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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.

Thank you for supporting the 2025 Champagne Luncheon & Fashion Show!

Presented by Blackbeach Foundation



Because of you, veterans and their families do not have to forgo medical care and can live happier and healthier each day. Together, we raised **\$145,000** in support of our nations heroes and their families!

That's over 900 free guest nights for veterans!

We hope to see you again on August 21, 2026!

CONGRATULATIONS, KATHI!

Thank you Kathi for your 20 years of service to veterans and their families.



While Kathi may have officially hung up her badge, her impact will be felt throughout the Guest House and in every life she touched. Kathi's love for veterans, cats, and cleanliness helped create the comforts of home for many of our guests.

Thank you, Kathi, for the heart you have poured into VGH!

HOW YOU CAN SPREAD THE HOLIDAY CHEER THIS SEASON

- \$50 - Provides round-trip gas to a veteran receiving care in Reno**
- \$100 - Sponsors a veteran for the holidays**
- \$250 - Feeds 20+ guests a holiday meal with all the fixings**
- \$500 - Offers veteran families one-time emergency support**
- \$1000 - Gives a week stay to one veteran in need of long-term care**

Fall & Winter 2025

in the house

Veterans Guest House Newsletter

Almost Home for the Holidays

The holidays at VGH can be a difficult time.

Some veterans require treatment, meaning they must stay with us instead of being with their families. Others stay with us because they have no family. And at the Cynthia Lake House, a home for veterans at the end of life, guests are too sick to live with family, but they are still surrounded by love and support.

Thanks to our brigade of volunteers, the holiday season doesn't have to be a difficult time for our guests. Each year, volunteers from VVA adorn the house with tinsel and Christmas lights. A beautiful tree glows in the living room, and others come to prepare or sponsor a plentiful feast with all of the traditional fixings. Families gather for a holiday meal that feels like home, filled with laughter, stories, and the aroma of turkey and pie.

But it's your generosity that makes all the difference.



Your support gifted Ron* with a new pair of slippers last Christmas.

When a veteran unwraps a gift with their name on it—a new t-shirt, a gas card, a cozy pair of slippers—the joy of the holidays comes alive. These small care packages are always appreciated, and most often very much needed. For lonely and exhausted veterans, their eyes are wide with delight to be thought of as many share, "This is the first gift I've received in years."

Your thoughtful donation, whether a monetary gift or one of time, brightens the holidays for those who struggle. We can see the difference you make in the faces of our veterans and the cheerful chatter that echoes throughout the kitchen and into the halls.

The cost to sponsor a veteran for the holidays is just \$100, but to our veterans, it is everything.

Your donation ensures that every veteran who stays with us this season feels remembered, cared for, and at home—even when they can't be. This season, please consider making a heartfelt gift. Your generosity keeps the lights glowing, the meals warm, and the spirit of the holidays alive.

The holidays at VGH can be a difficult time, but thanks to you, they don't have to be.

*Ron was a beloved guest at VGH for over 12 years. Ron sadly passed earlier this year, but he will always be remembered for his heart of gold and the love he had for his fellow veterans. You ensured Ron's last Christmas with us was merry!

HAPPY VETERANS DAY!



Thank you to the brave men and women who have sacrificed so much for our freedoms. Your service to our country will never be forgotten!

HOLIDAY WISHLIST

We are collecting thoughtful gifts to bring a touch of joy to veteran families who are unable to be home with loved ones to celebrate this holiday season!

SPREADING CHEER

- Gas & Grocery Gift Cards
- Flannel Shirts (All Sizes)
- Men's Gift Sets (Cologne, Shaving Kits)
- Pajama Sets (All Sizes)
- Slippers (All Sizes)
- Socks (Shirt and Crew)
- Women's Gift Sets (Lotions, Nail Kits, Self-Care)

GUEST GOODIES

- Individual Mac & Cheese Cups
- Individuals Snacks (Chips, Crackers, Cookies, Popcorn, Pretzels, Nuts)
- Instant Mashed Potatoes
- Pasta Sauce
- Spam
- Sugar-Free Drinks

You'll notice that canned goods are missing from this list. Thanks to your incredible generosity, our pantry is fully stocked for the season.

56%
of rural residents identify the cost of gas as a barrier to accessing care

Your donations of cash or gas cards help veterans on the road to care, and home.



How You Are Bridging Miles Between Veterans and the Care They Deserve

For veterans across Northern Nevada and California, the road to medical care is long... and expensive. Veterans often travel an average of 171 miles one way for essential medical appointments in Reno.



