

Digital Media Kit

2025 EDITION

> INTERACTIVE DIGITAL DOCUMENT



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About The Invisible Enemy

The Unseen Menace

Since 1951, the Nevada Test and Training Range (NTTR) in south-central Nevada has been America's primary advanced nuclear, chemical and conventional weapons testing site. The NTTR includes the Nevada Test Site, Creech Air Force Base and a host of other military and research facilities.

More than 900 documented nuclear detonations, countless chemical discharges and the continual incineration of highly toxic materials in open burn pits have contaminated the air, soil and water in vast areas of the NTTR. The radioactive contamination alone will remain highly toxic for centuries.

A 1975 Environmental Assessment conducted by the U.S. Energy Research & Development Administration confirmed this contamination. The assessment concluded that, due to its critical role in maintaining America's nuclear stockpile, operations on the NTTR should continue despite the dangers of even limited exposure to the contamination.

"The environmental costs inherent in the work are small and reasonable for the benefits received."

Since then, the Department of Defense (DoD) and the Department of Energy (DOE) have built or maintained permanent, highly classified facilities on the NTTR. These facilities have been staffed by DoD and DOE employees, DoD and DOE contractor employees, and military personnel.

All of these people have been under attack by an invisible enemy: long-term ionizing radiation and a wide range of extremely hazardous toxins on the NTTR. Many of them and their families have developed serious, often fatal, medical conditions.







The Organization

Our Mission

We tell the story of how thousands of military personnel and their families have become victims of the invisible enemy - toxic radioactive and chemical contamination on the Nevada Test and Training Range.

We advocate for federal legislation that provides comprehensive healthcare benefits and financial compensation to military servicemembers and veterans, their families, and others suffering from physical, mental and developmental disorders caused by any toxic exposure during military-service-related activities.

Our Vision

We will ensure that all active-duty military personnel are protected from exposure to environmental contamination in the line of duty, and that all veterans who served on contaminated U.S. military and Department of Energy sites, and their families, receive full Veterans Administration benefits.

Our History

Air Force Sergeant Dave Crete served on the Nevada Test and Training Range (NTTR) from 1983 to 1987. His unit provided worldwide operational security for America's top-secret F-117A stealth fighter fleet based at a classified location on the NTTR.



After his service, Dave reconnected with his fellow unit members and began hosting informal reunions. He learned that several had died prematurely. Others were suffering from tumors, cancers and other serious medical conditions. Dave was having similar health problems. His wife had three miscarriages and his four children were born with either birth defects or other health problems. Others experienced similar family health issues.

Dave began a long and frustrating investigation into the possible causes of their shared conditions. All roads led back to the NTTR. He found a 1975 Environmental Assessment and realized that the federal government knew about the dangers facing the people who worked there, but continued to allow them to be exposed. He learned that all NTTR veterans were being denied benefits from the Veterans Administration, including critical healthcare that could improve or even save their lives.

Due to their highly classified missions, the DoD categorically denied that these veterans ever served on the NTTR. Their service and medical records were "data masked" or redacted. These veterans had no way to prove to the Veteran's Administration (VA) that they were injured in the line of duty and eligible for the same care and benefits received by all other veterans.

Dave also learned that, in 2000, Congress passed the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act (EEOICPA). This legislation provided compensation and benefits for DOE workers, including those who worked on the NTTR, their families, and others with disabling and lifethreatening illnesses resulting from exposure to toxic radiation and materials. DoD veterans, servicemembers and employees were specifically excluded from receiving EEOICPA benefits.

Dave decided to right this wrong. In 2023, he founded The Invisible Enemy to advocate for NTTR veterans and lead the effort to enact new federal legislation forcing the government to recognize their existence and service. He wanted them to receive comprehensive healthcare and other veterans benefits, as well as financial compensation for the injuries and losses they and their families had suffered.

The Invisible Enemy has exploded nationwide awareness of the thousands of veterans who have been exposed to toxic contamination on the NTTR, the severe, often fatal, health problems they and their families have suffered, and the federal government's continued refusal to acknowledge their service and take responsibility for endangering or sacrificing their lives.

In just over two years, The Invisible Enemy has generated more than 15,900 media mentions and more than 45.3 billion media impressions. Our story is resounding through the halls of Congress, garnering bi-partisan support for life-changing legislation and long-overdue justice for NTTR veterans and their families.

Our Goals

Pass federal legislation that forces the DoD to:

- Recognize the existence and service of NTTR military and civilian veterans,
- Release their service and health records to the Veterans Administration, and
- Qualify these people for full veterans' benefits, including comprehensive healthcare and full disability benefits.

Pass federal legislation that:

- Extends veterans' benefits, including comprehensive healthcare, to family members and others who have been exposed to toxic radiation and substances through contact with those who have served on the NTTR.
- Provides financial compensation for illnesses, injuries and loss of life suffered by those exposed to toxins originating from the NTTR.

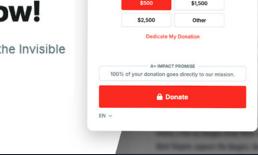
Pass federal legislation that guaranties the same recognition, benefits and compensation to all veterans and servicemembers who have been exposed to radioactive and chemical contamination at any DoD base or installation, and their families.

THE INVISIBLE ENEMY



Donate Now!

Join the Fight against the Invisible Enemy.



\$500

THE INVISIBLE ENEMY **HELP US FIGHT** THEINVISIBLEENEMY.ORG

Advocate

We encourage everyone to:

- Visit **TheInvisibleEnemv.org** to learn more about our mission and what we've accomplished thus far.
- Contact your U.S. Senators and Representatives, and voice support for pending and future legislation that supports our mission.
- Ask your family, friends, colleagues and networks to do the same.

Donate >

We encourage everyone to to visit our website and make a cash donation, support one of our fundraising events, or purchase The Invisible Enemy (TIE) merchandise:

- TIE has no offices or employees. Our board members are volunteers who receive no compensation.
- All donations and proceeds help pay the costs of our activities in Washington, D.C. and our fundraising events.
- TIE is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. All donations and in-kind support are 100% tax deductible.

