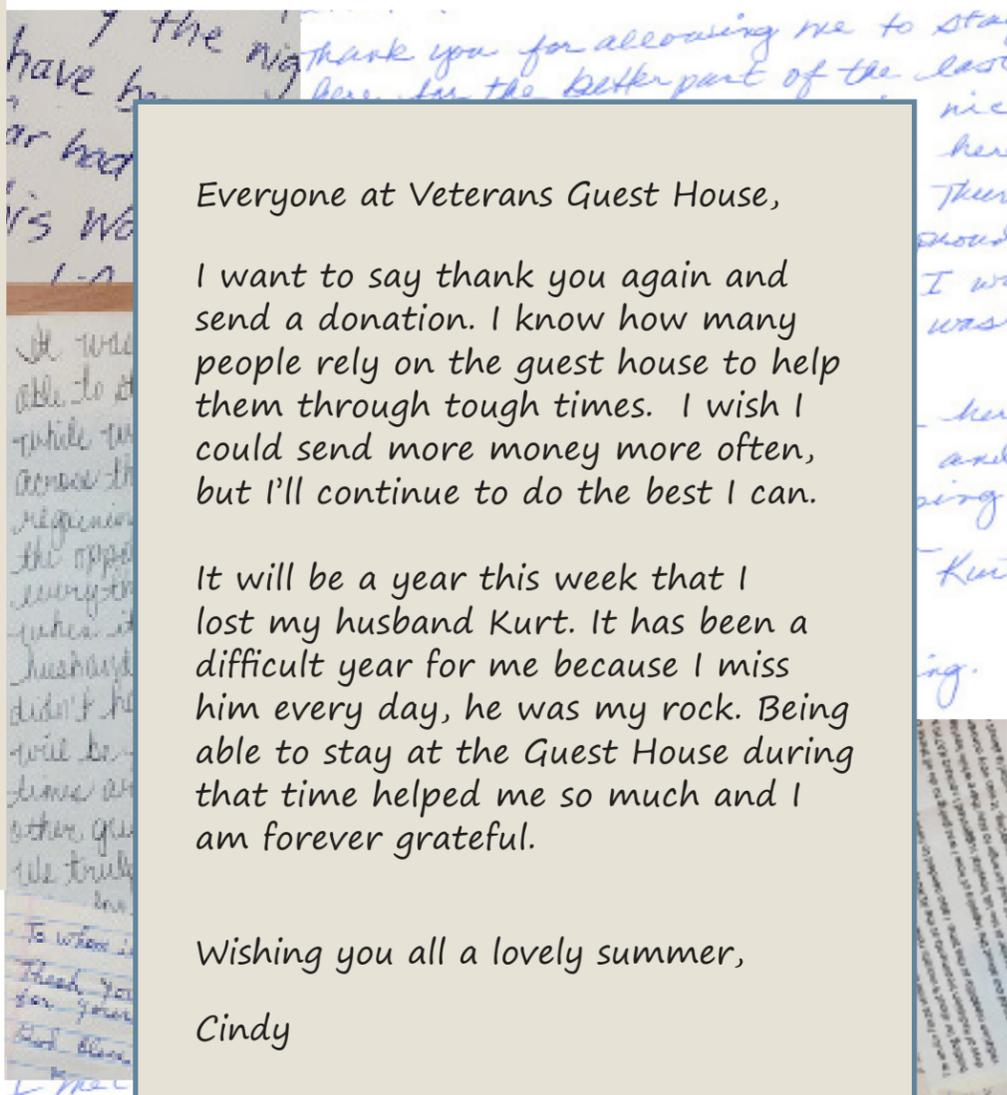


# Letters From Home

A special note for you

Every day, veterans and their families express their gratitude to staff for the gift you have given them by donating to the Veterans Guest House. With your help, the veteran community has more than just a safe place to stay when seeking medical care. They have a place of peace, comfort, and desperately needed relief during difficult times.



