



Veterans' Guest House Turns 20, Continues To Help Those In Need

By: Staff Email

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Veterans Guest House courtesy KOLO's Chris Buckley

RENO, NV - The Veterans' Guest House has been in the community 20 years and continues to give veterans a feeling of being at home. It's a place to stay for families of vets being treated at local hospitals.

The facility is privately funded and receives no government funding while serving U.S. military veterans.

In 1994 the Reno "Spouse House" was opened and in 2002 would be known as the Veterans' Guest House. The original 1935 bungalow located at the corner at 880 Locust St. housed veterans and family members from 1994-2004. It had 3-5 beds, depending upon the year, and prior to it being raised was providing 800-900 guest nights of lodging a year.

"Somebody noticed the cars in the parking lot and the windows were fogged up. They came in and asked her what was going on and she said they spent the night in the car because they had nowhere to go and those veterans said never again is this going to happen on our watch.", said Noreen Leery, CEO of the Veterans' Guest House.

In 2004, with the help of the community, a new 12-bed home was built. Usage grew and the house did as well. In 2012 a second house located adjacent to the existing one was opened bringing the bed total to 17.

Pam Flaherty spent several night's in a chair beside her husband's bed before she found out about it.

"We've been here since before Thanksgiving. The nurses in ICU saw I was going down and I didn't know about this house and they brought me over here and then everybody at the house took me under their wing and made sure I ate and slept because I was scared to death."

In 2013, occupancy numbers exceeded 5,200 guest nights. The two homes are basically full year-round