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## **Reno woman and church to be honored for helping local elderly, low-income veterans**

A Reno woman and her church will receive special awards this week for their efforts to help low-income elderly military veterans in Reno who have no family nearby.

The awards come from the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) of Washoe County and will be made at the program's annual volunteer recognition luncheon Friday, Nov. 6, at the Atlantis Casino Resort & Spa in Reno.

Both efforts focused on approximately 60 veterans who live in the subsidized-housing Carville Park Apartments on Sutro Street near Oddie Boulevard.

Receiving the Amos Tinkey Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service will be Linda Haigh, a volunteer for more than 11 years with RSVP and an affiliated program, Senior Outreach Services.

Haigh has long had a special interest in helping disadvantaged veterans. Most of the Carville Park vets lack cars and phones, and some are physically or mentally disabled. Among other assistance, Haigh takes them to the Veterans Affairs hospital for medical appointments. She orders and picks up prescriptions, helps them understand instructions from doctors, and secures Safe Return bracelets for those with dementia. She provides transportation to shopping and banking as needed and, when asked, even helps with advance arrangements for burial in the Fernley Military Cemetery.

Haigh also initiated a veterans outreach program at her church, South Reno Baptist, which will receive the Elsie Connor Award for Senior Community Support.

Among other efforts, the church's Bible Fellowship Class raised over \$1,000 to host a Veterans Day luncheon at the apartments, and the Knit and Crochet Group made more than 100 afghans for the veterans and other seniors living in the apartment complex.

RSVP of Washoe County is part of a national program funded by the Corporation for National and Community Service and, in Nevada, by the state's Aging and Disability Services Division. RSVP matches older adults with volunteer opportunities at more than 90 sites in and around Reno. It is sponsored locally by the Sanford Center for Aging, part of the University of Nevada, Reno's Division of Health Sciences.