

March 2016

## Welcome Home Montrose & Warrior Resource Center Newsletter

<http://welcomehomemontrose.org/>

**DONATE NOW!**



Welcome Home Alliance for Veterans  
Welcome Home Montrose  
is 501(c)3 45-4103919  
Your donation is tax deductible

Warrior Resource Center  
11 South Park Avenue  
Montrose, CO 81401  
970-765-2210



### I'm Hung

The USS Tarawa was brand new when it sailed down the east coast through the canal and up to San Diego. Top brass said that the Tarawa could off load 2500 Marines and their gear in two hours, and they come to Camp Pendleton to prove it. My unit was one of units to participate in this endeavor.

We had practiced off loading twice the first day and were unable to hit the two hour mark. The third day some brilliant young officer thought we could get out of the birthing areas and up the latter wells faster if we had our packs on instead of carrying them. During the first run on the second day, we had our packs on below decks and the horn blew we tried to climb the ladders up through deck hatches. Everybody was snagged, and jammed up and our time was even worse than the day before. On our second try we still had to have our packs on below decks but all strapped down and compact as possible.

When the horn blew things were going quite well until we got to one Marine that had strapped his E-tool on the back of his pack. As he climbed the ladder well up out the birthing area his E-tool got hooked under the rim of the deck hatch as he tried to climb out. He pulled, tugged and maneuvered but the E-tool stayed hooked. All the while our Gunny was yelling "MOVE IT! MOVE IT! MOVE IT!", but all the Marine could say is "I'M HUNG, I'M HUNG!"

Finally, as the Gunny reached up and unhooks the E-tool saying, "Quit bragging and get the hell out of here."

With six CH-46s working off the forward flight deck, three CH-53s working off the aft deck, landing craft coming out the aft bay and Marines climbing down nets over the sides into Mike boats 2500 Marines and their gear were off loaded in one hour and fifty-three minutes.

From the Executive Director - Emily Smith



Emily Smith and her son out for the first ride of 2016 on Valentine's Day; 2 wheels and shiny things, best gifts ever!

It seems like we just get busier all the time! I want to thank everyone that makes this organization possible, without the dedication and support of so many through time and financial contributions we couldn't continue reaching so many veterans and their families. The programs, assistance, support, and safe place are directly impacting the lives of our local veterans. It takes a lot to meet the needs of so many veterans, each so unique, and I'm proud of everything this community does on behalf of our mission. Being able to count on your continued support, especially those of you that dedicate monthly contributions in one way or another, allows us to plan for our future and solidly sustain. Thank you all!

If you would like to join the "Got Your 6" (a military term meaning "got your back") contributors, please sign up [HERE](#)

[Montrose Monitor article on Emily Smith](#)

[more about Emily](#)

From the Executive Assistant - Kirk Shiflett

To volunteer today either as a veteran or civilian, to help veterans in need requires passion and a strong commitment, persistence, and discipline into practice. As in few other eras of time, our ability to create a more just, productive, civil, and giving-filled society depends upon that those who give of their time, energy, and knowledge.

Such as the following: Last month a young man named Nathan took \$200.00 out of his savings account and bought McDonald's gift cards for in-need veterans. He embodies these characteristics.

To build the resources and demands for our veterans, the local resources we encounter daily is an extraordinary gathering of talented community and veteran members; this month our community has been more proactive than ever trying to stop veterans homelessness, through Warriors Way Home case management meetings every Thursday as well as using new computer databases to help meet those resources. Our great community is unique to veterans and is building a powerful and growing network for change.

We welcome your interest in our programs, and this expanding community of leaders, volunteers, and donors. We invite you to spread the word about us and to continue to read our newsletter and website for the latest updates, thank you for volunteering. I look forward to hearing from you. As always, remember our veterans deployed and those who could not come home.



Kirk Shiflett,  
Executive Assistant  
Extraordinaire

## Where We Have Been & What We've Been Doing In February:

### Warrior's Way Home

In partnership with Hilltop, MADA, Haven House, VA HUD/VASH, VOA, the VSO, and Common Ground, we are proud to begin our 100 day initiative to combat local veteran homelessness. This is just the beginning of what we hope will be able to identify, assist, match, and house local veterans in need of housing. This system is being put in place to extend beyond the 100 day initial launch, to better assist our veterans by having a community effort with our partnerships, and incorporating wraparound services. So far, one (1) homeless veteran has already been matched with housing and moved in. Read the more information on the initiative from the Governor's office and the article from the Montrose Daily Press [HERE](#) (the full articles, as images, are at the bottom of the page)

### Second Chance Humane Society

A partnership with Second Chance Humane Society (SCHS) is already proving beneficial to our veterans, making adoption, training, fostering, and volunteering more accessible. We look forward to continuing to work with SCHS to grow our partnership. In the upcoming months, SCHS will be bringing adoptable pets to the WRC to meet potential veteran matches and we hope to have enough interest to make it cost effective to offer weekly therapy dog training here. If you are interested in adopting an animal or volunteering with SCHS at their facility in Ridgway or as a foster home, please contact them at 970-626-3233.



