

NOW PROUDLY ★ SERVING VETERANS THROUGHOUT NEVADA



STAFF WITH MARINE CORPS VETERAN TABATHA ALLEN

AAVD BY THE NUMBERS

1,452

VETERANS
TREATED

\$7.4M

DONATED
SERVICES

137

VOLUNTEER
PROVIDERS



Deme Gonzalez
Executive Director

From the Director

While I reflect on this past year, I have some statistics I'd like to share:

- 11: the number of years we have been treating Nevada Heroes
- 1,452: the number of Veterans who have received full mouth restorations from the Adopt a Vet Dental Program
- \$7.4 million: the value of pro bono dental work that 137 selfless and patriotic dentists in our great state have donated to the most compromised Veterans

Nevada is the only state in the country that has a free dental program for low-income and most compromised Veterans. Battle Born is not just a name but a belief in serving those that served us in the battlefields of the world.

The numbers above are the culmination of multiple agencies, foundations, and patriotic citizens throughout the great state of Nevada. None of what we do here would be possible without all of you. Every day we are reminded of the sacrifices that Veterans have made for our freedom. As an organization, we are also reminded constantly that this great state does not leave anyone behind, we take care of our own.

There are 240,000 Veterans in Nevada. Of those, 192,000 do not qualify for dental care at Veterans Affairs. We estimate that 44,000 of those that do not qualify for dental care at the VA meet the criteria for dental care through our program. We are so grateful for all the support we have received thus far and are asking for continued support of this program. Please consider a monthly donation or a one-time financial gift.

With your help, we will leave no one Veteran behind.

Very Respectfully,

Demetrio Gonzalez
Executive Director
Deme.gonzalez@aavdp.com

Now I Have Beautiful Teeth

The first thing Tabatha Allen ate after getting her dentures was an Almond Joy. "It was so satisfying. There's something about that almond when you crunch down and it breaks a part in your mouth," she said.

Fifty-year-old Allen came to Adopt a Vet Dental Program in July hoping to have one problem addressed: she had no teeth. In fact, she hadn't had teeth for 10 years. Thankfully, AAVD volunteer and board member Dr. Cordova of Affordable Dentures was able to help her.

"Now that I have my beautiful teeth, I'm hoping that my confidence and mental health will be better ... I may venture out there again and start living more of a life because I've been so sheltered with my mental health and not feeling good about myself," Allen said. She hasn't felt this much joy since her granddaughter was born.

More than that, having the new teeth has changed the way she sees herself. Allen beams when talking about the first time her children and grandchildren saw her with her dentures. They told her she looks 20 years younger. "It was like a rebirth of my own self-image," Allen said.

Allen was born with a disease that caused her teeth not to come in on time, and when they did finally erupt, the enamel was weak. Her teeth problems worsened when she was in the Marine Corps. On two separate occasions, Allen was injured in the mouth in a training accident, cracking multiple teeth, and causing her to lose teeth.

Allen trained at Camp Geiger in 1997 in the first male-female integrated Marine Combat Training. Then, when giving an interview with the New York Times, Allen said, "We found that in the Marines, you're not males or females, you're Marines and you're treated like a Marine." She internalized that principle, even when it came to her teeth. "We are trained not to cry — especially females. You better not. It confirms every stereotype they have in their head. So you deal with it and you go on," Allen said.



Allen's teeth bothered her off and on, but began causing serious problems about two years after she left the Corps. She had significant decay and a tooth infection that went all the way to her brain. A civilian doctor, stating the infection was now life-threatening, took out all her teeth. It wasn't until she came to AAVD 10 years later that she realized there was hope that she could smile once again.

"When we come back [from deployment], most people don't appreciate us ... When you do things like this for us, you make us feel like we mattered. Thank you for making us feel like we matter, because we haven't felt that in a long time. It does help us — especially with our mental health," Allen said.

