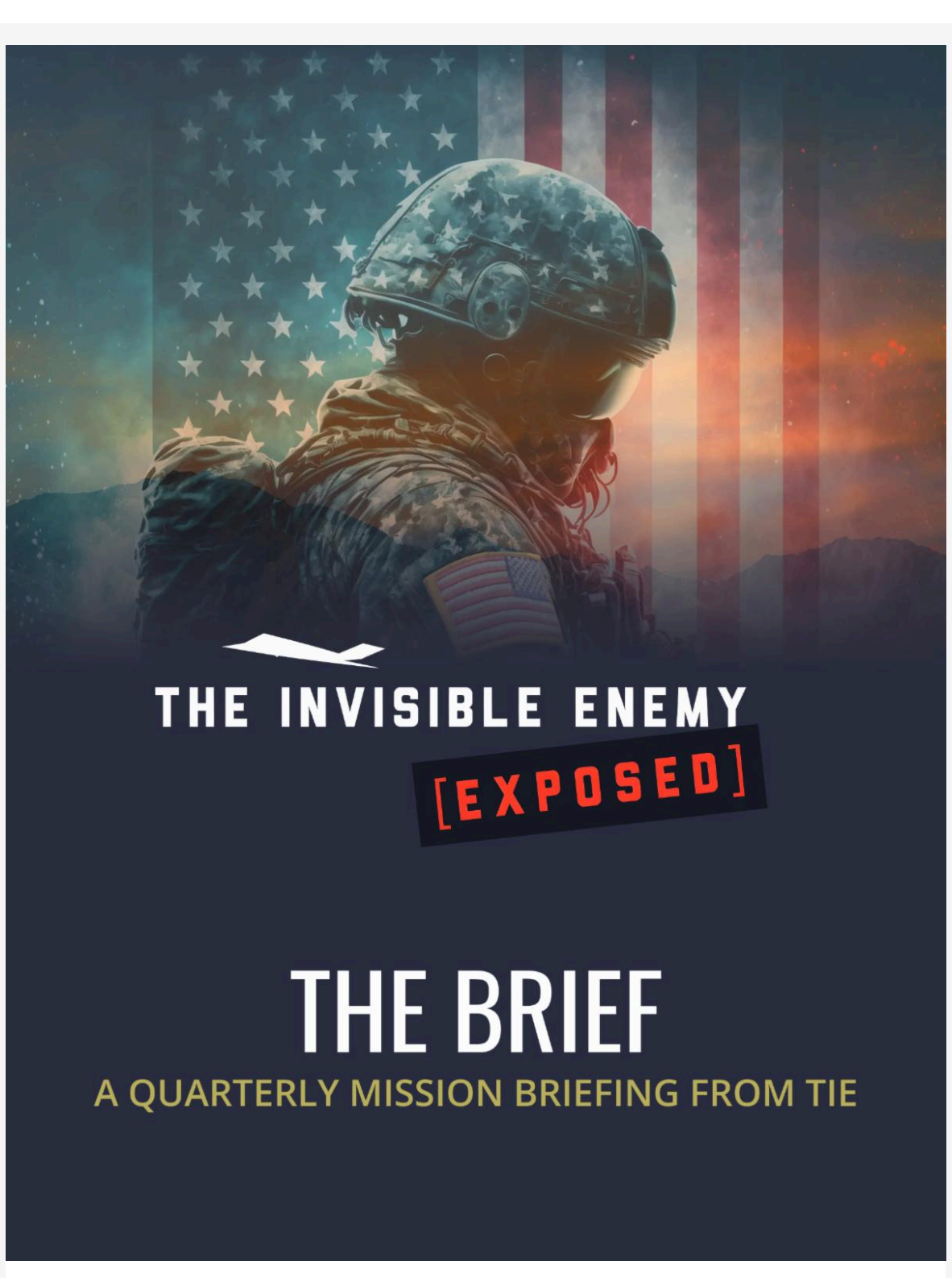


THE INVISIBLE ENEMY [EXPOSED]

THE BRIEF

A QUARTERLY MISSION BRIEFING FROM TIE

SERGEANT DAVE CRETE
FORGOTTEN
VETERANS ACT

CHAIRMAN MESSAGE

Welcome to the inaugural edition of The Invisible Enemy (TIE) newsletter, The Brief.

