

THE INVISIBLE ENEMY

[EXPOSED]
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Digital Media Kit

2026 EDITION



INTERACTIVE DIGITAL DOCUMENT



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OBJECTIVE

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 War (DoW) and the Department of Energy (DOE) have built or maintained permanent, highly classified facilities on the NTTR. These facilities have been staffed by DoW and DOE employees, DoW 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.

[EXPOSED]





The Organization

Our Mission

We are the voice of the FORGOTTEN military veterans, civilian employees and family members exposed to radiation and other toxins. We build awareness and support that secures the benefits they deserve.



Our Vision

Every military veteran, civilian employee and family member exposed to radiation and other toxins receives the benefits they have earned and the compensation they deserve.

Our History

The Invisible Enemy was founded by U.S. Air Force veteran Dave Crete after he and several of his former teammates began experiencing serious health issues years after serving together at the Nevada Test and Training Range (NTTR).

As Dave began reconnecting with the men and women he served alongside, a troubling pattern emerged. Many were battling cancers, tumors and other serious illnesses. Others had already passed away. Veterans began asking questions about what they may have been exposed to while serving at the NTTR and whether those exposures could be connected to the health issues affecting them and their families.

Those conversations grew into a mission.

In 2023, The Invisible Enemy Foundation was established to give a voice to these FORGOTTEN veterans, bring national attention to their experiences and work toward recognition, healthcare and benefits for those who served in contaminated environments without knowing the risks they faced.

What began as a group of veterans searching for answers has grown into a national movement.

Since April 2023, The Invisible Enemy has generated **more than 28,400 media mentions across nine countries, resulting in 68.4 billion media impressions and \$52.5 million in equivalent media value.** That growing awareness helped bring the experiences of NTTR veterans before members of Congress and elevated a decades-long issue onto the national stage.

Awareness was only the beginning.

In 2025, federal legislation was introduced to improve how the Department of War documents occupational

and environmental toxic exposures and makes that information available to the Department of Veterans Affairs. While the full legislation did not pass, a significant provision was incorporated into the Fiscal Year 2026 National Defense Authorization Act and became law, strengthening the federal framework for documenting toxic exposures and connecting exposure information with medical records.

That progress also exposed a critical remaining gap: better exposure records can only help veterans if the government can first identify who served in contaminated locations and establish where they served.

In 2026, the fight advanced again with the introduction of the **Sergeant Dave Crete FORGOTTEN Veterans Act**, legislation designed to identify military personnel who served at the NTTR and other qualifying contaminated locations, establish a process for veterans whose service records are incomplete or classified, and provide verified information to the VA so affected veterans can pursue the benefits they have earned.

Today, The Invisible Enemy's mission has grown from raising awareness about what happened at the NTTR to helping build a pathway that connects **service, exposure and health information**—so veterans who served our country in silence are no longer prevented from proving where they served, what they were exposed to and why they need care.

The fight that began with a group of veterans searching for answers is now helping drive change at the federal level—and it will continue until those who were exposed in service to our country are no longer FORGOTTEN.

Our Goals

Immediate Goals

Advance the Sergeant Dave Crete FORGOTTEN Veterans Act of 2026, building on the progress already achieved through the 2026 National Defense Authorization Act.

The legislation seeks to:

- Identify military personnel who served within the Nevada Test and Training Range (NTTR), beginning with the first nuclear test in 1951.
- Establish the NTTR and other qualifying locations as contaminated sites in coordination with the Department of Energy.
- Create a process for veterans to verify qualifying service when military records are incomplete, classified or otherwise unavailable.
- Ensure verified service, exposure, illness and injury information is provided to the Department of Veterans Affairs.
- Remove longstanding barriers that prevent affected veterans from establishing exposure and pursuing the healthcare and benefits they have earned.

At the same time, TIE will continue building bipartisan awareness and support in Congress, among Veteran Service Organizations and throughout the military and veteran communities to ensure these FORGOTTEN veterans are identified, recognized and heard.

