

'Tis always the season

Rebel Vets past, present support pandemic-affected families at 1st 'Operation Jinglebell'

Story by Andrew Ho

The Rebel Vets Organization and UNLV Veterans Alumni Club partnered with Low VA Rates to make this holiday season a little more enjoyable for Nevadans financially impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The first ever "Operation Jingle Bell," sponsored 6 families with gift cards, which helped eligible families to shop for food, toys and household goods this holiday season.

Through donations from the clubs and local businesses, Operation Jingle Bell raised \$3000 worth of gift cards to give away the week before Christmas. It was a way to



give back to the community during a time of low employment and financial uncertainty in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Rebel Vets and UNLV Veteran alumni leaders came together for a socially-distanced gift presentation in a Low VA Rates Facility.

"We saw a great need to reach out and help how we could this year with all that's happening," said Rebel Vets President Andrew Ho. "We are honored and humbled to do something kind and make the holiday season special for someone else in the community and thankful to Low VA Rates and all the local business who donated for their generosity. We're already discussing plans to continue this effort for families in need next year!"



A Message from the UNLV Veterans Alumni Club



Veterans Club

Happy New Year!

With 2020 behind us, it is time to provoke change. Last year was a year like no other, but as the ancient Roman Emperor Marcus Aurelius once wrote in his diary, "impediment to action, advances action. What stands in the way becomes the way."

This means that 2020 was a lesson, an obstacle, and an opportunity for us to be challenged and improve. As I write this, I know that it sounds very sunshine and butterfly-ish; many of us have not had an easy year at all. Many have lost jobs or loved ones or both, but how do we move forward and create meaning. I am not sure, but I am excited to find that alongside you all in 2021.

That is why the UNLV Veterans Alumni Club will make this a "sling-shot year," we are taking advantage of the challenge. We will recreate a better club, despite the challenges brought on with restrictions. Our strategic plan includes community engagement, mentorship programs, and a veterans lounge for students at UNLV. A big bite for a large appetite. Alongside the rebel Vets Org, we will make 2021 another EPIC year.

We look forward to seeing you all in 2021.

-Bruno Moya
President, UNLV Veterans Alumni Club