feeds dinner to all guests for one night
- \$500 - Sponsors a week stay for a veteran



Winter Wishlist

Spreading Holiday Cheer

- Flannel Shirts (all sizes)
- Gift Cards (Walmart, Amazon, Gas Stations)
- Hot Cocoa Gift Sets
- Mens's and Women's Warm Pajamas (All Sizes)
- Men's Holiday Gift Sets (Cologne, Shaving Kits)
- Women's Holiday Gift Sets (Lotion, Nail Kits, Self-Care)

Preparing for the Cold

- Chapstick
- Gloves
- Ice Melt
- Ice Scrapers
- Lysol Spray

Square Kleenex Boxes

White Distilled Vinegar

Providing Nourishment

- Assorted Boxed Tea Bags
- Assorted Cookies
- Coffee Creamers
- Holiday Popcorn Tins
- Individual Drinks (Water, Soda, Gatorade)
- Individually Wrapped Breakfast Pastries
- K-Cups (Hot Cocoa, Coffee)



Champions of Change: How Volunteers Maximize Your Support The Power of You and the Volunteer Heart

Hospitality houses across the country struggle to find reliable volunteers to provide the level of support and comfort found at VGH. VGH welcomes 20 volunteers weekly, outnumbering paid staff to play an important role in our daily operations. They are the compassionate faces that welcome our guests, the dedicated hands that maintain our clean spaces, and the caring hearts that listen to the stories of those who've served our country. Whether our volunteers are making beds, stocking the kitchen, or conducting routine maintenance, we salute them - the unsung heroes who make our mission possible.

Currency of Care
Volunteers have given a total of 1,390 hours equal to **\$39,690**



One shining example is our trusted handyman, David, a retired carpenter who dedicates his time to ensure all maintenance needs are expertly completed on a weekly basis. After learning about the Guest House through our annual Radiothon, he was encouraged to act by the inspiring stories of our veteran guests and community supporters. Looking to be a part of something dear to his heart, he quickly got to work patching up holes, painting interiors, and installing essential hardware. Maintaining a clean and secure environment for guests gives David peace of mind. Thanks to David and our army of volunteers, we've managed to minimize costs, maximizing your support to ensure critical services are readily available.

Thanks to David and our army of volunteers, we've minimized costs, maximizing your support to ensure critical services are readily available for veterans.

Donors and volunteers, like David, not only fill critical roles but also set an inspiring example for what can be achieved through the power of community and compassion.

Your Help is Needed to Drive Change Veteran Transportation Woes in Northern Nevada



Navy veteran John needs dialysis three times a week. For many, a short drive or a bus ride would be all it takes to access vital healthcare. However, for John, the challenge is monumental. Local providers don't service his part of town. Like the 30% of our guests who live alone, John is left with no option but to navigate over a mile to get to his life-sustaining dialysis appointments—on an electric scooter.



John will receive transportation thanks to a generous donation from Jay and Nancy, but many veterans like John are still in need.

As winter's icy grip approaches, the worries about John's well-being have reached a critical point. The cold and treacherous conditions add an extra layer of peril to his daily journey that no veteran should endure.

Veterans Like John Need You

John's story is a reminder of the urgent need for increased transportation accessibility for veterans living with mobility issues in our community. Every trip John takes is a testament to his resilience but also unearths other barriers to care that veterans are facing.

In Northern Nevada, veterans like John face a stark reality when it comes to accessing essential healthcare services. The lack of transportation services for individuals with mobility challenges is an issue that disproportionately affects low-income veterans living alone.

Recognizing this service gap and its adverse impact on health, Veterans Guest House is committed to raising the \$15,000 needed for transportation in the new year to help the 800 rural and local veterans lacking medical transportation. No veteran should be faced with forgoing care—join us in our effort to ease transportation barriers for guests as they seek access to vital medical treatment.



Thank you to the all the volunteers, dinner hosts, community partners, and **YOU** who have supported VGH throughout the year!

HOLIDAYS FOR HEROES RAFFLE

You have a chance to **WIN** while helping veterans access critical medical services this holiday season!

\$5,000 Grand Prize

and other prizes!

\$100 per ticket

Only 500 tickets sold

Buy in person at VGH or online at www.veteransguesthouse.org



Your Support in Action

Our annual survey shows how you make a difference to veterans and their families.

Of the 5,000 veterans served every year....



agree that "VGH has made accessing medical care possible"



would have gone without treatment altogether



reported a positive effect on their physical health