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KENNY C. GUINN

Executive Director
1201 Terminal Way, No. 221
Reno, Nevada 89502
(775) 688-1653
Fax (775) 688-1656

Northern Nevada Veterans : Memorial Cemetery P.O. Box 1919 Fernley, Nevada 89408 (775) 575-4441 Fax (775) 576-5713



STATE OF NEVADA

OFFICE OF VETERANS' SERVICES

Deputy Executive Director % VA Ambulatory Care Center 1700 Vegas Drive, No. 1719 Las Vegas, Nevada 89106 (702) 636-3070 Fax (702) 636-3079

Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery 1900 Buchanan Boulder City, Nevada 89005 (702) 486-5920 Fax (702) 486-5923

April 11, 2003

Senate Finance Committee

SB 324

For the Record: I am Chuck Fulkerson, Director, Office of Veterans Services

This bill will allow the funds donated by Veterans from the purchase of special Veterans License plates to be deposited in the Veterans Home Gift Account. This will fulfill the intent of the original program to provide funding to purchase items that will increase the comfort and care, as well as the quality of life, for the veteran residents.

At the present time these funds are deposited in the Veterans Home Account. At the end of each Fiscal Year, any remainder funds revert to the General Fund. The FY 2002 special Veterans Plate donations were \$97,338.28 which reverted to the General Fund at the fiscal year end. To date this fiscal year there has been over \$83,000.00 donated thru this program.

I have a list of items that would be purchased by these funds.

Update on the Nursing Home: 46 residents, 74 employees, a VA Certification visit will be April 14, 15 & 16. Mr. Gary Bermeosolo is the Administrator. Mr. Bermeosolo has 20 years experience as the Idaho Veterans Services Director. He has had experience in building, opening, and operating three Veterans Nursing Homes in Idaho. He has the background and expertise to open and operate the Nevada Veterans Nursing Home in an economical manner while insuring that the residents enjoy a high quality of care and comfort.

Are there any questions. Thank you.

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