

Citizen-Observer

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Cameron, Missouri

Cameron Veterans Assistance League donates nearly \$90,000

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The Veterans Assistance League and area business woman Neva Woody combined to donate nearly \$90,000 in money and materials to the Missouri Veterans Home Monday.

In honor of Veterans Day Woody and the Veterans Assistance League donated a new handicap accessible van totaling \$34,299 and \$55,000 raised from multiple Shoot Like A

Girl clay shooting tournaments, spearheaded by Woody, to provide area veterans with basic needs and amenities not provided by the federally-funded facility.

"It's an honor being with you guys today celebrating Veterans Day," said Woody before unveiling her \$55,000 donation. "I want to thank you for your service. I'm the daughter of a Korean War veteran. I come from a military family and I appreciate your service. It means a lot to me to be here."

The Boot Hill Shooting Grounds hosted the event with shooters from as far away as Minnesota traveling to attend the annual fundraiser, which donates its proceeds to the VAL. With more than 100 competitors at the third and final session of the seventh annual Shoot Like a Girl Classic, Woody said she hoped to raise \$50,000. The VAL provides veterans with many of the essentials for a comfortable life with the local veterans home limited in what it can offer its residents.

See **VETS** on page 3



Veterans Assistance League President Gary Summers and Brad Haggard, Missouri Veterans Home Deputy Director of the Homes Program, unveil a \$55,000 check at the annual Veteran's Day event at the home.

Thursday, November 14, 2019

Citizen-Observer - 3



Members of the Veterans Assistance League Board pose for a photo Monday in front of a recently purchased, \$34,000 handicap accessible van paid for by community contribution.

VETS

from front page

Since launching the Shoot Like a Girl Classic, the program raised funds to replace televisions, fund trips and Shoot Like a Girl supporter Kelly Denton forewent his usual annual donation to personally produce two facility computers so veterans can message their loved ones online during the holidays.

"I'm proud to announce that this year we not only made our goal, but we exceeded it. I'm happy to donate \$55,000," said Woody to the hundreds of veterans, family members and supporters in attendance.

Although feeling accomplished for her

work, during the preceding VAL monthly meeting, Woody said her contribution to the veterans home has only just begun with the Boothill Shooting Grounds already setting dates for Aug. 8 and Sept. 12 and 13 for the ladies competition and the couples shoot the next day.

"We already have dates picked out for next year. We're putting together some fliers and I've been talking to a guy out of Iowa who is a Louisiana Grill dealer and he's told me he would donate one for us to raffle. It's all coming along. Obviously, you guys help us out and we could not do it without you," Woody said.

Gary Summers, VAL president, thanked Woody for her contribution and highlighted how each contribution made makes life a little easier for the men and women who sacrificed much of their freedoms Americans take for granted abroad in order to insure peace and security at home.

"Neva works year-round to make this happen. By far, this is the largest fundraiser we've ever had. The work she puts in is unbelievable. She gets support from so many people and not just those who come out and shoot. This just blows us away," Summers said.