First and foremost, thank you for standing with us. Your support, encouragement, and commitment to our mission makes this work possible. Together, we are giving a voice to the forgotten veterans, civilian employees, and family members who were exposed to radiation and other toxic substances while serving our nation.

This briefing is designed to keep our community informed, engaged, and up to date on our ongoing fight for recognition, healthcare, accountability, and benefits for those impacted by toxic exposures. Each quarter, we will provide updates on legislative efforts, advocacy initiatives, meetings with elected officials, organizational developments, upcoming events, and opportunities for you to become involved in advancing our mission.

Our commitment is simple: **transparency, communication, and action.**

As we continue our work on **Capitol Hill** and throughout the country, we want you to know where we have been, what we are accomplishing, and where we are headed next. Every meeting, every conversation, and every step forward brings us closer to ensuring that no veteran, civilian employee, or family member affected by toxic exposures is **FORGOTTEN**.

This is more than a newsletter, it is a mission briefing for a movement dedicated to justice for those who sacrificed in service to our nation.

Thank you for joining us on this journey. Together, we will continue the fight until every affected individual receives the recognition, support, and benefits they have earned.

Dave Crete

Dave Crete
Chairman of The Board

THE MISSION REPORT

TIE TAKES THE FIGHT TO D.C

For years, The Invisible Enemy (TIE) has fought to bring national attention to the forgotten veterans, civilian employees, and family members exposed to radiation and toxic substances while serving our nation. What began as a mission to raise awareness has evolved into a movement that is now being heard at the highest levels of government.

This month marked a historic milestone in that journey.
TIE traveled to **Washington, D.C.** to stand alongside **Senator Jacky Rosen** and **Congresswoman Susie Lee** for the introduction of the **Sergeant Dave Crete FORGOTTEN Veterans Act of 2026 (SDCFVA)**. Named in honor of TIE Chairman Sergeant Dave Crete, the legislation seeks to finally address decades of government inaction and provide a pathway for veterans exposed at the Nevada Test and Training Range and other contaminated sites to obtain the recognition, healthcare, and benefits they have earned through their service.

For many of us, this moment was emotional. The naming of federal legislation after **Sergeant Dave Crete** is not recognition of one man alone—it is recognition of every veteran, civilian employee, spouse, child, and family member whose sacrifices have been overlooked for far too long.

The legislation would require the **Department of Defense** to acknowledge contamination at the Nevada Test and Training Range and other toxic exposure locations, identify those who served there, and provide the documentation necessary for veterans to finally pursue their VA claims and benefits. Most importantly, it represents hope for thousands who have spent decades searching for answers and fighting to be heard.

During meetings and discussions in Washington, it became clear that our voices are finally reaching decision-makers. As **Dave Crete** noted during recent interviews, the challenge is no longer convincing people that this issue exists. Today, lawmakers recognize the problem, understand the urgency, and are beginning to take action. Support for our cause continues to grow on both sides of the aisle.

- Identify everyone who served within the NTTR, beginning with the first nuclear test in 1951.
- Recognize NTTR and other qualifying contaminated locations in coordination with DOE.
- Create a process for veterans to prove their service when records are incomplete or classified.
- Share verified service, exposure, illness and injury information with VA.

THE SDCFVA: OUR NEXT BATTLE

The original legislation, The **2025 FORGOTTEN Veterans Act**, was submitted for inclusion in the **2026 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA)**, which funds the DoW for that fiscal year. While the entire bill did not pass, an important amendment was added to the NDAA and became law.

The amendment mandates a complete record of all occupational and environmental toxic exposures, and links military medical information with the exposure information. This gives VA adjudicators, physicians, and researchers better data when evaluating exposure and illness claims. It hurdles one of the biggest obstacles for NTTR veterans: the absence of exposure records.

Now, the SDCFVA takes our fight to the next level: forcing the government to acknowledge exactly where we served.

The bill requires DoW to:
- Remove bureaucratic barriers that have prevented veterans from proving exposure for disability claims.

Beyond simply improving the record of exposures, the SDCFVA creates a pathway for thousands of previously "invisible" veterans to finally have their service recognized and documented in a way that empowers access to the VA healthcare and disability benefits they have earned.