Your Nevada State Team



Linda Haigh
President and Founder



Heather Borkowski
Assistant Executive Director



Charlotte Worthley
Program Director



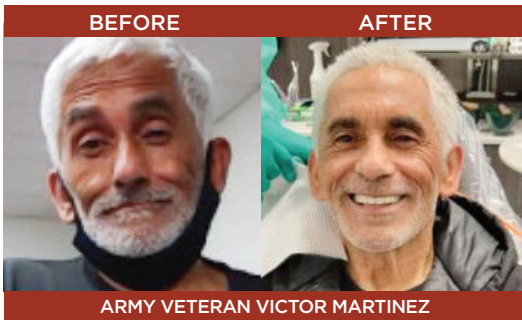
Chelsey Miller
Veteran Outreach Coordinator



Julia Henning
Chief Engagement Officer

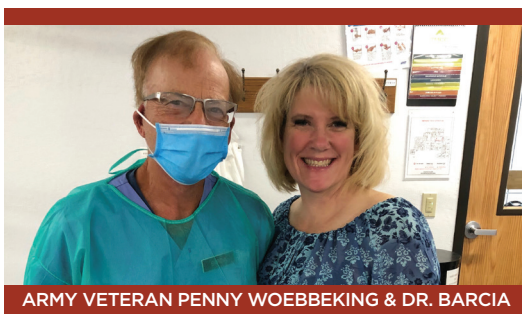


Cheré Pedersen
Program Manager Las Vegas



"The staff and Dr. Barcia were fantastic! It took me a year to put a smile on my face, and it was all thanks to Adopt A Vet. Much appreciation! My heart goes out to everyone. I really appreciate the work they have done."

— Victor Martinez, Army Veteran



"This program helped me get the dental treatment I needed but couldn't afford. It got me out of pain. I tell people all the time about the program and how it can help Veterans. The experience was inviting. It was a great atmosphere. I was very impressed with the professionalism."

— Penny Woebeking, Army Veteran



Saying "Thank You" With Adopt a Vet



For Dr. Kim-Vy C. Pham of Inspired Dental, volunteering with the Adopt a Vet Dental Program is a tangible way to thank Veterans. Dr. Pham completed care on one of the first AAVD patients in Las Vegas, Navy Veteran Chris Turner. She donated \$14,378 in care to help give Turner his smile back.

"My dad was a veteran of the Vietnam War. I came here as a refugee and had many opportunities and help along the way to be able to reach my goals today. Being part of this program gives us the opportunity to give back to those who have sacrificed their life so I can have the freedom to pursue my career," Dr. Pham said.

Dr. Pham moved as a refugee from Saigon, Vietnam to Las Vegas in 1993 when she was 7 years old and has never left. Her family chose to make their home in Las Vegas because they already had family living in the city and knew there were many job opportunities for those who did not speak English.

She credits her parents with encouraging her to pursue a career in healthcare, but it wasn't until she met her husband, Dr. Jorge Jimenez-Marquez that he helped her choose dentistry.

"I really can't think of anything that I don't love about dentistry. It's ever-changing, from patient to each procedure that we do and the technology that continues to grow in dentistry. There are definitely challenges on a day-to-day basis with running a business, but the good times definitely outweigh the bad," Dr. Pham said.

Now, she and her husband, Dr. Marquez, operate Inspired Dental in Las Vegas. Their goal is to help patients feel comfortable during what, for many, can be a scary experience by focusing on customer service.

"We hope to change a fearful experience for a patient into an environment where they want to partner up with us to continue their dental care. It's very rewarding for us to change someone's perspective about dentistry and join their journey to help them to learn to love their smile again," she said.

★ WHERE WE'VE BEEN ★



AAVD is recruiting for the Tooth and Rescue Team! Will you join us?

The Tooth and Rescue Team partners with AAVD through monthly giving, providing us with predictable resources and tools to plan for the future. Tooth and Rescue Team members save lives.

But there's something in it for members, too. As a member of the Tooth and Rescue Team, you will receive the following:

- **Tooth and Rescue Sit Rep:** AAVD's monthly newsletter exclusively for the team
- **Recon Mission:** Clinic tour
- **Roll Call:** Birthday social media shout out (unless you opt out)

Those who give at these levels will also receive additional Tooth and Rescue perks:

- **Bronze Team - \$25:** Team t-shirt
- **Silver Team - \$50:** Team t-shirt and morale patch
- **Gold Team - \$100:** Team t-shirt, morale patch and AAVD challenge coin



Visit <https://adoptavetdental.com/get-involved/tooth-and-rescue-team/>
for more information or scan the QR code.



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