Thanks to an anonymous gift, VGH was able to purchase a new vehicle to get veterans to their appointments safely!

But both private households and public agencies are starting to feel the economic pinch. Long-time transportation support that was once available through VA programs has now become more difficult to access due to more stringent requirements to qualify.

Each year, hundreds of veterans who travel to Reno for medical care have relied on gas cards and gift cards to get them home safely. Those supports no longer exist for most, leaving many potentially stranded until payday.

"I only have \$6 until next Friday," said Tom, a local veteran. "I just don't have the gas money to get home."

Your help ensures veterans like Tom get extra support so that the cost of gas never stands between them and their medical care. Once a veteran misses a routine medical appointment, the likelihood of missing future appointments increases by 70%. Sadly, many veterans have reported canceling doctors' appointments because they didn't have money to get to Reno, or the confidence that what was left in their tank would get them home.

Your gift today will help keep veterans on the road to care. A supportive environment to recover and a full tank of gas to get home can make the difference for veteran families in times of medical need.

Thank you for supporting veterans, both near and far.

You're the Reason We Can Handle the Hiccups

We cut the ribbon on our VGH expansion eight years ago. Everything sparkled — fresh paint, shiny appliances, and not a single creak in the floor. It was a picture of perfection.

Unfortunately, perfection now has a few bubbles.

As staff worked in the basement, they noticed a mysterious bubble forming on the ceiling. A little investigating revealed what no House Manager ever wants to see—a water leak. As guest occupancy grows, imperfections start to show. Thankfully, through the Maintenance Fund, we were able to get our bathroom and guest rooms functional once more.

While we can't predict the hiccups, we can handle them because of you.

Thanks to your generosity, the Guest House is still reaching capacity, welcoming veteran families with a warm bed, a delicious meal, and peace of mind. Not one veteran family has been turned away because of this leak or any other unexpected challenge that's come our way.

Buildings age and pipes burst, but the mission never wavers. With your support, we'll keep patching holes, mending ceilings, and, most importantly, opening our doors to those who need us most.



Thanks to your support, not even a hole in the basement can shake the foundation of care you've built for veterans.

You Can Support Veterans and Their Families This Winter ❄️❄️❄️❄️❄️

HOLIDAYS FOR HEROES RAFFLE & HOLIDAY PARTY

YOUR \$100 TICKET GIVES YOU ADMISSION TO THE CELEBRATION OF THE SEASON AND YOUR CHANCE TO WIN

\$5,000 GRAND PRIZE

Join us on Saturday, Dec. 13th from 4:00pm to 6:00pm at VGH 880 Locust Street

- Festive Drinks
- Small Bites
- Cookie Decorating
- Photos with Santa
- Hot Cocoa
- Raffle Drawing

\$100 PER TICKET
Only 500 tickets sold

For more information, visit veteransguesthouse.org or call D'Avion at (775) 324-6958 x 31

Not interested in gambling? Purchase a ticket for a veteran staying with us over the holidays!

Your Generosity Lights Up the Sky for Veteran Families at the Lake House

When Cindy arrived at the Cynthia Lake House, she was tired. The long months of medical appointments were beginning to take their toll, and she was anxious about what came next. Her family wanted her final days to be filled with comfort and peace, but letting go of the familiar and trusting a new environment is never easy.

Her sons made the trek to Reno often to visit. They brought laughter, shared memories, and reminded her that she was not alone. But still, it was hard to imagine that this new place could ever truly feel like home.



Then, just a few days after moving in, something extraordinary happened.

As dawn broke over the mountains, Cindy looked out her window to see the sky alive with color—the Great Reno Balloon Races had begun. Dozens of hot air balloons floated gracefully above the valley and drifted across the blue sky. Cindy sat with her sons, and together they watched from her window, wrapped in blankets and wonder.



It felt like a sign.

In that moment, Cindy smiled. The worry faded from her sons' faces. They could feel it too, that she was exactly where she was meant to be, surrounded by compassion, comfort, and care.

This peaceful morning, and the home that made it possible, exists because of you. Your generosity ensures that veteran families have a place to rest and feel at home, even during life's final chapter.

Cindy, an Army wife, was welcomed to the Cynthia Lake House by the Great Reno Balloon Races. She watched in awe as the blue sky was filled with color and made her feel at home.

Thank you for ensuring Cindy's time at the Lake House was filled with warmth, love, and the quiet beauty of a sky full of balloons.