While this achievement is significant, our mission is far from over. Veterans continue to become ill, and families continue to seek answers. Every day matters. The introduction of the **Sergeant Dave Crete FORGOTTEN Veterans Act** is not the end of the fight—it is a major step forward in our ongoing mission to ensure that no veteran exposed to toxic substances is left behind.

To every supporter, donor, volunteer, advocate, and family member who has stood with us, thank you. This progress belongs to all of us. Together, we have transformed a forgotten issue into a national conversation.

The Invisible Enemy will continue advancing our mission until every affected veteran and family receives the recognition, healthcare, and benefits they deserve.

Watch the Press Conference

JOIN THE MISSION

NTTR VETERANS

WE NEED EVERY VETERAN WHO SERVED ON THE NEVADA TEST AND TRAINING RANGE (NTTR) TO TAKE ACTION.

Send the prepared letters by email and USPS mail to your U.S. Representative and at least one U.S. Senator—preferably a Senator serving on Armed Services, Veterans Affairs, or Appropriations.
Send it to their local district office, not Washington, D.C.

One week after mailing, call the office to confirm receipt and request a response.

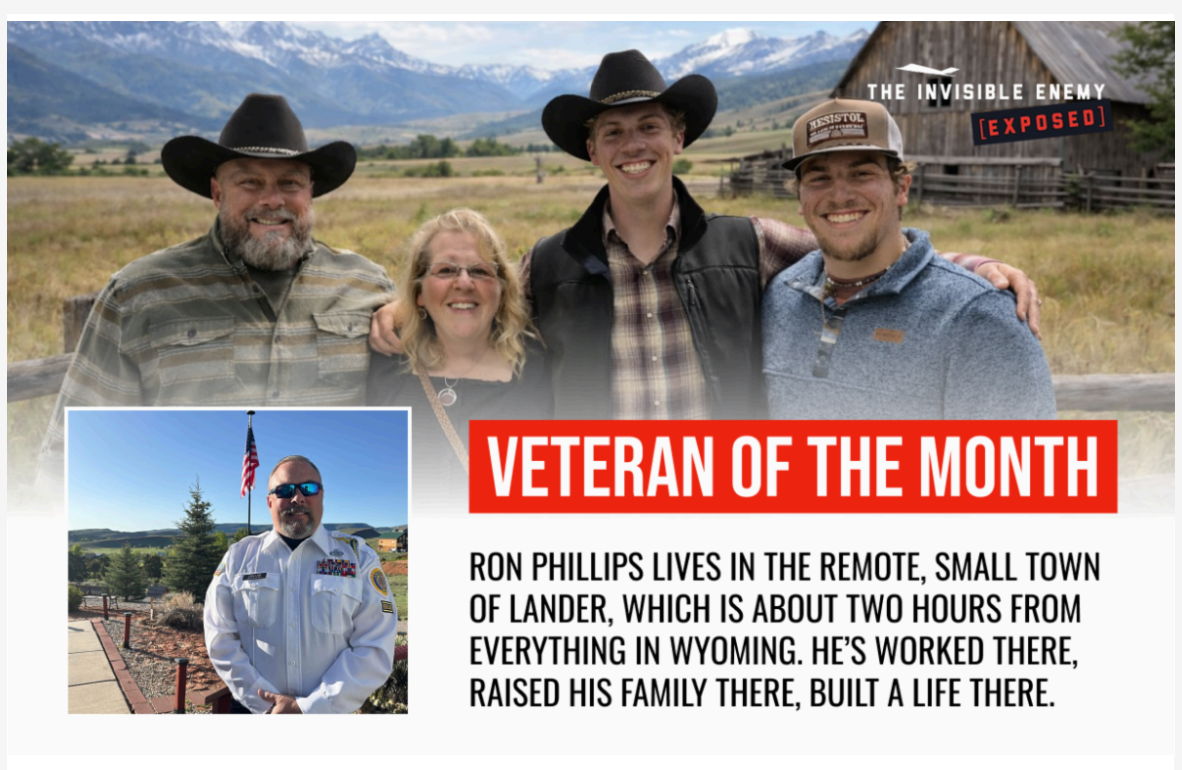
Our goal is to generate Congressional inquiries into toxic exposure records and encourage members of Congress to cosponsor the Sgt. Dave Crete Forgotten Veterans Act.
Every letter matters. Every inquiry increases pressure for answers and accountability.

IF WE ALL PARTICIPATE, OUR COLLECTIVE VOICE WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE TO IGNORE. JOIN THE MISSION.