Privacy & Legal

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More About The Invisible Enemy

The invisible enemy is hidden throughout the Nevada Test and Training Range (NTTR), a 7,000-square-mile military complex in south-central Nevada just northwest of Las Vegas. One of America's most important military sites, the NTTR is larger than the states of Connecticut and Rhode Island combined.



Tritium Hydrazine

Halon

Isocyanate

Methyl Ethyl Ketone

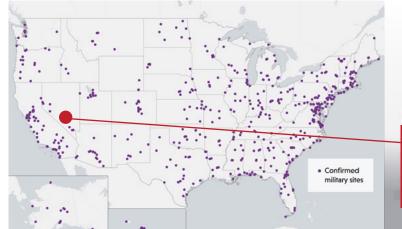
Naphtha

Asbestos

(no Personal Protection Equipment was supplied)

Conventional and chemical weapons testing waste

Rocket and missile fuels from testing on range



There are more than 1,300 highly contaminated EPA Superfund sites throughout America, including DOE and DoD sites

Due to its classified status, the NTTR has not been acknowledged as one of them

estimated to in the

The NTTR is perhaps the most contaminated area in the U.S. Yet, the DOE and DoD continue to conduct research, testing, training and military operations throughout the NTTR.

- Studies document increased cancer rates in military and civilian personnel stationed on the NTTR
- NTTR personnel unknowingly carried these contaminants back home to their families and others
- NTTR personnel and their families have reported:
- Cancers and tumors (at abnormally high rates)
- Neurological disorders
- Cardiovascular disease
- Silicosis and lung issues
- Kidney, liver and stomach disorders
- Male and female reproductive issues
- Miscarriages and birth defects
- Premature or unexplained deaths
- And many other illnesses and health issues

• The residual radiation from nuclear testing will remain highly toxic for centuries

- For decades, thousands of military and civilian personnel assigned to the NTTR have been constantly exposed to these dangerous substances
- The facilities they lived and worked in were close to nuclear and chemical test sites, and were contaminated
- The air and dust they breathed were contaminated
- The water they drank, bathed in and cooked with was contaminated
- The food they ate was contaminated

[EXPOSED]

What the Federal Government Knew



The federal government has known about the dangers of exposure to radioactive materials

since Marie Curie discovered radium. High-ranking military and political leaders have known about the dangers of nuclear materials, weapons testing and fallout at least since 1942 when they commissioned the Manhattan Project.

President Truman selected the NTTR as the primary domestic nuclear testing site in 1950, and the first of more than 900 nuclear detonations took place there the following year. The U.S. government has known about the dangers to people working on the NTTR for decades, but has denied or concealed those dangers in the name of national security.

In 1975 the U.S. Energy Research and Development Administration (ERDA) conducted an extensive investigation of a highly classified area on the NTTR and issued a 90-page Environmental Assessment that determined:

Range... that are contaminated with plutonium from tests carried on in 1963. These areas are well fenced and there is no indication of migration of this surface contamination outside the fence, let alone outside the Range; nor is there any indication that this plutonium has entered significantly into the local biological systems or food chains."

There was no assessment of the human costs.

In 1992, this same area was suddenly and completely shut down while the DOE claims it conducted a comprehensive reclamation project to decontaminate the soil and groundwater. What they actually did was remove the top six inches of contaminated topsoil and relocate it to another area within the Nevada Test Site. The project lasted for 17 years, but the contamination remain just as toxic.

What the Federal Government Did

In 2000, the federal government finally and officially admitted they knew about the invisible enemy

and its dangers when they signed the Energy Employee Occupational Illness Compensation Act (EEOICPA) into law. It provides medical care and financial compensation for:

- Nuclear weapons workers and others who were exposed to hazardous substances as a result of weapons testing or uranium production, and
- 2. Subsequently contracted specific illnesses

[EXPOSED]



EEOICPA

Energy Employee Occupational Illness Compensation Act

EEOICPA applied to:

- Employees of the DOE and its civilian contractors, including those who worked on the Nevada Test and Training Range (NTTR), as well as their families or survivors.
- DoD personnel and contractor employees who witnessed DOE above-ground nuclear detonations on the NTTR were also included

To date, those covered under EEOICPA have received billions in medical benefits and compensation.

What the Federal Government Refused To Do

Military and civilian personnel who served on the Nevada Test and Training Range (NTTR) or who worked for the DoD were excluded from receiving EEOICPA benefits.

- Their missions, duties, service records and medical records were classified and "data-masked"
- This information remains inaccessible by these NTTR personnel, the public and all other government departments and agencies, especially the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)
- According to the DoD, these people did not exist

These NTTR personnel cannot access Veterans' Benefits, including healthcare, because they cannot:

- Prove to the VA that they even served on the NTTR
- Connect their health problems to toxic exposure on the NTTR

To date, NTTR military and civilian personnel who have been exposed to toxic radiation and materials have yet to receive any medical benefits or compensation from the government they have risked their lives or sacrificed their lives to serve.

The U.S. Congress Joins the Fight to Right This Wrong



For more than two years, The Invisible Enemy (TIE) has been a relentless advocate

(in Washington D.C. and the media) for new federal legislation that recognizes those who served on the Nevada Test and Training Range (NTTR) and qualifies them to receive Veterans' Benefits.

Several key members of Congress have embraced our mission and committed to passing and funding legislation that corrects this injustice. Together, we are driving bi-partisan support for two pieces of legislation and two amendments to the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) that have been introduced in the House of Representatives and the Senate.



