

December 22, 2021

Dearest friends!

I'd like to give you a rare gift this Holiday Season, something *money can't buy*. I'm going to give you a reason to smile and restore a little of your faith that the men and women who walked into harm's way for us and for all Americans are not forgotten.

I hope you've heard a little about us and what we do... we're the small local team that **rescues and repairs** the lives of **homeless American veterans** here in **Ventura County**. By the time you read this, we will likely have rescued 100 veterans from homelessness. This year alone, our efforts were reported on ABC and CBS TV, KCLU/NPR radio, and in numerous newspaper articles. But you might not have heard the latest...

In November, the County Supervisors highlighted our rescue of **Rose Burgess**, an elderly **widow of two American veterans**, as their "Moment of Inspiration." Well into her 90's and legally blind, she'd been living with her daughter (and caretaker) Peggy, who had died unexpectedly.

With nowhere else to go, and within a few days of being out on the street, Rose walked into the police station. Deputy Chris Dyer knew that homelessness would be fatal for a legally-blind woman of this age.

But he also knew just where to turn; our rescue team received an urgent call to action, to prevent this tragedy before it happened: **"All hands on deck!"**

**From homeless
veteran, to rescuer of
homeless veterans...**

**Rafael and LEO have
saved 100 veterans in
the last 18 months.**



Gold Coast Veterans Foundation

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Rose's income was just over the official "poverty level," yet *far below* the real-world cost of living. There were also numerous automatic monthly deductions, and her bank balance was zero.

Over a dozen government & "charity" organizations had turned Rose away for assistance.

Our county-wide team intervened to repair Rose's finances, put her life back in order, and restored her usable income. Then, we helped her find a safe, comfortable senior living apartment and moved her in.

Dodgers baseball legend (and Navy veteran) **Vin Scully** has recorded a heartwarming Holiday poem that tells the story of a whole community coming together to rescue Rose. We think this inspirational story will fill your heart with joy and bring that smile to your face. Please go to our website to hear it: [GCVF News Vin's Poem.](#)

Yes, we're the go-to resource for all veteran service agencies, but what we're proudest of is that we have rescued and **repaired** the lives of the veterans that other agencies have *written off*. No matter how or why their lives have fallen off-track, we're there to *catch them*... before they 'fall through the cracks' – before their lives are further damaged or lost.

We've developed a better, smarter model of care that was battle-tested **on the front lines** of a world crisis; we stayed open when others closed in the pandemic, rescuing homeless veterans at the highest risk. Our model of care is 100% focused on **healing**, backed up by truly comprehensive supportive services.

Our new **Veterans' Village** will add a completely unique housing component, designed from a clean sheet to overcome the problems that cause other housing projects to fail.

These three pillars, Housing, Healing, and Comprehensive Support, represent nothing less than the cure for veteran homelessness... and a new national standard of care.

Please join us here on the front lines... together, we are in fact winning the battle to **end** homelessness and suffering for America's veterans.

With joy and hope,

Bob Harris
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Rose Burgess, rescued!

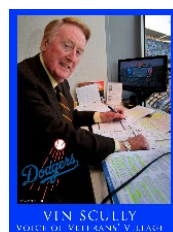
*"I lost my daughter. I was living in motels,"
said Rose Burgess.*

"I was ready to give it up."

*"Gold Coast Veterans Foundation
is wonderful..."*

...They are angels,"

"They saved my life."



Vin Scully: Baseball's longest-serving announcer (and Navy veteran) has recorded a heartwarming new poem, telling the inspirational story of Ventura County's favorite "little old lady".

Scan to hear Vin's Poem Or visit [GCVF.org/Rose](#)