

Riege named 2016 NM True Heroes list

Written by By Bernie Dotson Sun Correspondent
Friday, 02 December 2016 12:51



Honorees recognized for making life better, safer for kids, vets, families, wildlife

Kenneth Riege, a U.S. Air Force veteran and the general manager at Gallup's Comfort Suites, has been named a New Mexico True Hero. The announcement was made Nov. 29 by Gov. Susana Martinez.

"Our 2016 New Mexico True Heroes all have one thing in common – they go above and beyond everyday, leading by example to make our state a better place," Gov. Martinez said. "These five New Mexicans work to make our communities safer from criminals, help more children have a chance to reach for their dreams, serve our veterans, and care for and protect our animals and wildlife. Through their commitment, passion and service they exemplify what it means to be New Mexico True."

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Over the years, Riege has raised money, hosted events and has given time to help fellow veterans with care, such as assisting veterans find assistance with respect to Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, Martinez said. Riege, an Ohio native, is highly involved with the Quilts of Valor program, and was equally instrumental in Gallup earning the Most Patriotic Small Town in America and Purple Heart City distinctions.

Others around New Mexico who also were named to the 2016 New Mexico True Hero list were Nicole Chavez-Lucero of Albuquerque, Michelle and Clay Schroff of Albuquerque, Dr. Kathleen Ramsay of Española.

“Our New Mexico True Heroes shine a spotlight on our state’s greatest treasure: our people,” Rebecca Latham, state tourism secretary said. “We are surrounded by so much good everyday, and our New Mexico True Heroes put everyday leaders like these front and center, where their incredible efforts can help inspire even more New Mexicans to do more to make our state a better place.”

The New Mexico True Heroes Awards were developed by the state tourism department in partnership with the Gildan New Mexico Bowl in 2014. Dozens of nominations were submitted by friends, family members, students and co-workers. A panel of community from around the state determined the winners.

The honorees will be recognized at this year’s Gildan Bowl during the player’s luncheon on Dec. 16 and on the field during the game on Dec. 17.

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