Everyone at Veterans Guest House,

I want to say thank you again and send a donation. I know how many people rely on the guest house to help them through tough times. I wish I could send more money more often, but I'll continue to do the best I can.

It will be a year this week that I lost my husband Kurt. It has been a difficult year for me because I miss him every day, he was my rock. Being able to stay at the Guest House during that time helped me so much and I am forever grateful.

Wishing you all a lovely summer,

Cindy

"Thank you for assisting us today with our mutual veteran. We are so grateful for your collaboration and partnership. We appreciate you and your commitment to serving our veterans"

-Nursing Staff, VA Sierra Nevada Health Care Sysytem

# in the house



## Veterans Guest House Newsletter

### Veterans Face Barriers at the Pump

Dewey, an Air Force veteran, travels more than 100 miles one-way from Lovelock to receive his medical care. Like many VGH guests, he relies on rides from friends, family, or services to help him get to Reno. When his last appointment for the day ran late, the shuttle service he used for his ride in, left without him. On Friday afternoon, he had no way to get home. Eric, a VGH maintenance volunteer, was at the Guest House when he learned about Dewey being stranded. Without hesitation he accepted the job to return his fellow veteran back home.

Dewey is one of the 600 VGH guests who struggle with transportation each year. Many veterans have been forced to cancel treatments because they did not have the means to get to their destination or were uncertain about how they would return home. With rising gas prices, a greater number of veterans are being forced to decide between their health and saving money for day-to-day needs.

That was the case for Air Force veteran Terry who cancelled his doctor's appointment when he realized he did not have the gas money to travel the 240 miles from McDermott to Reno. Sam, an Army veteran, remained at VGH for a week because the cost to travel back and forth from Fernley between his appointments simply wasn't an option. The stories continue and requests for help are becoming more frequent.

With your help, VGH is working hard to help veterans and their families gain access to the care they need. In partnership with Reno Elks Lodge 597, volunteer drivers are helping with local transportation. This group of hometown heroes are also hosting wish-list drives to help with everyday essentials for our guests, such as groceries and hygiene items.

Donations of gas cards, taxi/ride sharing vouchers have served as a life-line for military families who need a little extra help getting to their medical appointments. Requests for assistance are expected to grow and many veterans have expressed concern about how they will make ends meet as costs continue to rise. To get involved or learn more about how you can help veterans with transportation needs, please contact Kathi at 775.324.6958 or email [manager@veteransguesthouse.org](mailto:manager@veteransguesthouse.org).



Bridgeport, Calif., Where many guests travel through on their way to VGH (May 12, 2022)

**Did you know..**  
Guests can receive treatment from *any* medical facility in the area!

## Board of Directors

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## VETERANS GUEST HOUSE

★ Our Mission ★

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

## Golf with Purpose

### 2022 Golfing for Our Heroes

Monday, August 8, 2022 • 2:00 p.m.  
Montreux Golf & Country Club  
Foursome - \$2,000

### Al Porta Memorial Golf Tournament

Sunday, September 25, 2022 • 8:00 a.m.  
Toiyabe Golf Club  
\$125 per player



Vaccinated and trained dogs like Milo are welcome to stay with their owners at VGH.

Nick and Michele Dyson with Milo

# Vietnam Veteran Spends Final Days Surrounded by Loved Ones

You helped three generations of grieving family members gather together for their beloved veteran

Vietnam Veteran Tommy and his wife Susie have traveled from Bishop to Reno for the past decade. During those many years making the four-hour, one-way drive for medical care, neither would have imagined that Veterans Guest House would be the place where their entire family would gather during Tommy's final days. Wife Susie, their daughter, granddaughter, and other family members stayed at the guest house as Tommy's health took a turn for the worse. Not having to worry about lodging gave the family the ability to spend every minute they had at the bedside of their loved one. Tommy fought hard every day because he knew his family was there with him or nearby.