TAKE ACTION TODAY.

IF EVERYONE DOES THIS, IT WILL BE POWERFUL.

HERE WE GO! THESE ARE THE LETTERS EVERY VETERAN WHO SERVED ON THE NEVADA TEST AND TRAINING RANGE (NTTR) SHOULD SEND TO YOUR U.S. REPRESENTATIVE AND AT LEAST ONE OF YOUR U.S. SENATORS.



VETERAN OF THE MONTH

RON PHILLIPS LIVES IN THE REMOTE, SMALL TOWN OF LANDER, WHICH IS ABOUT TWO HOURS FROM EVERYTHING IN WYOMING. HE'S WORKED THERE, RAISED HIS FAMILY THERE, BUILT A LIFE THERE.

Ron Phillips lives in the remote, small town of **Lander**, which is about two hours from everything in Wyoming. He's worked there, raised his family there, built a life there.

Ron is an Air Force veteran who served on the **Nevada Test and Training Range (NTTR)** from **2000 to 2008** in a Test and Evaluation Squadron, maintaining various aircraft assigned to the Range.

Years after his service, Ron began a long battle with multiple myeloma, a blood and bone marrow cancer that's treatable, but not curable. He was in remission until two months ago. Now, he's gearing up for another round of chemo.

"My boys were just seven and nine years old when I was diagnosed," Ron recalled. "Most of what they remember is not the father I used to be, but a father with cancer. A father who was often too sick to go hiking and camping, too exhausted to simply enjoy being with them."

"They don't remember the dad who had energy, strength and peace of mind. They don't remember a family free of the daily burdens of an incurable illness, or the quiet fear of wondering how much of their lives I would be able to share."

Ron had no idea his illness was caused by nine years of exposure to toxic ionizing radiation and benzene on the NTTR. There were no obvious symptoms. He thought his deepening fatigue was "normal." But a routine exam for a shoulder injury revealed the hard truth.

He began researching multiple myeloma, eventually discovered the TIE site, and finally made the critical connection with the NTTR. He switched his insurance to the VA and spent hours a day on the phone, fighting to receive the treatment and benefits he deserved. Thankfully, his family has been spared any health issues related to his exposure. Thus far.

Ron has embraced the TIE mission and its drive to pass federal legislation to provide medical benefits and compensation to NTTR veterans who suffer or have died from toxic exposure in the line of duty. He advocates for TIE's efforts with the VFW, the American Legion and Wyoming legislators. He shares his story and helps support other afflicted veterans.

"It's hugely important to get involved because this affects everyone who served on the Range," Ron stated. "This landmark legislation will acknowledge decades of exposure on the NTTR, remove the classified status of NTTR veterans, and allow them to get VA benefits. It's heartbreaking that veterans are being denied treatment and benefits that are owed to them by their country." But Ron knows these efforts cannot move forward on good intentions alone.

"It needs real financial support to keep going," he stressed. "It matters for the families of those we have already lost loved ones, so they can receive the closure, recognition and benefits they deserve. It matters for those of us still fighting, so we don't continue to face the same denials, hardships and obstacles in the years ahead.

"I know every person has financial burdens, family responsibilities and personal challenges. But I also believe that most people can do something. Five dollars a month may seem small, but it matters in the long run. When enough people step up, those small donations can lead to real results. I ask everyone to give a little bit and help pass this life-changing legislation. Let's win this battle, now, so others won't have to fight,"

GOOD OF THE ORDER

RANDY GROVES

Founding Board Member **Randy Groves** has been instrumental in planning the TIE mission long beforethe organization even existed. From way back when casual conversations between old friends at informal unit reunions turned to the topic of why so many of their colleagues on the Range were suddenly dying.

Randy was a security police officer and armorer who served for a time with Dave Crete in the **4461st Security Police** unit on the NTTR. He also served in Germany, Korea and at Carswell Air Force Base in Texas.

When Randy was diagnosed with skin cancer and fatty tumors more than 30 years ago, he somehow knew these issues were connected with his service on the Range.

He was young, self-employed and had no healthcare. Back then, if you didn't retire from the military, you weren't eligible for VA benefits. Today, he's still healing from yet another skin cancer surgery.