BI-PARTISAN SUPPORT

H.R. 1400: The PROTECT Act

18 Feb **()**

- Introduced in the House on February 18, 2025, by Representative Mark Amodei R- NV-2
- Co-sponsored by Representatives Susie Lee D-NV-3, Pete Sessions R-TX-17, Cleo Fields D-LA-6, Dina Titus D-NV-1, Nikki Budzinski D-IL-13, Steven Horsford D-NV-4, Marie Gluesenkamp D-WA-3 and Timothy Kennedy D-N-26.
- Referred to the House Veterans' Affairs Committee (HVAC) and supported by Representative Mark Takano D-CA-39, ranking member of HVAC
- Watch first testimony by TIE Chairman Dave Crete at HVAC roundtable led by Representative Takano
- 9 Jul ()
- Watch second testimony by TIE Chairman Dave Crete at HVAC roundtable led by Representative Takano
 - Establishes a presumption that veterans and civilians were exposed to radiation and other toxins at the NTTR for purposes of the treatment of certain disabilities under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and for other purposes.
 - Designates participation in certain activities at the NTTR between January 1, 1972, and January 1, 2005. as radiation-risk activities.
 - Aims to streamline the process for veterans to receive VA disability benefits by:
 - Removing the burden of proving individual exposure to radiation or toxins related to service at specified Nevada locations.
 - Making it easier for veterans with related medical conditions – such as lipomas or other tumors – to access benefits through the presumption that these conditions are "service-connected"
 - If you are a veteran or civilian who served at locations on the NTTR specified in H.R. 1400, it is presumed you were exposed to toxic radiation and substances that cause serious health problems
 - This is a huge first step that would enable NTTR veterans and DoD employees to receive benefits and treatments for a growing list of medical conditions

House Amendement to the NDAA

Representative Derrick Van Orden R-WI-03 will introduce an amendment to fund The Protect Act under the NDAA when the NDAA comes up for consideration by the House.

S. 2220: The FORGOTTEN Act

- 9 Jul O Introduced in the Senate on July 9, 2025, by Senator Jacky Rosen (DNV)
 - Co-sponsored by Senator Catherine Cortez Masto (D NV)
 - Referred to the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee on the same day
 - Known as the Fighting for the Overlooked Recognition of Groups Operating in Toxic Test Environments in Nevada (FORGOTTEN) Veterans Act
 - A bill to expand presumptions of exposure by members of the Armed Forces to toxic substances, and for other purposes
 - Certain health conditions would be presumed to result from military-related radiation and toxic exposure, simplifying VA benefit claims for affected service members
 - This aligns with broader efforts to build on the momentum of the PACT Act and other legislation addressing veterans' exposure to hazardous substances
 - The PACT Act, as amended in 2022, significantly expanded healthcare and benefits for veterans who were exposed to burn pits, radiation and other harmful substances.
 - It also expanded the list of "presumptive conditions" to include respiratory illnesses, various cancers and many others. Veterans suffering from any of these conditions automatically qualified for benefits without having to prove the direct cause.
 - Once again, veterans and civilians who served at classified locations on the NTTR were not covered by the PACT Act.

Senate Amendements to the NDAA

Sections 1065 and 1066 were added to the NDAA by Senators Jacky Rosen D-NV and Catherine Cortez Masto D-NV.

The FORGOTTEN Veterans Act would:

- · Classify the NTTR as contaminated
- Require the Department of Defense (DoD) to document all NTTR exposures in each service member's Individual Longitudinal Exposure Record (health records) so they can be available to the VA when service members transition to civilian life
- Require the Secretary of the Air Force to identify all those who served on the NTTR, establish a process for service members and veterans to provide proof of their assignment within the NTTR, and make all efforts to identify individuals, without requiring them to submit evidence of their stationing
- Establish a presumption of toxic exposure for DoD personnel who served at any Department of Energy (DOE) facility, including those within the NTTR, where DOE employees have a presumption of exposure

- Add service at military installations within the NTTR to the list of recognized "radiation-risk activities" under VA law, which dates back to January 27, 1951
- This would include veterans who participated in the development, construction, operation, or maintenance of military installations on the NTTR in addition to nuclear test observers
- Establish a presumption of toxic exposure for veterans who served on or in the airspace above the NTTR, easing the burden of proof in VA claims
- Expand the list of medical conditions automatically presumed to be service-connected to include lipomas and tumor-related conditions





The President Can Help Right This Wrong

Another pathway to recognition and relief for NTTR veterans would be an **Executive Order signed by President** Trump. The Invisible Enemy has discussed this possibility with John Figuero, Senior Advisor to the Secretary of the Veterans Benefits Administration and Lavin Gartland, White House Senior Advisor to the Secretary of the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

The Executive Order solution has been publicly supported by:

- · General Dan Caine, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff
- Dr. Troy E. Meink, Secretary of the Air Force



The Invisible Enemy (TIE) has received enormous and invaluable support from expert organizations and our mission.

individuals who have joined

Our Allies in Our Fight Against /

The Invisible Enemy



Our Government Relations team is led by one of the most respected and successful law firms in Washington D.C. Akin represents a global clientele in a broad range of business sectors.

When Akin heard about TIE and our efforts to seek legislative relief for NTTR veterans, they contacted Dave Crete and offered their services pro bono. The Akin team has helped us navigate the halls of Congress and gain access to key Representatives, Senators and staff members who support and advance our mission. Our team includes:



Ed Pagano PARTNER

Ed joined Akin after serving in the Obama administration as Senate Liaison and Deputy Assistant to the President for Legislative Affairs. He was responsible for managing the Senate Legislative Affairs Office and charged with advancing the president's legislative agenda and promoting

his priorities on Capitol Hill.

Ed coordinated the administration's legislative strategy on Senate action concerning issues that included patent reform, immigration reform, the Affordable Care Act, the Violence Against Women Act, reforms to the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA), gun violence prevention and judicial nominations. He was a member of the White House privacy and FISA working groups.

Before joining the White House in 2012. Ed worked for nearly two decades with Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-VT), both for the senator's office and the Senate Judiciary Committee, chaired by Sen. Leahy. This included serving as Sen. Leahy's chief of staff, managing the senator's offices in Washington and Vermont and overseeing the senator's work on the Judiciary, Agriculture and Appropriations committees.

During that time, he advised Sen. Leahy on legislation—such as the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act, the first major reform of the patent system in 60 years—and Supreme Court hearings and confirmations, including those of Justice Sotomayor and Justice Kagan.

Prior to becoming Sen. Leahy's chief of staff, Ed served as his senior counsel on the Judiciary Committee, focusing on economic and criminal justice legislation, including the Sarbanes-Oxley Act, the USA PATRIOT Act and the September 11 Victim Compensation Fund, as well as antitrust issues and data breach legislation. Ed earlier worked as legislative counsel for Sen. Leahy, monitoring legislative developments and implementing plans on tax and commerce legislation, as well as coordinating economic development outreach in Vermont.