Near-Term Goals

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.
- Continue building awareness of the health concerns reported by spouses, children and other family members of those exposed during their service at NTTR.

Long-Term Goals

Build a sustainable national organization capable of serving military veterans, civilian employees and families affected by radiation and other toxic exposures wherever they served.

TIE's long-term vision is to expand its veteran services beyond Nevada through a structured regional and multi-state model, providing specialized support for toxic-exposed veterans while continuing to identify gaps in recognition, healthcare, benefits and compensation.

> Answer the Call

HELP US GIVE A VOICE TO THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN FORGOTTEN.

The Invisible Enemy is building a national coalition of veterans, families, Veteran Service Organizations, community leaders, corporate partners and elected officials committed to ensuring those exposed to radiation and other toxins in service to our country are identified, recognized and supported.

- Contact your U.S. Representative and Senators and ask them to support the **Sergeant Dave Crete FORGOTTEN Veterans Act of 2026.**
- Share TIE's mission and the stories of affected veterans and families.
- Connect TIE with veterans who may have served in contaminated environments.
- Introduce TIE to organizations, corporations and community leaders who can strengthen the mission.
- Help us build the national awareness and support necessary to ensure no one who served is FORGOTTEN.

> Support the Mission

THE INVISIBLE ENEMY FOUNDATION IS A REGISTERED 501(C)(3) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION WORKING TO ENSURE MILITARY VETERANS, CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES AND FAMILIES AFFECTED BY RADIATION AND OTHER TOXIC EXPOSURES ARE NO LONGER FORGOTTEN. YOUR SUPPORT HELPS TIE:

- Build national awareness of military toxic exposure.
- Advance federal solutions that remove barriers to recognition, healthcare and benefits.
- Reach and identify veterans who may have been affected.
- Develop specialized veteran services focused on toxic exposure.
- Build the infrastructure necessary to assist veterans as TIE expands its services.
- Educate and engage veterans, families, policymakers, partners and communities across the country.

EVERY CONTRIBUTION HELPS US MOVE CLOSER TO A FUTURE WHERE THOSE EXPOSED IN SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY HAVE THE RECOGNITION, RESOURCES AND SUPPORT THEY DESERVE.

DONATE • PARTNER • GET INVOLVED
TheInvisibleEnemy.org

Our work will continue until every military veteran, civilian employee and family member affected by radiation and other toxic exposures has a pathway to the recognition, benefits and compensation they deserve — and no one is left behind.

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.

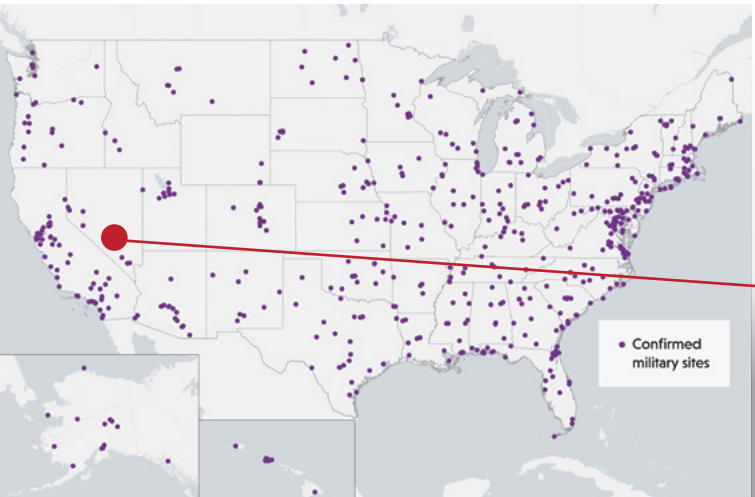
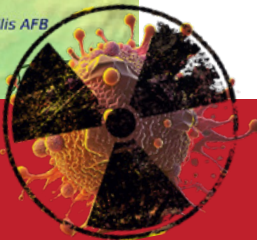


In the 1950s, The Nevada Test Site, located within the NTTR, became the main domestic nuclear weapons testing site

Hundreds of weapons tests released huge amounts of toxic radiation and chemicals into the air, soil and water supply, including:

