

# Veterans Guest House remembers heroes on Memorial Day

Noreen Leary 2:17 p.m. PDT May 21, 2015



Noreen Leary (Photo: Provided to the RGJ)

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Memorial Day is a day to remember our fallen military. At the Veterans Guest House, we also take this day to thank those veterans who served and are serving in our country's military. We are blessed to meet them as they stay with us while they receive medical care.

Sometimes it is best to let our guests tell our story. These are comments from Bob W. who stayed with us last year:

"I'm an Air Force veteran from the Vietnam era (1967-1971). I have head and neck cancer that I've been battling for about nine months. I was receiving chemotherapy at the VA hospital in Reno, and 35 consecutive days of radiation treatments at Renown in Reno.

"I was stressed out about the logistics of how I was going to do all these daily treatments, since I don't live in Reno. A counselor at the VA hospital suggested I contact the Veterans Guest House and arrange to stay there. It was very convenient staying at the Guest House, as the VA hospital is only a block away and Renown is about one mile away.

"The Veterans Guest House has so much to offer. It's not just for the GIs – our wives and children are welcome, too. You get a hot 'cup of joe' and pastries in the morning. There is always food in the fridge and the community often provides dinners during the week. The best part is you have 'three hots and a cot,' and a hot shower is available. I'm not talking about a BIVOUAC or TRANSIT BARRACKS, this is a real 'Home Away From Home.'

"I can't say enough about the Veterans Guest House! All the staff is like family. They give you your space but if you need to talk with someone, or a hug when you are down, they have your

back. I don't know the full background or the origin of the Guest House concept, but I do know there was a need because vets and their families were sleeping in their cars while visiting area hospitals for treatment.

"I feel there should always be help available for the men and women who served our country to keep us free. If you like your freedom – thank a vet. What better way than by supporting the Veterans Guest House. I am afraid the need is going to continue for years as our brave men and women come home. Please help them by giving them something to come home to! Remember, ALL GAVE SOME – SOME GAVE ALL! God bless America!" –Bob W.

I am proud that the Veterans Guest House is the only one of its kind in the country serving our veterans and their families, and accepts no government funds. We just celebrated our 20th year of providing lodging to over 50,000 U.S. military veterans and their families. Join us in thanking our veterans today and remember to do that every day.

*Noreen Leary is the CEO of the Veterans Guest House, which provides United States Military service veterans and their families temporary overnight accommodations when receiving treatment at a medical facility in the Reno/Sparks area. It also accommodates veterans traveling to Reno for outpatient medical care. The majority of guests receive treatment at the Veterans Administration Medical Center.*

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