Caryn Dyson SENIOR POLICY ADVISOR

Caryn represents clients before Congress, the administration and outside stakeholders on a variety of public policy issues. She has

been with the firm for more than a decade, working closely with former Congressman Vic Fazio (D-CA).

Caryn also maintains an active role in Democratic politics at the national level. She has been extensively involved in numerous House, Senate and presidential campaigns.

Prior to joining Akin, Caryn worked in government affairs for a major Fortune 500 company and also served as a professional staff member in the office of Sen. John Breaux (D-LA).



Zach Deatherage **POLICY ADVISOR**

Zach serves as a policy advisor in Akin's lobbying and public policy practice in Washington, D.C., where he leverages years of Capitol Hill experience to provide strategic

advice and advocacy for clients navigating complex legislative and regulatory matters.

Prior to joining Akin. Zach held a variety of roles in the U.S. House of Representatives, most recently as legislative director for Representative Elise Stefanik (R-NY). In this capacity, he led legislative strategy and oversaw policy development across a broad range of issues, including education, labor, small business and appropriations.

Zach also previously worked in the offices of Rep. Ashley Hinson (R-IA), Rep. Ralph Abraham (R-LA) and Rep. Steve Womack (R-AR), gaining experience in managing key policy areas and maintaining strong relationships on Capitol Hill.



Casey Higgins SENIOR COUNSEL

Casey provides strategic advice to clients to meet their business objectives and influence public policy. Casey's experience in House Republican leadership, on a

congressional committee and in a congressional member's office, has provided her with a holistic perspective that serves as a valuable resource to clients that are seeking guidance and crafting strategy on policy issues crucial to their business.

Casey plays a vital role connecting her clients with key stakeholders in federal government. She routinely bridges the gap between the private sector and all levels of government to advance her clients' policy agendas.

She has established herself as an accomplished leader in the domestic policy space, particularly in the areas of tech, commerce, sports and entertainment, and issues under the purview of the Judiciary Committee. Casey uses her insider-level knowledge of the inner workings of the House and Senate to mobilize Champions within Congress.

Prior to joining Akin, Casey served in the Office of House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI) as Assistant to the Speaker for Policy and as Trade Counsel. In this role, Casey served as liaison to the Obama administration and, subsequently, the Trump administration, House and Senate leadership and committee offices, and key constituencies on and off Capitol Hill on behalf of the Speaker.

Casey was responsible for advising Speaker Ryan and the Republican leadership on matters under the purview of the Ways and Means, Judiciary, Homeland Security and House Administration committees.

She guided and coordinated committees of jurisdiction in developing and enacting legislation; developing and executing policy, communications and political strategies to advance the legislative objectives of the House Republican Conference; and identifying, organizing and leading external stakeholders in support of legislative initiatives.

Prior to her work in the Speaker's office, Casey served as trade counsel to the House Committee on Wavs and Means. She also served as a liaison between the administration and members of the Ways and Means Committee, and consulted with businesses, associations and interest groups regarding trade negotiations and trade matters.

Our Allies in Our Fight Against

The Invisible Enemy

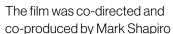
Our Leadership and Board of Directors



BACKLOT DOCS"__

DOCUMENTARY PRODUCTIONS

TIE and Backlot Docs collaborated on *The Invisible Enemy, Hidden Sacrifice*, short documentary film about the dangers, the denials, the injustice and the tragic consequences endured by the men and women who served on the NTTR.



and Douglas Brian Miller, principals of Backlot Docs. The Executive Producers are noted actors Matthew Modine and Adam Backoff.

THE INVISIBLE ENEMY

The Invisible Enemy, Hidden Sacrifice was an official selection of several prestigious film festivals and was named Best Short Documentary at the 2025 Santa Fe Film Festival.

Backlot is currently producing a full-length documentary about The Invisible Enemy and our journey from an online support group to a driving force advocating justice for NTTR veterans.

brand.

BRAND, a full-service branding, marketing and communications agency based in Las Vegas, has provided more than \$200,000 of in-kind services since TIE was founded. They created our brand, including the name, corporate identity, messaging, website and marketing materials. They also manage our reputation.

Their public relations campaigns have exploded national and international awareness of our mission, our accomplishments and the story of NTTR veterans and their families across the country. They have planned and promoted our fundraising events, and much more.

BRAND Founder and CEO Virginia Martino is a founding member of the TIE board of directors. She has been instrumental in shaping and implementing our marketing and communications strategies, and creating a dedicated fundraising board to help turn our massive awareness into donations to support our advocacy efforts in Washington D.C. and the media.

REDROCK STRATEGIES

The team at RedRock's Las Vegas office provides additional firepower for our Government Relations and Public Affairs initiatives in Nevada and Washington. Their deep experience in building legislative support and promoting our story in the media is rapidly advancing our mission.



Amanda Moss PUBLIC AFFAIRS DIRECTOR

Prior to joining RedRock, Amanda served as the Senior Director of Government Affairs for the Southern Nevada Home Builders (SNHBA) where, she managed federal, state and local lobbying efforts for issues impacting

the residential construction industry. She also served on several boards at the National Association of Home Builders and other organizations throughout the Las Vegas Valley, and was a founding member of the Southern Nevada Trades High School and Construction Cares, Inc.

Prior to her tenure at SNHBA, Amanda worked for the Retail Association of Nevada as Director of Government Affairs and Public Affairs in both Nevada and New Mexico.

Amanda currently serves on a number of boards, including the Southern Nevada International Code Council and the Clark County Fire Prevention Board of Appeals. She also helps raise funds for nonprofits across the state.

Veteran Service Organizations

TIE is working with Kenneth G. Harman and Sri Benson of the American Legion, the nation's largest Veterans Service Organization (VSO), to author a Joint Letter of Support addressed to Senator Jerry Moran, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs (SVAC), Ranking Member Senator Richard Blumenthal, and leaders on three other House and Senate committees who must all approve this type of legislation.

TIE is actively seeking the support of other VSOs, including Disabled American Veterans, Wounded Warrior Project, Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), Burn Pit 360 Warrior Support, Tragedy Assistance Programs for Survivors (TAPS), and more.