Over 26 years, Randy has built a successful small business in the Dallas/Fort Worth area solely from word-of-mouth referrals. No advertising, no website, no professional networks… Not even a Yellow Pages listing. And with just a phone and a fax machine, he was able to raise a family and grandfamily, and support worthy causes like the **Wounded Warriors Project, St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital** and **Special Olympics.**

Randy says he is amazed at the rapid progress TIE has made in such a short period of time. He's thankful to **Nevada Senator Jacky Rosen** and Representatives **Susie Lee Mark Amodei** for their invaluable support. And he believes it's only matter of time before the Sergeant Dave Crete **FORGOTTEN** Veterans Act is passed into law.

THE FALLEN HEROES

WE PROUDLY HONOR THE VETERANS, CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES, AND FAMILY MEMBERS OF THE NEVADA TEST AND TRAINING RANGE COMMUNITY WHO HAVE PASSED AWAY.

Though they are no longer with us, their legacy continues to inspire our mission.
"Their service is remembered. Their sacrifice is honored. Their legacy lives on."

If you would like to report the passing of an NTTR veteran, civilian employee, or family member for inclusion in next briefing, please contact us at TIE.

Just click the envelope below.

THEY GOT OUR SIX

PAUL CUPACH

DONATIONS ARE THE FUEL THAT POWERS TIE'S LEGISLATIVE MISSION AND BUSINESS OPERATIONS. EVERY DONATION HELPS US ADVANCE TOWARD OUR FINAL OBJECTIVE, AND WE DEEPLY VALUE THE GENEROSITY OF OUR CORPORATE AND INDIVIDUAL FIGHTERS ALIKE.

PAUL CUPACH OF OVERLAND PARK, KANSAS, DESCRIBES HIMSELF AS A "NORMAL DUDE," BUT HIS PASSION AND DONATIONS ARE HELPING TIE KEEP ITS MISSION GOING AND MOVE THE NEEDLE IN WASHINGTON.

Paul served for two and a half years as a **Staff Sergeant** with the **417th Aircraft Maintenance Unit**, an operational testing and evaluation unit based at a top-secret facility on the **Nevada Test and Training Range (NTTR)**. He was deployed to the Middle East after The Gulf War to replace his counterparts there, and eventually returned to the NTTR until it closed in 1993.

In 2020, Paul found out he had kidney cancer and a thymoma, a rare thymus gland tumor that averages only 400 diagnosed cases per year. He thought he contracted these cancers by accident. He had no clue they were related to his exposure to toxic radiation and substances while serving on the NTTR. The VA recognized his kidney cancer, but not his thymoma.

"In early the 1990s, there was no easy access to information about nuclear weapons testing on the Range," Paul stated. "I had no idea about the extent of the hazards I faced every day, or their effects on my health. And nobody said, 'You're gonna be stationed in a nuclear hazardous area' where you technically don't even exist."

After his service, Paul kept in touch with many of his NTTR colleagues over the years.

"One day I heard that best mechanic I ever knew had died in his early 40s, "Paul said. "I wanted to know why?"

He started contacting his NTTR friends and eventually ended up on a Zoom call with TIE Chairman Dave Crete. He learned about how many NTTR veterans had died or were fighting illnesses caused by exposure to toxins on the Range.

"I was pissed at the Air Force for concealing the health risks," Paul said. "From the time I joined the Air Force in 1981, they always preached safety day and night. When I became a Chief Master Sergeant, my mantra was, 'Everyone goes home with all their fingers and toes.'

"We knew the job had risks. But they knew everything at the NTTR was contaminated, and did nothing to protect us. And there's nothing about our exposure in our service records. Well, if the government is gonna put people at risk, they better do right by them before, during and after their service.

"Look, I've been through it. My health is already a mess because of my exposure. But the government is still sending men and women to the Range. They're still being exposed, and when they find out they're gonna be scared shitless.

"Supporting TIE is one way I can help take care of the guys after me. I can't imagine how Dave Crete has the energy and tenacity to move this legislation forward, let alone keep everything afloat financially. No one else can do what he does. And all of our guys should contribute if they can, because we will all benefit."

THEY GOT OUR SIX

LEADERSHIP HENDERSON CLASS OF 2026

Some partnerships change organizations. Others change lives.

When the Leadership Henderson Class of 2026 selected The Invisible Enemy as its community project, they didn't simply volunteer their time, they stood shoulder to shoulder with our veterans and their families. They chose to help tell a story that has remained hidden for decades and committed themselves to making sure these heroes were no longer fighting alone.

