

Nevada Post Raises Money Hosting 'Dancing with the Stars' Event

Post supports VFW programs

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VFW Post 3819 members in Reno, Nev., gathered local celebrities to compete in a formal "Dancing with the Stars" event to raise money for their Post to support VFW programs and local service members. They teamed up with Salt and Pepper Productions to recruit star dancers and judges, including local TV and radio hosts, the owner of a local semi-pro basketball team and Miss Reno Rodeo. A state senator and the current Miss Nevada also served on the judging panel as the night's professional judges.

Businesses in the community also got involved in the event, donating their time and services. Dance studios volunteered to give the star dancers lessons, while a local salon offered on-site hair and make-up.

The Grand Sierra Resort and Casino donated over \$60,000, providing the venue, food, rooms and much more to ensure the formal event was a special night for the 1,500 guests who attended the fundraiser. "Truckee Meadows Post 3819 cannot thank all the businesses, veterans and citizens that supported this benefit enough," said VFW Post 3819 Commander Bill Maltman.

Miss Reno Rodeo and a local car dealership owner's son won the competition and were provided trophies for their exceptional footwork on the dance floor.

This spectacular event raised \$35,000 after all costs, and the money will benefit VFW programs, includin Operation UplinkTM and the Military Assistance Program, as well as local charities. VFW Post 3819 was also able to provide 140 families with food baskets for Christmas and send care packages to deployed troops in the Air National Guard.

To learn more about VFW National Military Services programs, click <u>here</u>.