

News and stories

Memorial to honor Gold Star Families coming to Northern Nevada

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Rebecca Kitchen | [kolo TV](#)

RENO, Nev. (KOLO) - A new state-of-the-art veterans' home is almost complete. Located on 36 Battle Born Way in Sparks, The Northern Nevada State Veterans Home is designed to offer some of the highest quality of care for veterans.

"Out of 155 nursing homes that are dedicated to veteran care this is unique," Wendy Simons, deputy director of the Nevada Department of Veteran Services, says. "Nevada can be very proud."

Slated to open early next year, the 96-bed home is a nursing facility, but with a barber shop, a restaurant and more, it's designed to feel like home.

"There's libraries throughout, living rooms, big fireplaces- it's not a place to put our veterans just to warehouse them, so to speak," says Jon Yuspa, co-founder of the Nevada Gold Star Families Memorial Foundation. "This is a quality of life."

But it's what's on the outside of the home that makes this home unlike any other. Outside the doors, it will offer a place of healing for a group of people who often get overlooked.

"Basically, we have memorials for everybody except those who are left," Sharon Oren, co-founder of the Nevada Gold Star Families Memorial Foundation, says. "And those who are left gave the ultimate sacrifice which is their children."

He describes the Gold Star Families as those whose sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, were killed in service. This memorial will be the first in northern Nevada to honor their sacrifice.

One side of the black granite memorial are the words 'Gold Star Families Memorial Monument, a tribute to Gold Star Families and Relatives who have sacrificed a Loved One for our Freedom'. The other side tells a story through the four granite panels: Homeland, Family, Patriot, and Sacrifice. An unidentified, unnamed soldier with no rank, no gender, and no branch of service is the focal point of the monument.

"The idea is we have no names on this memorial because we don't differentiate which state the Gold Star Families came from," Oren said. "They all gave the ultimate sacrifice for our great nation. They gave their best. They gave their children."

It will also be the first thing people see when arriving at the veterans' home.

"Having it at the entryway where folks drive in to the complex will properly honor those, but it will also bring the true spirit of the fact that freedom isn't free and we've had to sacrifice many, many lives to maintain our country," Simons says.

The memorial was inspired and designed by Medal of Honor recipient Hershel "Woody" Williams, whose mission is to honor Gold Star Families across the nation. Once finished, the hope is this memorial will become a center point for the community to gather for generations to come.

The public is invited to a ground breaking ceremony October 11, 2018. To learn more about the Gold Star Family Memorial or to

donate to help build and maintain it, [click here](#).

The Northern Nevada State Veterans Home will have a ribbon cutting ceremony December 17; however, the facility's opening is slated for March 2019. Ahead of the facility's opening, the portion of Kietzke Lane between Galletti Way and Victorian Avenue will be renamed Battle Born Way.

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