### HUD/VASH Luncheon

A big thank you to our wonderful Housing Authority for hosting the educational luncheon on HUD/VASH Vouchers at the Warrior Resource Center. They reached out to all local landlords, rental management offices, and realtors to offer an amazing catered lunch by Pahgre's and share more about the veteran HUD/VASH Vouchers with the assistance of the case managers of the vouchers from the VA in Grand Junction.

This is a great resource for the homeless veterans in our area and has already successfully assisted several individuals in obtaining housing.



### DAR Vietnam Commemoration

The Daughters of the American Revolution held a Vietnam War Commemoration ceremony on 13 February 2016 at the Warrior Resource Center. They individually honored local Vietnam Veterans with a certificate recognizing their valor, service, and sacrifice during the Vietnam War.



## Yard Sale to Benefit the WRC!

Denise Smith, a local military spouse, wanted to help support the Warrior Resource Center and has decided to organize a yard sale! The yard sale will take



Total WRC Visitors: 1255

Total Veterans Registered: 1155

Average Weekly Veteran Coffee Attendance: 85

Spouse Luncheon Attendance: 32

## Where We'll Be & What We'll be Doing in March!

Looking at the calendar, we have our usual repeating events...

- Cane presentation on the 3rd at 1300
- Weekly repeating activities (see the "Ongoing at the WRC" schedule below)
- West End visit on the 9th

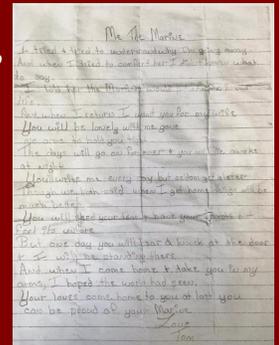
...but nothing out of the ordinary scheduled. What does this mean?!

Everything that is coming this month will be a surprise for all of us!  
Check our Facebook page for updates throughout the month!

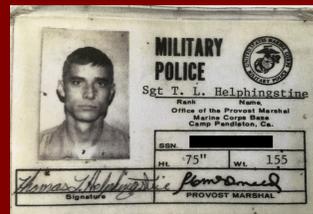


### Me The Marine by Tom Helphingstine

*I tried + tried to understand why I'm going away  
And when I tried to comfort her I didn't know what to say  
I told her the Marines would put a future in our life,  
And when I return I want you for my wife  
You will be lonely with me gone  
no arms to hold you tight  
The days will go on forever + you will lie awake at night  
You'll write me every day but seldom get a letter  
Though we both said when I get home things will be much better  
You will shed your tear + have your doubts but feel its unfair  
But one day you will hear a knock at the door + I will be standing there  
And when I come home + take you in my arms, I hoped the world had seen  
Your loves come home to you at last you can be proud of your Marine  
Love  
Tom*



Tom's original poem



Tom's Military ID



Joyce Corley

Tom Helphingstine is one of the participants in the Montrose Arts project by Joyce Corley that captures the essence of an individual's military service. The collage of images that she puts together gives a glimpse into the most valued memories of each service member. Each week, Joyce volunteers her time and talents down at the Warrior Resource Center to make these amazing creations for any veteran that would like one. Taking the time to sit and visit with each one, she learns about them and their service then brings that to life through her art.

The two items (poem & military ID) shown above are just a couple of the pieces that Tom brought in, but the poem is the most special to him. It shares so many deep, personal feelings that encompassed his entry into the Marine Corps. After speaking with Joyce, Tom shared how wonderful the experience was for him. He felt so

place on **Saturday, 16 April 2016** from 0900-1400 and all money raised will directly benefit the WRC.

If you would like to help support her efforts by donating items of some value, volunteering to tag or organize, or help the day of the sale, **please contact Denise directly at 970-323-0742.**

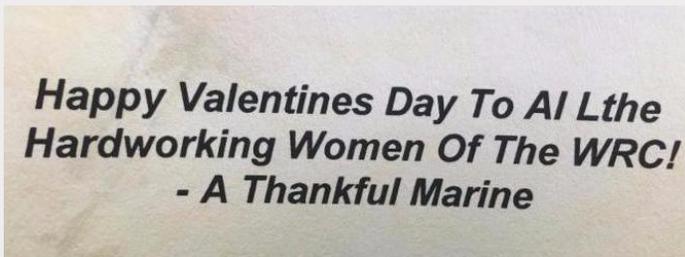


We really appreciate Denise, and everyone involved, for stepping up to help us keep our doors open and programs running for the benefit of all our local military, veterans, and their families!

