



Reno Municipal Court News

CAMO-RNO Veterans Treatment Court Celebrates Graduates

Reno, Nevada (November 18, 2024) - The Reno Municipal Court invites media to the 13th CAMO-RNO Veteran Treatment Court graduation ceremony on Tuesday, November 19 at 1:30 pm. The CAMO-RNO (Court Assistance Military Offenders in Reno) is a problem-solving treatment court that serves Veterans and active-duty military personnel, charged with misdemeanor crimes. Media will have the opportunity to conduct interviews before the start of the ceremony at 1:15 pm.

At the graduation, Hon. Judge Shelly T. O'Neill will speak to highlight the graduates' work and the importance of the program. Five new graduates will be honored at the ceremony, adding to the 82 Veterans and active military personnel who have graduated since the program's start. CAMO-RNO Veterans Court was established in October 2018 thanks to grant funding from the U.S. Department of Justice and a later enhancement grant of \$399,839 awarded in October 2020. CAMO-RNO currently receives funding from the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) via the Supreme Court of Nevada, as well as federal grant funding secured in 2023 through the Bureau of Justice Assistance.

Treatment courts like CAMO-RNO, in partnership with the Veteran Administration (VA), provide treatment, counseling, and mentoring for northern Nevada's soldiers. These programs help veterans connect with resources outside the military and inform them of the many benefits offered by the VA.

"In the CAMO-RNO program, we see the power of justice, compassion, and peer support for our Veterans," said Judge O'Neill. "The graduation ceremonies are my absolute favorite seeing the impact of this specialty program on each participant. I am so proud of the hard work of our graduates over the last several months."

Reno Municipal CAMO-RNO is a diversionary specialty treatment court for Veterans only with misdemeanor offenses. Each candidate for the program is screened for acceptance by the CAMO-RNO team, and if accepted, will be eligible for potential diversion and dismissal of their charge(s) upon successful completion of the program, including record sealing within the time frame allowed under NRS 176A.295 (2). Each graduate is also invited to join and become part of the newly established 501(c)3 CAMO-RNO Alumni Group; "Battle Born Battle Buddies" to continue their support and camaraderie.

In 2017, the Nevada Legislature created this opportunity for Nevada Veterans and members of the military by passing Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) 176A.280. This law provides the treatment, possible diversion, and record sealing of those eligible to participate.

Legislation was also passed to allow for the placement of qualified defendants in the CAMO-RNO program from outside jurisdictions. That provision provides rural courts with minimal treatment options the ability to refer citizens to CAMO-RNO Veterans Court to participate in substance abuse and mental health-related programs.