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Letters From Home

A special note for you

Everyday, veterans and their families express their gratitude to staff for the special gift you have given them by donating to the Veterans Guest House. With your help, the Veterans Guest House is more than just a safe place to stay when seeking medical care. It's a place of respite, a source of comfort, and desperately needed relief during difficult times.

I think about much love and support I received there during John and I's stay. I could not have found the strength John needed from me without the strength Kathi and all the helpers and veteran families gave me.

John's fierce battle with throat cancer may have ended years ago, but the strong ties of friendship we made with all of you at the guest house can never be taken! I love all the Veterans Guest House stands for and offers to so many people.

Again, thank you all.

Linda



Army veteran Nathaniel is staying at VGH while he receives longterm treatment. A chef by trade, he has prepared delicious meals for the entire house.



Aly and brother Antonio spent their weekend selling lemonade and donated their earnings to VGH.



How You Kept Veterans Safe Against Wildfires

Thor, a 70 year old Army Veteran arrived at Veterans Guest House, filthy, exhausted, and defeated. He spent hours and all the energy he had desperately trying to save his home from being engulfed by the raging Caldor and Dixie Fires that burned nearly 1 million acres and forced nearly 50,000 neighbors to find emergency accommodations. After a long hot shower, a home cooked meal, and one nights rest, he was a new man.

Many evacuees began pouring into the Northern Nevada area this summer only to find hotels, motels and short-term rentals already booked with vacationers attending local community special events. Reports of price gouging started to escalate as people began to search for emergency shelter. It didn't take long for evacuation centers to reach capacity and were at risk of having to turn needy families away.

Thanks to your generosity, Veterans Guest House was able to answer the call and provide shelter for veterans like Thor who were displaced from their homes. John, a 93 year old, WWII Navy veteran and longtime Tahoe resident was also relieved to have a familiar place to flee when mandatory evacuation went into effect. Other families shared similar gratitude and relief after trying to care for a disabled veteran family member while living out of a 5th wheel during the emergency evacuation.

Evacuees were given a safe place to rest while anxiously awaiting news about the fate of their property; had it survived the fire and when or if they could return home.

Not everyone received good news. Thor and another family lost everything to the fires, forcing both veterans to move out of state to stay with family. Your support gave them an unexpected home and peace of mind while they overcame the devastating loss and worked to put their lives together. With your help, the Veterans Guest House expanded its outreach and served as refuge for frightened veterans and their families. Thank you for giving veterans like Thor hope and a welcoming place to stay during a devastating time. Your involvement keeps guests healthy and safe.



-Rival Raffle-

Join us
Saturday, December 11th



Win \$5,000
and other prizes

Raffle tickets \$100 each
Buy online at veteransguesthouse.org

Winning tickets to be drawn at half-time.



VETERANS GUEST HOUSE

★ Our Mission ★

To provide veterans and their families temporary overnight accommodations when receiving treatment at a medical facility in the Reno-Sparks area.

Ways to Give This Holiday Season

Thank you for the many ways you support veterans throughout the year. Know the difference you are making this holiday season:

\$25 – Provides care for pets who are unable to accompany guests to medical procedures.

\$50 – Sponsors a veteran and a family member for one night.

\$100 – Provides daily meals for all guests for one day.

\$250 – Gifts a veteran with emergency caregiver support.

Give back while you shop on Amazon!
Select VGH as your favorite charity on your AmazonSmile.

Kathi McGathey, House Manager of 16 years, knows the guests better than anyone! Her deep relationships and compassion has been the driving force behind helping guests get the support they need, so they can focus on getting well.



The Difference You Make

Your gifts make a powerful difference in the lives of veterans and their families. Whether it is a veteran who comes for a routine appointment or a family member who stays at VGH so they can be by their veteran’s side during time of medical crisis, you are providing critical care and support that enables military families to be healthy and comforted when it is needed most.