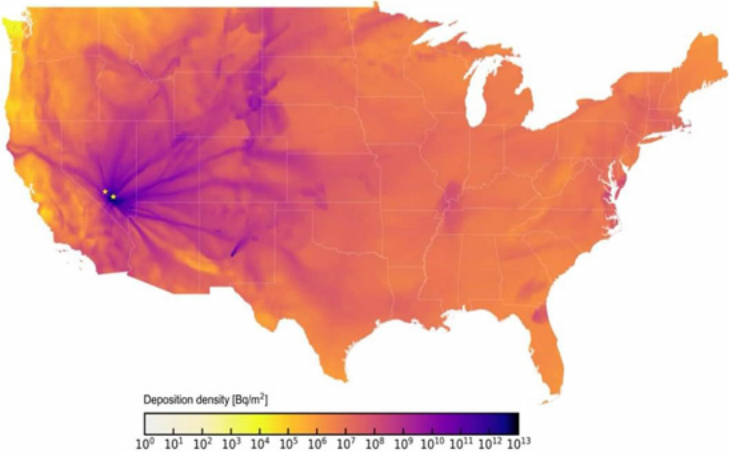
Americium 241
Plutonium 239
Uranium and depleted uranium
Beryllium
Benzene
Tritium
Hydrazine
Halon
Isocyanate
Naphtha
Methyl Ethyl Ketone
Asbestos

Classified and unclassified compounds used in the conduct of duties
Burn pit and incinerator waste (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 DoW sites

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



The NTTR is perhaps the most contaminated area in the U.S. Yet, the DOE and DoW 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

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- 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



What the Federal Government Knew



The U.S. government has known about radioactive contamination within the NTTR for decades, while many of the military personnel working in these highly classified environments were never informed of the potential risks.

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:

THE 1975 ASSESSMENT IDENTIFIED THREE PLUTONIUM-CONTAMINATED AREAS AT THE ROLLER COASTER SITES:

“There are three areas of the 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...”

At the time, the government concluded the contamination was contained within the fenced areas. What happened next tells a much larger story.

The Roller Coaster Sites were later shut down and remediated.

Years later, Air Force operations in this area were shut down and a major remediation project began at the same Roller Coaster sites the government had previously described as contained. Contaminated topsoil was removed and relocated to another area within the Nevada Test Site during a cleanup effort that continued for 17 years.

What was never adequately assessed was the human cost—the military personnel who had already worked in and around these contaminated areas.

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:

- 1. 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**

What the Federal Government Refused to Do

For decades, military personnel who served at the NTTR have faced a critical barrier: proving where they served and what they were exposed to.

Classified, incomplete and data-masked service records have prevented veterans from accessing the documentation needed to support VA claims.

What has Changed

A provision from the 2025 FORGOTTEN Veterans Act was incorporated into the 2026 NDAA and became law, requiring more complete occupational and environmental toxic-exposure records and better integration of exposure and medical information.

The Gap that Remains

Better exposure records only work if veterans can first prove where they served.

The Sergeant Dave Crete FORGOTTEN Veterans Act of 2026 addresses that missing link by identifying affected veterans, verifying qualifying service and ensuring that information can reach the VA.



The Fight for Federal Recognition

S. 2220 STATUS UPDATE

2025 FORGOTTEN VETERANS ACT

Introduced by U.S. Senator Jacky Rosen, **S. 2220 – The FORGOTTEN Veterans Act** sought to improve how the Department of War documents occupational and environmental toxic exposures throughout a service member’s military career.

The legislation would strengthen the Individual Longitudinal Exposure Record (ILER) by:

- Documenting occupational and environmental toxic exposures, including those occurring within the United States.
- Connecting exposure information with medical records.
- Recording potential toxic exposure while protecting classified missions and programs.
- Making critical exposure information available to VA adjudicators, physicians and researchers.

The Next Evolution

SERGEANT DAVE CRETE FORGOTTEN VETERANS ACT OF 2026

Better exposure records cannot help veterans if the government cannot first establish who served at a contaminated location and where they served.