Together, these organizations represent millions of veterans whose voices will greatly advance our mission to recognize the existence, suffering and unjust treatment of NTTR veterans and their families, and help right this wrong.

Dave Crete FOUNDER & CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

Sergeant Dave Crete is a veteran of the United States Air Force. He joined in 1983 and entered its Security Police Academy with the goal of becoming an Air Force Security Policeman. He was quickly promoted to Senior Red Rope, the highest-ranking student in his class, in charge of 129 fellow trainees.

Upon graduation, Airman First Class Crete was hand-picked for a four-year special assignment to the newly created 4461st Security Police Squad that would provide operational security for all of the Air Force's new, top-secret F117-A stealth aircraft.

The planes, known only as "the resource," were based at a highly classified weapons testing site on the Nevada Test and Training Range (NTTR), which officially did not exist. As a part of what, at that time, was the largest Black Operation in Air Force history, Dave's mission was to protect the resource and their base against all threats at all costs.

After three and a half years of providing F117-A security on the NTTR and at undisclosed locations around the world, a severe knee injury forced Dave to transfer to Nellis Air Force Base near Las Vegas, Nevada, where he served the remainder of his commitment. He received his Honorable Discharge in 1989 and is still actively involved in the 4461st veteran's support group.

David A. Tilem EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

David is originally from Los Angeles, California.
After graduating from Brown University and
Loyola (Los Angeles) Law School, he took a
position in a West Los Angeles law firm. He left that
position and opened his own practice in July 1985.

In 2003, David founded CDCBAA, a legal specialty bar association. He relocated his home to the Las Vegas area in 2015, telecommuting to work in Los Angeles as necessary. He met Dave Crete shortly thereafter and learned about The Invisible Enemy. He retired in mid-2023.

In early 2025, Dave Crete invited David to serve as Executive Director for The Invisible Enemy. While he never served in the military, working with The Invisible Enemy has given David the opportunity to give back and express his appreciation for the men and women who step up to defend our Nation.

David is married and has children and grandchildren. His interests include politics, international current events, travel (particularly to visit family), foreign languages, spy novels, shooting and Golden Knights hockey

William J. Stieren, CPA

Bill is a native of Illinois. He attended the University of Illinois receiving his BS degree in accounting. He is a Certified Public Accountant. After working for a large public company and the federal

government, Bill found a career as a tax specialist, becoming a partner with McGladrey Pullen, a national CPA firm.

He has worked with small and medium-sized businesses, advising on tax, financing, enhancing profitability and long-term financial planning. He pioneered the concept of issuing preferred partnership interests to secure significant financial and tax benefits for taxpayers.

Bill acquired a small business in Illinois and grew it over five years before selling it. He then acquired additional businesses and managed them until deciding to move to a warmer more stimulating economic climate in Las Vegas. In Las Vegas, Bill has participated in various consulting assignments, including work with a Silicon Valley start-up, representation in tax cases and distressed business situations.

Bill's interests encompass politics, the local Rotary Club, reading, travel, and attendance at events held at Allegiant Stadium. He is married and has two grandchildren who are currently serving in the US Air Force. His involvement with the Invisible Enemy organization represents a meaningful undertaking.

Tisha Black, ESQ LEGAL COUNSEL

Tisha is a native Nevadan born in Las Vegas. She attended Boston University and graduated from Law School in Michigan. Tisha worked for a large Nevada-based law firm for two years before opening

her own firm in 2000. Black & Wadhams represents large and small businesses in all manner of concerns ranging from corporate and employee matters to trademark, contracts and litigation.

Her firm has a significant presence in Nevada's legislature and in politics. Tisha worked with the state Attorney General, Catherine Cortez-Masto, during the banking crisis to curtail foreclosures and assist with Nevada's bank settlements.

It was at this critical time in the state's history that she met Dave Crete. Dave and Tisha have worked together for more than 15 years before she was asked to join the TIE Board.

She has been actively involved in community service projects and has single-handedly raised over a million dollars for state and local campaigns for which she has a passion.

Tisha is married and has three children. She is a tri-athlete, trilingual and active in local and national politics. She regularly travels internationally when not spending time with her children and is learning to play the Banjo.

Our Leadership and Board of Directors



Key Advisors



Virginia Martino COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Brand Ltd., Virginia has been a quintessential entrepreneur who discerns huge, new opportunities and brings them to the market against all odds.

Virginia understands the overriding importance of building brands and how a brand can create deep, emotional connections with consumers, as well as unique experiences that form lasting and mutually beneficial trust relationships with customers.

Virginia leads her team in developing national brands in emerging industries. She has also worked with some of the city's most prestigious hospitality brands, such as Paris Las Vegas, Bally's and MGM Resorts International, including including its City Center, Aria, Bellagio, MGM Resorts, Mirage and Park MGM properties. BRAND also serves commercial real estate developers, consumer packaged goods and spirits producers, and medical and wealth consulting groups.

Virginia is a graduate of the Henderson Chamber of Commerce Leadership Foundation Program Class of 2024 and helped her classmates achieve a huge success with their class project, the Serving Our Kids Foundation, raising more than \$435,000 in cash and in-kind donations. Virginia led all efforts to re-brand the foundation and create its strategic marketing plan. She has also aligned other corporate partners to support its mission with both financial and in-kind donations.

In April 2023, Virginia became a founding board member of The Invisible Enemy Foundation and has handled all of its branding and public relations. The Invisible Enemy is fighting to win recognition and justice for veterans who were exposed to toxic radiation and chemicals while serving at the Nevada Test and Training Range.

From 2020 to 2024, Virginia served on the Executive Board of The Darren Waller Foundation and actively promoted its mission to prevent substance abuse among young people. Waller, an impact player for the Las Vegas Raiders, uses this national platform to share his experience with substance abuse and foster a safe, affirming, accepting and encouraging environment for at-risk youth throughout the Las Vegas valley.

Virginia is deeply committed to supporting her community and believes all companies have a responsibility to give back.

Randy Groves
BOARD MEMBER

Randall "Randy" Groves was born and raised in the Dallas-Fort Worth area of Texas. Upon graduation from high school, he enlisted in the United States Air Force and trained as a police

officer. He was stationed at a classified location on the NTTR where he met and served with Dave Crete.