Over the course of the year, the class dedicated hundreds of volunteer hours to planning and producing our inaugural Private Documentary Screening & Fundraising Gala.

From securing sponsors and coordinating logistics to promoting the event and engaging the community, their passion, professionalism, and commitment resulted in an extraordinary evening that raised more than $180,000 in cash and in-kind support of The Invisible Enemy's mission.

This success would not have been possible without the guidance of **Cay Mateyko, Director of Leadership Henderson**, and the continued support of the Henderson Leadership Foundation, whose belief in our mission helped make this partnership a reality.

We also extend our sincere appreciation to the committee leaders whose dedication and expertise helped bring this remarkable event to life:
Antoinette Monroe • Julie Sharma • Jen Robinson • Crissie Bown • Shelby Shaffer • Marina Timateo • Annalise Lullo

To every member of the Leadership Henderson Class of 2026, thank you for believing in our mission, sharing your talents, and standing beside our veterans. Your leadership has strengthened our organization, expanded awareness across our community, and created momentum that will continue to impact veterans and their families for years to come.

YOU HAD OUR SIX, AND WE'LL NEVER FORGET IT.

amazon
DATE 01/09 2026
PAY TO THE ORDER OF Henderson Chamber of Commerce Foundation
$ 5,000
Five Thousand Dollars
DOLLARS
MEMO The Invisible Enemy
Amazon
SIGNATURE
amazon
WARRIORS

THEY GOT OUR SIX

AMAZON WARRIORS ANSWER THE CALL

The Invisible Enemy was honored to receive a **$5,000 donation** from **Amazon's Warriors Employee Resource Group** through the Together at Amazon initiative, thanks to the leadership of **Terrica Jamssens**, a member of the Leadership Henderson Class of 2026.

During Leadership Henderson's Values Day, Terrica surprised our team by presenting the donation on behalf of Amazon Warriors, becoming the very first sponsor of the class project. Her generosity and belief in our mission set the tone for what would become an extraordinary year of community support.

Amazon Warriors brings together military veterans, service members, military families, and allies to strengthen communities and support those who have served. Through the Together at Amazon initiative, employees are empowered to make a meaningful impact by supporting organizations that improve the lives of veterans and their families.

We are deeply grateful to **Terrica Jamssens**, Amazon Warriors, and Amazon for standing beside our veterans and helping advance our mission. Your generosity reminds us that meaningful change begins when people choose to have each other's six.

THEY GOT OUR SIX

DIAZO WEALTH PARTNERS WITH THE INVISIBLE ENEMY

Every great partnership begins with someone willing to make an introduction.

Thanks to Leadership Henderson Class of 2026 member Crissie Bown, The Invisible Enemy was introduced to the incredible team at Diazo Wealth, who stepped forward as a Silver Sponsor of our inaugural Private Documentary Screening & Fundraising Gala. Their support helped make the evening a tremendous success while advancing our mission to bring awareness, recognition, and justice to veterans affected by toxic exposure at the Nevada Test and Training Range.

What began as an event sponsorship has quickly grown into a meaningful partnership. Following the gala, Diazo committed to becoming a Patriot Sponsor for our upcoming Strike for the FORGOTTEN bowling fundraiser, while also selecting The Invisible Enemy as the featured nonprofit in its October Charity Spotlight, introducing our mission to more than 1,700 clients and community partners through its quarterly newsletter and website.

We are deeply grateful to Laura and Justin Long and the entire Diazo team for embracing our mission and investing in the future of our organization. We also extend our sincere appreciation to Crissie Bown for creating a connection that continues to open new doors and expand our community of supporters.

TOGETHER, PARTNERSHIPS LIKE THESE ENSURE THAT NO VETERAN'S SACRIFICE REMAINS INVISIBLE.