The Sergeant Dave Crete FORGOTTEN Veterans Act of 2026 builds on the progress already made by requiring the federal government

- Identify military personnel who served at the NTTR beginning with the first nuclear test in 1951.
- Recognize the NTTR and other qualifying contaminated locations in coordination with the Department of Energy.
- Establish a process for veterans to verify service when records are incomplete or classified.
- Provide the VA with verified service, exposure, illness and injury information.
- Remove barriers preventing affected veterans from establishing exposure and pursuing VA disability benefits.

A CRITICAL PROVISION BECAME LAW

While the full 2025 FORGOTTEN Veterans Act did not pass, a key provision was incorporated into the Fiscal Year 2026 National Defense Authorization Act and signed into law.

This important victory requires more complete occupational and environmental toxic-exposure records and better integration of exposure and medical information.

It was a major step forward— but one critical gap remained.

THE EVOLUTION OF THE FIGHT

- 2025** • How do we improve and connect exposure records?
- 2026** • How do we identify the veterans, verify where they served and make those records usable for VA benefits?

CURRENT LEGISLATIVE STATUS

Bill: S.4675 - Sergeant Dave Crete FORGOTTEN Veterans Act of 2026

Introduced: June 3, 2026

Senate Sponsor: Senator Jacky Rosen (D-NV)

House Sponsor: Representative Susie Lee (D-NV-3)

Co-Sponsors: Senator Catherine Cortez Masto (D-NV), Senator Marsha Blackburn (R-TN), Representative Mark Amodei (R-NV-2)*

[View Bill Status Congress.gov](#)

[Watch Press Conference](#)





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



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.

Our Allies in Our Fight Against The Invisible Enemy



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 Ways 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

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.

The film was co-directed and co-produced by Mark Shapiro and Douglas Brian Miller, principals of Backlot Docs. The Executive Producers are noted actors Matthew Modine and Adam Rackoff.

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 \$300,000 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

Amanda Moss is a public affairs and government relations professional with extensive experience in federal, state, and local government affairs, public policy, and community engagement.

At RedRock Strategies, as the Public Affairs Director, Amanda provided strategic counsel to clients on public policy, government relations, and community engagement, while developing and executing comprehensive public affairs strategies to advance their legislative and business priorities. Her clients covered industry sectors from housing and healthcare to energy and cryptocurrency.

Prior to her work at RedRock Strategies, Amanda served as the Senior Director of Government Affairs for the Southern Nevada Home Builders Association (SNHBA), where she managed federal, state, and local lobbying efforts on issues impacting the residential construction industry. She also served on several boards with the National Association of Home Builders and other organizations throughout the Las Vegas Valley. Amanda was a founding member of Southern Nevada Trades High School and Construction Cares, Inc.

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.

Our Leadership and Board of Directors



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.



Laurie Tanakaya CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Laurie Tanakaya is the former 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.

Laurie has spent the past year volunteering with The Invisible Enemy and working alongside Dave Crete and the organization's leadership before formally accepting the CEO position.



Catherine Simon SECRETARY

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.

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.



William J. Stieren, CPA TREASURER

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.

Our Leadership and Board of Directors



Dr. Mark Penikas
VICE-CHAIRMAN

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.



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.

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.



David A. Tilem
BOARD MEMBER

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



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
BOARD MEMBER

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.



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)

"Our men and women in uniform make countless sacrifices to keep our nation safe, so it's our duty to protect them from invisible enemies like toxic radiation exposure." "Over 20 years ago, Congress passed a bill that entitled nuclear weapons workers to receive free medical treatment and fair financial compensation for specific illnesses they contracted because of their selfless service. Unfortunately, hundreds of veterans who were stationed at the Nevada Test and Training Range who have also fallen ill or died have been denied the benefits they rightfully earned. My bipartisan PROTECT Act will correct this oversight, save lives, and bring justice to thousands of veterans who proudly served our country."

– Nevada Congresswoman Susie Lee

"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 (NDAA)

"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 TheInvisibleEnemy.org and support our mission, make a donation and help us win this fight."

