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BTBC and CMT help fund Veterans Resource Center

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The Blackfeet Veterans Alliance announced on March 28 that it has secured a building and land for a new Veterans Resource Center. The 1,200 square foot facility is located across from BCC.

The new Veterans Resource Center was made possible when the Blackfeet Tribal Business Council voted to donate the building to the Blackfeet Veterans Alliance, and Chief Mountain Technologies donated \$1,000 to cover the first year's lease on the underlying land.

"Our veterans have been underserved for way too long," said BTBC member Henry Butterfly, "and giving them a place to call their own is a good first step in righting that wrong. We have an array of new services planned for our vets, and the new Veterans Resource Center will serve as a hub. For years, I have wanted to have a

place where Vets can come in, sit down, get some coffee, visit with other Vets and access valuable services to get the help they need. It is exciting to see it finally starting to happen, and I congratulate the rest of the BTBC for supporting our Veterans in this way."

The idea to form the Blackfeet Veterans Alliance was spearheaded by Manpower Director George Kipp in January. He was working on numerous large grants for Veterans and realized the Blackfeet needed a new type of organization to effectively channel assistance to Blackfeet Veterans.

Kipp asked Dr. Ken Crawford to take the lead on the project, and things moved quickly from there. Crawford persuaded the BTBC to donate the building and CMT to donate money for the land, as well as handling off-reservation fundraising to cover future costs. BTBC member and CMT Chairman TJ Show added, "It was exciting and gratifying to be able to provide the \$1,000 to make the Veterans Resource Center a reality, and to use our various off-reservation fundraising technologies, such as the systems we used for the Children's Christmas Fund, for another great cause. Let's face it, the federal government hasn't done all it should to take care of our Veterans, so it falls on the Blackfeet Tribe to fill the void. No group of Blackfeet is held in higher esteem and reverence than our Veterans, and we can, will and must find ways to better meet their needs. This is a good first step."



Chief Mountain Technologies CEO Gregg Paisley presents Dr. Ken Crawford of Manpower and BTBC Councilman Henry Butterfly a \$1,000 donation to cover the first year's lease on land for the Veterans Resource Center.