



## A TRIBUTE TO THE VETERANS OF MESQUITE, TO RAISE FUNDS FOR THE MESQUITE VETERANS CENTER



Steve Reynolds, president of the Mesquite VFW and Robert Nehilla stand in front of the veterans center in Mesquite. Some of the funds raised from last year's party were used for maintaining the facilities.

by Cindy Conti and Ruth Dickie

On Saturday, November 9, spurs will jingle and boots will be stompin' at the Fifth Annual Veterans Party. The theme is "A Country Western Jamboree." This event, a fundraiser for the Mesquite Veterans Center, is organized by the Virgin Valley Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Mesquite Poker Boys. It is hosted by Mesquite Gaming and will be held at the Virgin River Casino in the event tent from 2 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Last year, the Mesquite Recreation Center gym was turned into a '50s rock and roll "Soldiers and Bobbie Soxers" dance. There were bands and musical groups, and yes, even Elvis made an appearance. There were local vendors selling their wares and raffle prizes from area businesses. In the end, after everyone had rocked out and the tally had been taken, the proceeds ended up being over \$22,000. This money was presented to the veterans center at a city council meeting following the event.

This year will offer even more for those attending with the addition of an afternoon buffet and two cash bars. The party will include Mayor Al Litman as master of ceremonies and Veterans Center president Steve Reynolds, who will give opening remarks. The Virgin Valley Honor Guard will graciously present the nation's colors, and young solo artist Alana Davis



will sing the national anthem. A stirring medley of armed forces theme songs and veteran photo sessions will complete the opening ceremony. Photography will be provided by members of the Mesquite Fine Arts Center Photographic Society.

Of course, no event in Mesquite would be complete without the Mesquite Showgirls, who will assist with the raffle and the silent auction. The procurement committee is working overtime this year to offer prizes that will blow the roof off the tent. Entertainment will include live country music by two local bands, Dealt A Straight and Rolling Joe & the Tumbleweeds, with a line dance performance by the Recreation Center Lifelong Dancers. Décor will be strictly country western with the veteran residents at Mesa Valley Estates creating cowboy hats for the table centerpieces.

Our mission is to raise money for the Mesquite Veterans Center, and the event will benefit approximately 3,000 retired military in our area. In addition to those in Mesquite, the center supports veterans from Moapa Valley to Beaver Dam and as far away as St. George.

At the center, volunteers assist veterans in receiving military benefits through the VA and provide transportation for those needing medical services here and out of the area. The center is also home to the Combat Veterans Discussion Group, which

focuses on PTSD issues and is a place for veterans to gather, network, and spend time with each other. The group hopes to build a clinic in Mesquite to service the area veterans there.

The center also serves as the parent organization and central location for the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 993, the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7583, the American Legion Post 24, and the Virgin Valley Honor Guard. It also serves as the meeting place for local community groups, two of which are the Exchange Club of Mesquite and the Virgin Valley Chapter of the American Revolution. It houses many memorabilia items donated by people from our nation's military.

Fundraising events such as this veterans party are critical because the center is funded solely by community donations. The party is a collaboration made possible by local businesses and members of our community donating their time, resources, and talents to create a celebration of our local heroes.

We hope you'll join us at the Fifth Annual Veterans Party to salute our veterans and raise money for a great cause. ♪

*Tickets are \$25 per person and are available now at the Mesquite Fine Arts Center. Western attire is encouraged but not required.*



Veterans residing at Mesa Valley Estates in Mesquite made cowboy hats for the upcoming Country Jamboree party on November 9, 2024 in conjunction with the Virgin Valley Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.



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