SPECIAL OPS

SUPPORT AMERICA'S VETERANS
THE INVISIBLE ENEMY
STRIKE for the FORGOTTEN

JOIN US FOR AN AFTERNOON THAT MAKES EVERY STRIKE COUNT

The Invisible Enemy invites businesses, community leaders, veterans, families, and friends to come together for our Strike for the FORGOTTEN Bowling Fundraiser on Sunday, September 27, at Strike Zone Bowling Center inside Sunset Station Hotel & Casino. The event begins at 10:00 a.m. with check-in and a silent auction, followed by team bowling from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

We're currently seeking corporate partners to help make this event a success. Sponsorship opportunities range from $650 lane sponsorships to $5,000 Mission Sponsors, with valuable recognition through event signage, social media, our website, press materials, and more. Most sponsorship levels also include a team, providing a meaningful opportunity to engage employees, clients, and community partners while supporting a nationally recognized cause.

Not ready to sponsor? Gather your coworkers, family, or friends and register a Community Team for just $350, which includes bowling, lunch, and shoe rental. It's a fun afternoon of friendly competition while helping raise awareness and critical support for veterans whose service and sacrifices have remained invisible for far too long.

Every sponsorship, every team, and every participant helps advance The Invisible Enemy's mission to secure recognition, healthcare, and justice for those affected by toxic exposure while serving our nation.

TO BECOME A SPONSOR, REGISTER A TEAM, OR LEARN MORE, VISIT:
THEINVISIBLEENEMY.ORG/EVENTS

BECOME A SPONSOR TODAY

Showcase your organization's commitment to our veterans while supporting a nationally recognized mission. Sponsorships include marketing visibility, community recognition, and team participation.

Visit TheInvisibleEnemy.org/events to learn more.

AN EVENING THAT CHANGED THE COURSE OF OUR MISSION

On May 7, veterans, elected officials, business leaders, military families, and community supporters gathered at Anthem Country Club for an unforgettable evening of hope, remembrance, and purpose. Our inaugural Private Documentary Screening & Fundraising Gala marked a defining moment in The Invisible Enemy's history.

Together, we raised more than $100,000 to help advance federal legislation, complete our documentary, and ensure the stories of those who served on the Nevada Test and Training Range are never forgotten.

This extraordinary evening would not have been possible without the Leadership Henderson Class of 2026, our sponsors, volunteers, donors, and every guest who chose to stand beside our veterans.

Thank you for believing in our mission. Together, we are proving that when a community unites behind a cause, no veteran's sacrifice has to remain invisible.

