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**Nevada Patriot Fund and Nevada Military Support Alliance
Announce Merger into One Support Organization**

The creation of single entity will offer military and families unprecedented assistance

(Reno, NV) – In an effort to offer a new level of support and coordinated integration to all Nevadans presently serving, or those who have served in the military, leaders of the [Nevada Patriot Fund](#) and the [Nevada Military Support Alliance](#) announced today they have merged the two entities into one comprehensive support organization.

The two organizations will operate as the [Nevada Military Support Alliance](#) and serve all military members and installations in the state.

The Nevada Patriot Fund, created in 2003 by Gov. Kenny Guinn and several key Nevada business leaders, was designed to provide financial assistance to families of Nevada military personnel who were killed in the combat zones of Iraq and Afghanistan. To date the fund has given out more than \$500,000 to the families of 52 patriots.

The Nevada Military Support Alliance, a civilian-led effort to provide various support services to members of the military, and to military organizations within the state, was one of the primary recommendation made by the Nevada Military Blue Ribbon Panel, a group created by Gov. Jim Gibbons in 2008 to review new mission options and other aspects of the Nevada Military Department. That panel was chaired by the current Adjutant General of Nevada, Brig. Gen. Bill Burks.

The leaders of the Nevada Patriot Fund and the Nevada Military Support Alliance, recognized the similarities in their goals and missions and the needed services Nevada's soldiers, sailors, marines or airmen require, decided to combine both organizations to create a **single entity** that will offer an unprecedented level of assistance to Nevada's military members and their families.

(More)

“Our men and women in uniform give so much of themselves for our country, we need to Be sure they are taken care of,” said Perry Di Loreto, a member of the board of directors for the Nevada Patriot Fund and Chairman of the Nevada Military Support Alliance. “There are plenty of areas where members of our military and our military community need support, and it’s our responsibility as Americans to ensure that support is provided.”

Di Loreto said that keys to the new organization’s success will be its extensive network of community ties across the state, including a very active and engaged board of directors, as well as a broad based depth of knowledge from an advisory board representing all levels of the community. “We are totally apolitical and will seek advice and help at all levels appropriate,” Di Loreto said.

Brig. Gen. Burks, the Adjutant General for the State of Nevada, said that while the military has various support services for soldiers and their families, there are gaps that can be filled by Nevada Military Support Alliance.

“When soldiers return from a war zone there is an incredible amount of stress for both them and their families as they find their place back into general society,” Burks said. “While the military has support systems, we need to recognize that soldiers really are just an extension of our community. They work, live and play in all the same places the general public does. It’s important that we provide the help these soldiers need not just because they deserve it, but because it’s important for the overall improvement of our state and communities.”

The Nevada Military Support Alliance is designed to provide support with a depth and breath that has not been achieved until now. The alliance will work with all aspects of the military to identify gaps in service and create the bridges to close those gaps. This reach will include coordination with the Veterans Administration locations in Nevada.

Additionally the Nevada Military Support Alliance plans to work with the Nevada System of Higher Education, to assist with the challenges soldiers may experience in accessing the education benefits they receive for enlisting in the military.

“These individuals have made incredible sacrifices to protect all of us,” Di Loreto said. “The challenges they face don’t simply end when they return home. They have seen and experienced things those of us who haven’t been at war cannot understand. We need to welcome them back into the community and thank them for their sacrifice.”

[The Nevada Military Support Alliance](#) has 501c3 status as a tax exempt, charitable organization. It will be governed by an 11-member Board of Directors that will oversee the various activities of the alliance and how it spends the money it generates through private donations. The officers and directors of the combined Nevada Military Support Alliance are:

Perry M. Di Loreto – President and Chairman

Michelle M. Erlach – VP- Director

Maj. Gen (ret) Ron Bath – Vice Chairman

Gen. (ret) John & Kathy Abizaid- Co-Directors

Joseph W. Brown – Director

Jerry Bussell & Pat Lundvall – Co- Directors

Kirk V. Clausen – Director

Estella Le Vario Gutierrez – Director

Bruce A. Rodela – Director

Gen (ret) Giles E. Vanderhoof – Director

Alex Woodley – Director

Elaine Alexander – Recording Secretary

For more information regarding the **Nevada Military Support Alliance** and how you can help, please visit, www.nvmilitarysupport.org.