After subsequent postings in South Korea, Germany and Carswell Air Force Base in Fort Worth, Randy exited the Air Force in

1992 with the rank of Staff Sergeant and received an Honorable Discharge. Throughout his nine-year career, he took continuing education classes at the Community College of the Air Force and eventually earned his certification as a Texas Peace Officer.

However, Randy's career soon took off in a completely different direction. He began working as a technician with a local pest control company, moved into sales and finally became a regional manager. In 2000, he started his own pest control business, which remains highly successful to this day.

Over the years, Randy attended reunions of his former NTTR unit and started the conversation about their health problems. This led him to become a founding board member of The Invisible Enemy in 2023. He is committed to seeing its mission through to the end and obtaining benefits and compensation for all affected NTTR veterans and their families.

Randy's greatest joy is his two sons (the eldest an Air Force veteran) and four grandchildren. He is dedicated to his community, votes in every election and supports multiple charities, including Special Olympics, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and the Wounded Warriors Project. He also enjoys golf and bass fishing.

Michael "Mike" Nemcic

Mike grew up in Carlisle, Ohio. Immediately following high school, he enlisted in the U.S. Air Force where he performed duties world-wide within the Combat Arms and Security Forces

career fields. Notable assignments included the Nevada Test and Training Range and Khamis Mushiat, during Operation Desert Storm. After completing 25 years of service, he retired from the Air Force in 2001 at the rank of Chief Master Sergeant.

Mike continued to serve his community as a Bexar County Sheriff Deputy and Alamo Colleges Police Officer in San Antonio, Texas. He held many positions within the Alamo Colleges Police Department. During his tenure, Mike earned a Master Peace Officer License and Master of Business Administration (MBA) graduate degree. In 2019, he retired from public service as Deputy Chief of Police.

In April 2023, Dave Crete invited Mike to serve as a Board Member for The Invisible Enemy. As a retired military member and disabled veteran, working with The Invisible Enemy provides him the opportunity to continue honoring his Chief's Creed, "to be that individual who will make no compromise with wrong."

Mike is married to his high school sweetheart. They are blessed with two children and three grandchildren. Mike's interests include American and military history, automotive and appliance repair, crime and cold case investigating, teaching life skills to grandchildren, K9 rescue, and Ohio State Buckeye and Texas Roadrunner football.

Catherine Simon

Catherine "Cat" Simon was born and raised in Smyrna, Delaware, and graduated from Goldey-Beacom College with Associates of Science degrees in Computer Information Systems and

Business Administration, with a concentration in Management. Cat worked for the State of Delaware for 20 years in several different roles, including serving as the Board Liaison for the Delaware Board of Pharmacy and Office of Controlled Substances, and as a welfare fraud investigator. She is currently a Lead Account Specialist for billing disputes at a major credit card company.

Cat has long been involved in volunteer organizations, both as a member and in leadership roles. In college, she was a member of Theta Phi Alpha, a philanthropic sorority where she participated in various volunteer projects. She is a Life Member of the Citizens' Hose Company (aka the Smyrna Fire Department) Auxiliary and served as its Secretary for 15 years. In 2009 and 2010, Cat competed in the Mrs. Delaware America pageant and helped her pageant sisters raise awareness and money for their individual causes.

For seven years, Cat was active with the Central Delaware Relay for Life, the American Cancer Society's primary, annual fundraising event. She served as its Chairperson for five years and helped raise nearly \$100,000 each year for programs benefitting cancer patients and their caretakers.

In 2024, Cat accepted the role as Secretary of the Board for The Invisible Enemy, a cause near and dear to her heart. Her husband Joe, an Air Force veteran who was stationed on the NTTR for five years, now suffers from illnesses associated with toxic exposure during his service.

Cat currently resides in Dover, Delaware, and has two adult children from her first marriage. She and Joe have been happily married for 21 years. Her interests include traveling to new places, fitness, karaoke, volunteering and playing music trivia with her husband.

Dr. Mark Penikas

Mark is a dedicated United States Air Force veteran with a diverse and accomplished career spanning military service, state and county law enforcement, and international

security. Over the years, he combined his commitment to public safety with a passion for community-driven solutions, forging strong partnerships between non-profit organizations and government entities. Mark's leadership roles as President, Chairman, and Vice-Chairman within multiple NPOs have sharpened his skills in advocacy, strategic planning, and organizational governance.



Laurie Tanakaya is the CEO of Serving Our Kids Foundation, a Las Vegas non-profit dedicated to ending child hunger in Southern Nevada. Prior to this, she served as Vice

President of Retail for Opry Entertainment, a division of Ryman Hospitality, home of the Grand Ole Opry, Ryman Auditorium and Ole Red.

A retail executive for more than 35 years, Laurie has managed businesses as large as \$1.5 billion in sales. She led a company initiative to develop a new store format that ran a 24% increase in sales, and an event that produced the single highest sales day in the 94-year history of the venue.

Over the years, Laurie has held executive roles across merchandising, marketing and operations with major national retailers. Her areas of expertise include strategic planning, new business development, operations/process improvement, financial planning and analytics, vendor partnerships, and team mentoring and development.

Laurie has also held many fundraising and volunteer roles. During her tenure as President of the Pamida Foundation, a 501(c)(3) that supported education, wellness and helping families in need, the foundation raised \$1.4 million in a single event to help local communities across 11 states.



Greg Hogan FINANCE ADVISOR

Greg Hogan began his work career in 1976, at the age of 18, with the U.S. Air Force where he served for four years and left with an honorable discharge and the rank of Sergeant.

Greg began his Wall Street career in 1980 with Brown Brothers Harriman, moved on to Bradford Trust and, finally, to The Bank of NY/Mellon where he retired after 27 years of service with a total of 35 years of financial expertise on Wall Street.

While at The Bank of New York/Mellon, he managed multiple operational departments in U.S. Settlements. He also completed his BS degree at night school, graduating Cum Laude in 2001. Towards the end of his career, Greg managed a Worldwide Control Group, a Worldwide Business Continuity Planning team, and developed Custody Banking Systems for The Bank of New York/Mellon.