– Dave Crete, Chairman, The Invisible Enemy

Sergeant Dave Crete Fighting for the Overlooked Recognition of Groups Operating in Toxic Test

Environments in Nevada (FORGOTTEN) Veterans Act. (2026) "The men and women who served at the Nevada Test and Training Range helped protect our nation during some of the most critical moments in our history. For far too long, their service, their sacrifices, and their illnesses have been FORGOTTEN. This legislation represents hope, not only for the veterans still fighting for care and recognition, but for the families who have spent decades seeking answers. No American who answered the call to serve should ever be FORGOTTEN, and today we take another important step toward honoring that promise. We are grateful to Senator Jacky Rosen and Congresswoman Susie Lee for their leadership and unwavering commitment to the veterans and families who have waited far too long to be acknowledged."

– Dave Crete, Chairman, The Invisible Enemy

"The veterans who served at the Nevada Test and Training Range were unwittingly exposed to radiation and other toxins and for far too long have been forsaken by our government. We owe it to them to make sure that they receive the VA care and benefits they deserve" "This is why I'm proud to introduce the Sergeant Dave Crete FORGOTTEN Veterans Act with Congresswoman Susie Lee. As the daughter of a veteran, it is my mission to work with both sides of the aisle to deliver for the men and women who served our nation."

– Nevada Senator Jacky Rosen

"Taking care of the men and women who served our country is a responsibility we all share and a promise we owe them. Unfortunately, Mr. Crete and countless veterans who served alongside him have spent years fighting for benefits that should never have been in question." "This legislation builds off the work I've been leading to help right that wrong by recognizing their service and providing access to the care and support they earned through their sacrifices. Our delegation remains united to see this effort through to the finish line."

– Nevada Congressman Mark Amodei

It's embarrassing that we ask men and women to serve our country and then make it so damn difficult for them to access the care they need for conditions they develop as a result of that service. These veterans need our help, and they need us to continue fighting for them,."

"This bill is another meaningful step in that fight, and I'm grateful for the continued partnership of Senator Rosen as we continue helping victims of toxic radiation exposure who served at NTTR."

– Nevada Congresswoman Susie Lee





THE INVISIBLE ENEMY

Media Resources



Approved Quotes

The Invisible Enemy Documentary Film

"This film is about the military and civilian DoW 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."

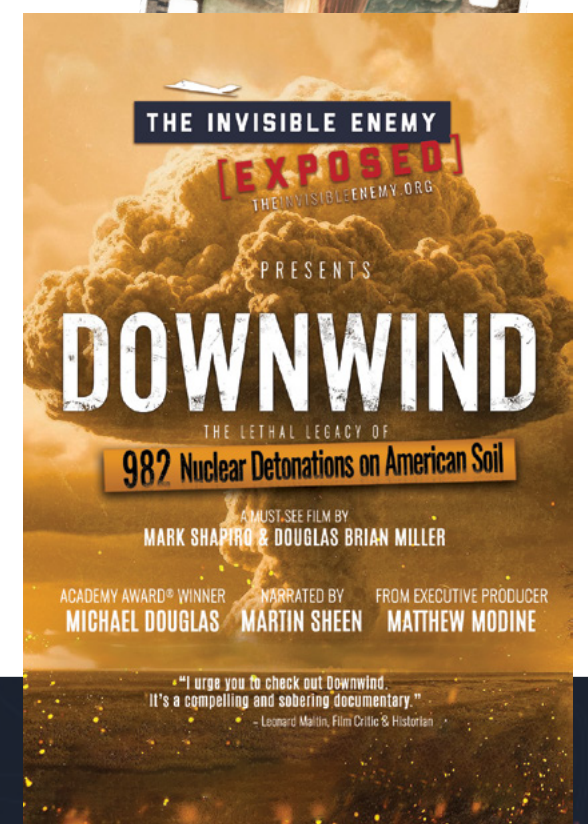
– **Dave Crete, Chairman, The Invisible Enemy**

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

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