House dog Ella was a comforting companion to the family in distress.

she was told that grandpa was gone. Tommy the proud veteran, community leader, and kind man treasured his family. When time was running short the most important people in his life were by his side. They were grateful for the comfort and respite provided by Veterans Guest House.

Tommy had the love and support of his family in his final days. And his family, in turn, was given the care and peace they needed. With a safe place and a caring community, their healing has begun, and an undeniable bond has been created. Tommy's family sadly packed their bags and headed back to a new reality full of adjustments; but they know when a medical need arises, they will be welcomed back with open arms to the place that will always serve as their safe and comforting temporary home.

Your support ensures that veterans are not alone during their final hours and that families have a peaceful place to rest when the unthinkable happens.

While the days were long and hard, there were brief moments of joy sprinkled in. Tommy's four-year-old granddaughter would use couch cushions to build forts in the living room. The sounds of her tiny feet could be heard pitter patter as she ran up and down the hall with guests when waiting for dinner. Those moments would soon pass. The little blond-haired girl sobbed when

## Happy Independence Day

Contact Gaby to find out how you can honor your veteran this 4th of July.

Gaby@veteransguesthouse.org or (775)324-6958 ext 11

### Movie Night Out "Top Gun: Maverick"

Resident Manager Terrence and five guests were treated to see the hit movie "Top Gun: Maverick". The group then spent time chatting about the film and reminiscing about their time in the service.

For Craig who was here receiving his last chemotherapy treatment, this was a special gift at the end of a long hard-fought journey. VGH has seen an influx of guests staying for long-term treatment. Outings like movies and social gatherings help give guests a little something to look forward to during difficult times.

Their rating? Five stars!



Left to right: Frank Rothouser Sr., Norm Burshton, Frank Rothouser Jr., Terrence Biggers, Craig Phillips

## Volunteer Spotlight

Vic and Linda Drakulich say their work at VGH touches their heart in a special way. Vic's father was a Marine and Linda's father retired from the Nevada Air Guard. Their nephew David was an Airborne Ranger and Bronze Star recipient who lost his life in Afghanistan. Volunteering for a veterans organization helps keep their loved ones' memories alive.

Vic and Linda volunteer weekly with housekeeping chores making beds with precision and speed. When asked about their experience as volunteers Linda says, "When we get a chance to say hello to guests, we always receive smiles and positive greetings despite most guests receiving serious medical treatment and dealing with stressful times in their lives. Veterans Guest House is holding a much needed place for these people who have served all of us. It is a wonderful and much needed facility that we are lucky to have in our community."

What impresses them about VGH? "I look for dust and I can't find any, this place is so clean." says Vic. Vic and Linda's contributions make all the difference to veteran families who have spent all day on the road and need a comfortable place to rest. Thank you Vic and Linda!

To learn more about volunteer opportunities at VGH, contact Gaby at Gaby@veteransguesthouse.org.



Linda and Vic Drakulich, thankful and proud native Nevadans.

## Guests at Glance

Average Stay

12

Days



In State vs Out of State



In State (49.7%)



Out of State (50.3%)

Branch of Service



Army (~49%)

Navy (~21%)

Air Force (~17%)

Marine Corps (~13%)

Fun Facts

88 gallons of milk were consumed

Furthest traveled 3466 miles (oneway)

22 guests brought a comfort pet

563 loads of laundry

Numbers are based on dates January - May 2022



## Fashion Show Raises More Than \$100,000

It was a spectacular afternoon of fashion, freedom, and philanthropy. The 2022 Champagne Luncheon and Fashion Show welcomed 300 guests who cheered on our fabulous veteran models and discovered the resources available to veterans and their families through VGH. This year's event was the highest producing fundraiser in VGH's history, raising more than \$100,000. Thank you to our wonderful volunteers, attendees, and sponsors! Special thanks to the Fashion Show Committee, Sue Foltz (Chair), Kim Wheeler, Debbie Burdsall and Kandis Porter.