Greg is a survivor of the 9-11 attacks on the World Trade Center. He managed a team effort to recover and balance billions in funds related to the disruption of the attack. He now serves as Treasurer of Serving Our Kids Foundation.

Media Resources

Press Releases

Available online

Articles

Available online

Videos

Available online

Media Inquiries

The Invisible Enemy often receives inquiries from the media and gladly accepts requests for interviews, commentary and other PR related content. Requests may be submitted directly to our online form.

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Approved Quotes

House Veterans Affairs Committee Round Table Testimony, 4/8/25

"In 1975, the federal government did an environmental assessment of where I worked. They said nobody should be there. They said if somebody does go there, they should only be allowed limited access to limit exposure. In 1979, they built my base. They said the benefit to national security outweighed the future environmental liabilities.

"In our service, we never knew what we were being exposed to. Our commanders didn't know. My dormitory was 2.3 miles from a nuclear test. The front gate of my base was five miles away from a nuclear test. Our soil was contaminated. The water that my food was cooked in was contaminated. The water that I showered in every day was contaminated.

"I had [a tumor] the size of a grapefruit removed from my back. There's about 20 more around my body. I have a brain cyst. I have brain atrophy. The left side of my brain is shrinking and dying. I'm one of the healthy ones.

"Worse, worse is the fact that my wife had three miscarriages. All four of my children were born with birth defects or significant health problems. One was corrected surgically. The other three will never be corrected. And they live with it. It's not their fault. I'm not saying it's mine, but I brought it home. It was my DNA that was permanently altered from low-dose, long-term ionizing radiation exposure."

"The average age of death for our unit is 65. In the last week, I've added two people's names. We now have 462 that we know of that have passed. The youngest being 33."

"I am asking that Congress please allow us to get the benefits that every other veteran has earned. We're not asking to be special. We're asking to be equal."

- Dave Crete, Chairman, The Invisible Enemy

"Those who served in the Nevada Desert as young, unsuspecting victims of exposure to toxic radiation and other materials are patriots who helped end the Cold War. They and their families have suffered for too long and have been denied the benefits they have earned. I've witnessed so many succumb to illnesses directly related to their time on the Range and the numbers keep growing. Time is not on our side but, it's time for our government to right this wrong. As a member on the Board of Directors for the Invisible Enemy, I know our team will fight to the end. I stand proudly with them.

- Randy Groves, Board Member, The Invisible Enemy

The Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act of 2000 (EEOICPA)

"While the Nation can never fully repay these workers or their families, they deserve recognition and compensation for their sacrifices. Since the Administration's historic announcement in July 1999 that it intended to compensate DOE nuclear weapons workers who suffered occupational illnesses as a result of exposure to the unique hazards in building the Nation's nuclear defense, it has been the policy of this Administration to support fair and timely compensation for these workers and their survivors."

- President Bill Clinton, Executive Order 13179, 2000

"The Department of Energy, in 2000, was able to have a bill signed by President Clinton called the EEOICPA. That bill took care of the person who cooked my cheeseburger at my chow hall, but refuses to take care of me, the guy who ate it. Just think about that."

- Dave Crete, Chairman, The Invisible Enemy

The PROTECT Act (H.R. 1400)

"The Invisible Enemy is fighting an uphill battle to win recognition, respect and justice for thousands of U.S. military personnel who were unknowingly exposed to dangerous levels of radiation and toxic substances while serving on the Nevada Test and Training Range.

"When many developed cancers and other serious medical conditions, they applied to the Veterans Administration for healthcare and other benefits that could improve or even save their lives. For years, their appeals have been denied.

"H.R. 1400 amends the existing federal code to specify the incidents of nuclear exposure that qualify NTTR for VA benefits. It states that if you were at NTTR between 1972 and 2005, it is presumed that you were exposed and you are eligible for benefits."

"Now that The PROTECT Act has been introduced, we want to build momentum and get it passed ASAP."

- Dave Crete, Chairman, The Invisible Enemy

"Representative Mark Amodei has been our champion since day one. He recognized the injustice and need. He took up our mission and just ran with it. We could never have come so far, so fast without his support."

- Dave Crete, Chairman, The Invisible Enemy

"I've learned that no legislation goes anywhere without the right co-sponsors. Representative Susie Lee is the original co-sponsor of H.R. 1400, but she's done much more than just put her name on it. She's been a driving force, promoting this bill and locking in additional co-sponsors and support on both sides of the aisle."

- Dave Crete, Chairman, The Invisible Enemy

"I still can't believe how lucky we are to have Akin Gump on our team. It's just amazing how much they do. The level of expertise they bring to the table, the access they provide – it's way beyond what we could do on our own. They have completely embraced our mission, grown bipartisan support and accelerated the whole legislative process."

- Dave Crete, Chairman, The Invisible Enemy

House Amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act (NDDA)

"Take a look at our documentary on YouTube and you'll get an idea of how so many men and women are suffering because our government does nothing to help them. Getting this amendment into the NDAA will be the first win in our battle for recognition and justice."

"We need a lot of people to call their representatives and tell them to support this amendment. Then we need people to go to ThelnvisibleEnemy.org and support our mission, make a donation and help us win this fight."

- Dave Crete, Chairman, The Invisible Enemy

The FORGOTTEN Act (S. 2220) and Senate Amendments to the NDAA

"The FORGOTTEN Act will finally and officially recognize the risk that veterans assumed during their service at classified locations on the NTTR, and qualify us to receive VA healthcare and other benefits. After decades of being overlooked and forgotten, we're closer to fulfilling our mission than ever before."

- Dave Crete, Chairman, The Invisible Enemy

"Senator Jacky Rosen has been our most active supporter and legislator in the Senate. She has promised to make securing medical care, pensions and other veterans benefits for NTTR veterans and their families her number one legislative priority. And her incredible work on The FORGOTTEN Act (S. 2220) and her two amendments to the National Defense Authorization Act proves she is keeping that promise."

- Dave Crete, Chairman, The Invisible Enemy



Wreath-Laying Ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier 7/5/25

"People served [on the NTTR] and died for their country, but their government thinks they should be unknown soldiers."