## Our Valentine's Day Surprise



We always try to encourage the guys to remember all that their wives do for them and to take a couple extra moments out of their day to show their appreciation. It took us completely by surprise, however, to receive this beautiful flower arrangement from "a thankful Marine" a couple days before Valentine's Day. The individual responsible has been identified and said, "you always say how much the little things count, I couldn't forget all that you do for us here". It brought a tear to more than one eye around the WRC, and yes, he did get extra bonus points for not only thinking of us but for planning ahead. Thank you, Marine!



Dancing With The Stars - **THIS SATURDAY, 05 MAR 16!**



That's right, we're Team #4 dancing to benefit CASA!

CASA is a big part of military and veteran lives. Our local veterans that volunteer with CASA to represent children find is



Team #4, Sheldon and Emily

extremely rewarding. On a national level CASA has worked hard to make it easier for military families to adopt children needing a home, creating more understanding of the benefits military culture can bring to a child's life. We're honored to be able to represent our local veteran community.

Your vote counts!

On Saturday, voting is open  
2115 - 2200 (9:15pm - 10:00pm), go to

comfortable, he opened up and shared things with her that he hadn't even been able to talk about during his counseling sessions or with friends. We're so grateful for all the ways that healing can be found, and that they are available to our veterans here.

Tom did get married, and he and his wife have shared 40 years together so far. With the trials that come with marriage, the difficulties often associated with military service, and struggles that follow injury, it gives us all hope when we look to this young couple that beat the odds.

A HUGE thanks to Tom for allowing us to share such a personal piece of his life, and to Joyce for her loving heart and willingness to share her amazing gifts.

## Business Window Sticker Program

### BUSINESSES:

Sign up to support our troops locally and show YOUR patriotism HERE or contact Judi Newland at 970-765-2210

### VETERANS:

Take a look at the updated list of participating businesses HERE.

### **NEW BUSINESSES LISTED!**

Stop by the WRC for a list that includes offers businesses are giving to you and your family this holiday season.

THANK YOU!

## Supply Tent

WHM & WRC merchandise available at the Warrior Resource Center  
[Click Here To View Prices & Sizes!](#)

WE HAVE BIG MUGS,  
AND WE CAN NOT LIE!  
20% Discount on Mugs for Veterans!



**TELL US WHAT YOU THINK**

Your feedback helps us to continue improving, we appreciate your input, suggestions and ideas.  
Thank you for taking the time!  
[click here](#)

## Help Hospitalized Veterans (HHV)

HHV is available on

**Thursdays at the WRC from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.**

Come in and check out the kits for veterans, located across from the reception counter.



**Ongoing at the Warrior Resource Center  
11 S Park Ave Montrose, CO**

<b>Mondays:</b>	Traveling Gym 3:30pm-4:30pm
<b>Tuesdays:</b>	Tae Kwon Do 5:00pm-6:00pm Tai Chi 6:00pm-7:15pm
<b>Wednesdays:</b>	Traveling Gym 3:30pm-4:30pm
<b>Thursdays:</b>	Veterans Coffee 8:00am-10:00am (veterans ONLY) PTSD Group 10:30am-12:00pm Eagle Head Cane Presentation FIRST Thursday 1:00pm

<http://casa7jd.org/dancing-with-the-stars/>  
and choose Team #4!

\*disclaimer: we are in no way professional dancers and, despite the best efforts of our wonderful choreographer Chris Boyce, we are hoping not to fall off the stage; it is acceptable to come laugh live as long as you vote for us too!

Tae Kwon Do 5:00pm-6:00pm

**Fridays:**

Country Jam Session starts at 6:00pm

Spouse's Luncheon: 26 February 2016 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
(military spouses ONLY)

Wives of Warriors 2:00pm-4:00pm  
(military spouses ONLY)



*With the suicide, divorce and unemployment rates so high in our military population, the Montrose community means to set the standard in how to serve those who stepped up to serve all of us. By strengthening our services, identifying and filling our gaps, creating programs and removing the barriers in our community, we are preparing a place where any veteran of our armed forces can thrive in the life they choose.*

Welcome Home Montrose Inc.

Warrior Resource Center  
11 South Park Ave  
Montrose Colorado 81401  
970-765-2210

[www.WelcomeHomeMontrose.org](http://www.WelcomeHomeMontrose.org)

Please consider making a donation to support our mission. Click [here](#) now.

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