More than half of guests who stay are considered low to moderate income. Sometimes, during their stays, VGH becomes aware of guests who struggle with securing basic essentials that no person should do without. Your generosity helps VGH provide emergency support and assistance with immediate basic needs central to healthy lifestyles through a newly developed Basic Needs Fund.

Wish List

- Batteries:
 - AA
 - AAA
 - 9 Volt
- Cleaning supplies:
 - Clorox wipes
 - Lysol spray
 - 409 Cleaner
- Drinks (Individual please):
 - Bottled water
 - Gatorade
 - Keurig type coffee pods
- Gift cards:
 - Amazon
 - Costco
 - Home Depot
 - Walmart
- Paper products:
 - Clear plastic forks
 - Napkins
- Winter clothing:
 - Gloves
 - Hats
 - Socks

*See more on VGH’s Amazon Wishlist

Guest Profile: A Grateful Veteran Since the Beginning



When Todd, a 79 year old Army veteran, recalls returning home from his enlistment, he remembers a different reception than the hero’s welcome other generations have received. He was drafted in the Army in 1964, training in guided missile electronics. During arguably one of the most turbulent times in our country’s history, society was divided in their sentiment for servicemembers and how to support them. Following his service, Todd attended college and graduate school using the GI bill, eventually working for McDonald on the space capsule. While Todd says he is proud of his service, he emphasizes that having resources like VGH shows how much others also appreciate the sacrifices he made. He and his wife Susan have been coming to the corner of Taylor and Locust since the early ‘90’s when the original “Spouse House” opened its doors and welcomed veterans in need of medical care. Born with “wings on their feet” the couple travels the world together and calls Mexico home. They travel twice a year to the Reno/Sparks area to receive medical care. Although is not the most convenient location, VGH makes it their preferred choice. “It is encouraging to see how much this community does to make veterans lives better,” he says.

He has witnessed first-hand the incredible growth of VGH. With it, he relates how times have changed over the years, and the distrust that many veterans felt during ‘60’s and ‘70’s has transformed into a newfound appreciation for their service. Your outpouring of support for VGH demonstrates the community’s love for its veterans. Todd says, “Today, I feel a great sense of pride and trust”.

Thanks to your generosity, each year 3,000 veterans like Todd are given a comfortable, cheerful place to stay while they receive the care they need. Todd has made what he calls “a heart connection” with other veterans he meets here. They sit across the dinner table and share a meal and many times they just bond. There is no talk about their time in the service or politics or failing health. Instead, they discuss what they’re doing to make the world better, grandchildren and how very fortunate they are. Similar to his time in the military, Todd has created special friendships with others he may never see again. He thinks fondly about his friend Richard that he met here that is now living in Vietnam and the kinship they formed.

Todd shares, “If you’re looking to do some good in this world, get involved.” To all of our donors and volunteers – thank you for all you do to make every veteran feel welcomed home.



Hail and Farewell

Meet VGH Three Newest Board Members and Thank a Beloved Past Director

Judge David Hardy, Army

“The Veterans Guest House spoke to my own experience as an active duty soldier 40 years ago, my work in the Veterans Court, and I was most impressed by the people and operations at the VGH. I look forward to doing what I can to advance this great organization.”

Kandis Porter, Air Force

“Veterans have a special bond – we are family. I am honored to support VGH with their mission and give back to veterans in meaningful ways. Helping veterans eliminate one worry when getting medical care – overnight accommodations – allows them to focus on what is most important in their lives”.

Erik Christensen, Army

“I was inspired to join the Board after learning of its admirable goals from Sylvia DuBeau and touring it’s spectacular facility. Seeing how organized and well-presented everything was easily spurred me to action so that I might help preserve The Guest House’s legacy.”

After 10 dedicated years, Terry Tholl has retired from the VGH board. Terry’s commitment to veterans and vivacious spirit will be treasured for years to come. Board President Howard Buchler says, “We thank Terry for her passion, dedication, and long service to VGH. Her depth of knowledge, insight, and sense of humor will truly be missed. Best wishes Terry on your next adventure. You will be missed”.