"After decades of denial, we're finally making real progress. We're working with members of the House and Senate to support this resolution (H.R. 1400) and make it the law. Hopefully, before more veterans die because of their exposure. Including me."

"This is a real honor for The Invisible Enemy and for me. I loved being in the Air Force. I loved my job on the NTTR. But no soldier should have to die unknown. And those who have must be respected and remembered."

- Dave Crete, Chairman, The Invisible Enemy



Media Resources

THE INVISIBLE ENEMY



Approved Quotes

The Invisible Enemy **Documentary Film**

"This film is about the military and civilian DoD workers who never knew they were being exposed to deadly radiation and chemicals. They never knew their lives and families were in danger. But the government knew, and they denied it. So, this film is also about decades of government deception and reckless disregard for the health and safety of thousands who took an oath to protect this country."

"The government won't even acknowledge we served on the NTTR. It admits there was an air base at Tonopah [Test Range]. It admits there were aircraft squadrons based at Tonopah. But, apparently, there were no pilots, flight operations personnel, maintenance crews or security police at Tonopah."

- Dave Crete, Chairman, The Invisible Enemy

"As directors, we are incredibly grateful to share our film, detailing the injustice endured by Americans. We continue to be inspired by the tireless efforts of Dave Crete and others, and it was our mission to speak a truth for the women and men who served honorably at the Nevada Test and Training Range. They must be compensated and have access to the comprehensive healthcare they are due."

- Mark Shapiro, Co-Director

"This is a vitally important film every American should see. We hope The Invisible Enemy will raise nationwide awareness for all of our military veterans who've been exposed to radiation and hazardous chemicals in the line of duty. It's every citizen's duty to serve our veterans and assist them with the many physical and psychological battles some are still fighting. We also hope this movie spotlights the importance of passing federal legislation that aides our veterans in receiving the medical care and financial compensation they've earned."

- Matthew Modine, Executive Producer

In 1987, I was chosen to work in a classified area up-range of Las Vegas, Everything was perfect to me. I mean. I knew I was doing a job. In 1999, I started having migraines and in 2014, I got what is called a - almost like a stroke, but it's a seizure where I couldn't breathe. I went to Nellis Air Force Base and they said we need to do a CAT scan in my brain and found out I had a tumor."

- Emilio Sandoval, NTTR Veteran

"I was on the Nellis Test and Training Range from October 1990 to November 2005. I found myself very tired all time and when I went to the doctor, they told me I had Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma and that I had bone marrow cancer. For approximately 15 months, I battled chemotherapy, Paracentesis, Thoracentesis. 2019 was my second battle with cancer and that was a teratoma. Teeth, tongue removed."

- Robert Krouse, NTTR Veteran

"I was blown away by the time I got to the second Squadron reunion and I found out how many people had died, how many people had gotten, you know, really sick. You know, it scares the hell out of me because I'm having complications now and a lot of these other guys have already passed. So, I am hoping that, you know, this venture of telling the stories of the people who have come out is gonna help everybody."

- Ryan Regnell, NTTR Veteran

"I have lung problems and I thought I was sick. And I see some of these guys and they're screwed up. You know, you get thankful. But they're screwed up or they're dead. We have a memorial list, it's like 322 names on it now. And the best I've been able to put together so far is that the average age of the guys that have died is about 65."

"I have a son that was born with something called neurofibromatosis, which is a genetic defect, a genetic disorder. However, there's no genetic history. We asked a question because he was born with a bunch of birthmarks. He says, you need to see some specialists. So, we go through this whole thing and then one day we're sitting down in the doctor's office and the doctor asks us, what do you think about what your son has? Nobody's told us what our son has. And he says, have you ever seen the movie Mask that Cher did? Yeah. He has a form of that.

- Dave Crete, Chairman, TIE

"For Congress, I really think that it's important for them to take a step back and imagine what it would feel like if it was their family, what it would feel like if it was their child that's going through issues. If they've got, oh no, here's another lump, here's another lymphoma, here's another, we have to have another surgery. What if it was their family? They wouldn't want that for anybody."

"My family were proud. They worked hard. They thought they were doing something amazing for this country. And to not honor that is insane to me. It's just not fathomable."

- Jennifer Page, NNTR Family Member

"I did my duty. I did it honorably - honorable discharge - served my country to its fullest potential. I did my job and now I think the government and the military should do theirs. And take care of these guys and gals and members that served these locations and help them and take care of them."

- "Chico" Brown, NTTR Veteran

"I have my issues with Parkinson's, but there' people out there suffering much more than I am, who have very little... support. And I'll fight for them just like I would have before when we were active. Once you're part of the Air Force, you're always part of the Air Force. You're always part of a team."

- Al Moreno, NTTR Veteran

Approved Quotes

Downwind Documentary Film

"Thousands of downwinders have been struggling with similar issues for more than 70 years. And they've been all but ignored by the government that conducted hundreds of nuclear tests and caused all of these problems in the first place. Yet there's no accountability. It's irresponsible and unacceptable."

- Dave Crete, Chairman, The Invisible Enemy

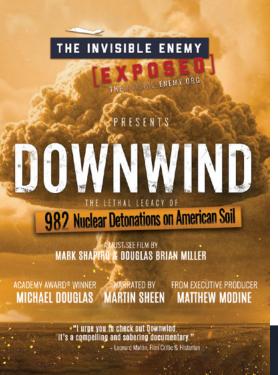
It's important our government takes responsibility for what they have done to our families... because it will happen again. We were lied to for years. Even when citizens were getting ill, asking questions, the lies continued. If they own what has happened, maybe they will be careful when making future decisions. If we stop paying attention, the past mistakes will be repeated, something we cannot let happen."

"I'm advocating for change because what happened to us will go on for years and years. The damage done was not simply one generation. We are passing the legacy generation to generation. The fallout from the test site went everywhere, no one is exempt from possible harmful effects."

"I would like our politicians to ponder the consequences of watching their loved ones die from illnesses that could have been prevented if only different decisions had been made. Choose a better path."

- Claudia Peterson, "Downwinder", St. George, UT





Media Inquiries

The Invisible Enemy often receives inquiries from the media and gladly accepts requests for interviews, commentary and other PR related content. Requests may be submitted directly to our c



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