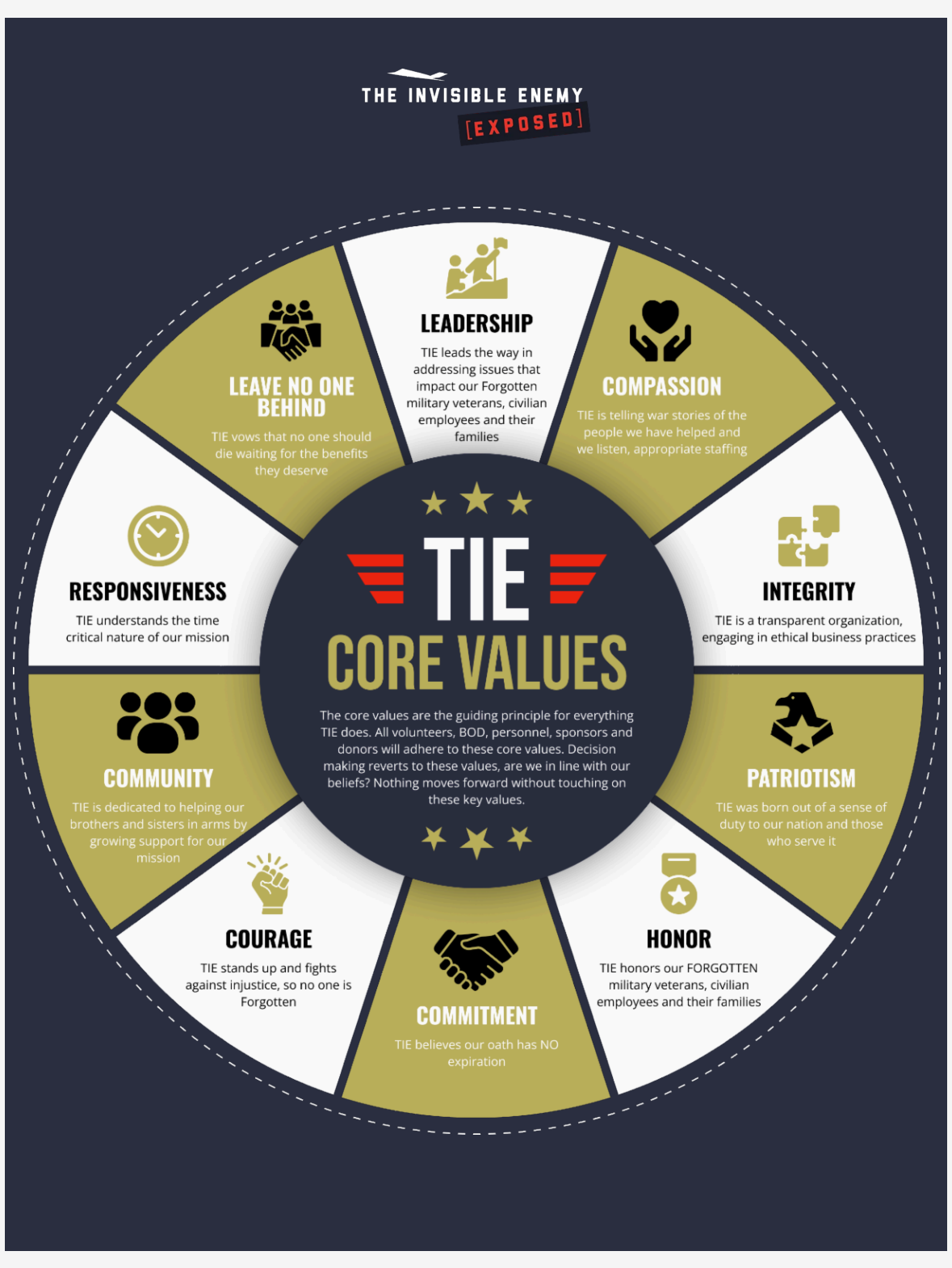
THE CREED

VISION ASPIRATION

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.

MISSION STATEMENT

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.



The core values are the guiding principle for everything TIE does. All volunteers, BOD, personnel, sponsors and donors will adhere to these core values. Decision making reverts to these values, are we in line with our beliefs? Nothing moves forward without touching on these key values.

LEADERSHIP TIE leads the way in addressing issues that impact our Forgotten military veterans, civilian employees and their families

COMPASSION TIE is telling war stories of the people we have helped and we listen, appropriate staffing

INTEGRITY TIE is a transparent organization, engaging in ethical business practices

PATRIOTISM TIE was born out of a sense of duty to our nation and those who serve it

HONOR TIE honors our FORGOTTEN military veterans, civilian employees and their families

COMMITMENT TIE believes our oath has NO expiration

COURAGE TIE stands up and fights against injustice, so no one is Forgotten

COMMUNITY TIE is dedicated to helping our brothers and sisters in arms by growing support for our mission

RESPONSIVENESS TIE understands the time critical nature of our mission

LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND TIE vows that no one should die waiting for the benefits they deserve

ANSWER THE CALL

EVERY VICTORY BEGINS WITH PEOPLE WILLING TO TAKE ACTION.

The Invisible Enemy was built by veterans, families, advocates, and supporters who refused to let America's FORGOTTEN Veterans remain invisible. Whether you make a financial contribution, contact your elected officials, sponsor an event, or simply share our story, your support strengthens our fight for recognition, healthcare, and justice for those exposed to radiation and other toxic substances while serving our nation.

There are many ways to answer the call. Every action matters. Every voice makes a difference.

★ WAYS TO ANSWER THE CALL ★

Your tax-deductible contribution helps fund veteran outreach, public education, documentary awareness, and legislative initiatives.

DONATE

The Invisible Enemy Foundation, a registered 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization, EIN # 92-3486613, is actively raising funds to support our efforts to enact this legislation and help all veterans who have been injured by nuclear exposure in the line of duty.

DONATE TODAY

Amazon Business Wish List

Support our daily operations by purchasing much-needed supplies directly from our Amazon Business Wish List.

DONATE TODAY

TIE MERCHANDISE

Show your support and help spread awareness by purchasing official TIE merchandise. Every purchase helps advance our mission.

COMING SOON

STAY CONNECTED

TheInvisibleEnemy.org
(855) 513-6369
info@theinvisibleenemy.org

Together, we will ensure no veteran, civilian employee, or family member is FORGOTTEN. Thank you for answering the call.

The Invisible Enemy | PO Box 33657 | Las Vegas, NV 89133 US

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