

POST-EVENT SELECTION ANNOUNCEMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

City of Chula Vista Names Danny Shaffstall as 2024 Veteran of the Year

Chula Vista, CA – November 13, 2024 – The City of Chula Vista proudly presented the prestigious 2024 Veteran of the Year (VOY) Award to Danny Shaffstall, a distinguished veteran of the United States Navy, during the City Council meeting held on November 12, 2024. The event, which took place at 5:00 PM in the City Council Chambers, recognized Mr. Shaffstall for his outstanding contributions to the Chula Vista and greater San Diego veteran communities. A proclamation was presented to Mr. Shaffstall by Mayor John McCann and members of the City Council.

"The Veteran of the Year exemplifies the very best of our veteran community," said Mayor John McCann. "Danny Shaffstall's tireless efforts to support and uplift our veterans are inspiring, and we are honored to recognize his contributions today as a testament to the deep impact he has made in Chula Vista and beyond. Chula Vista is a military and veteran city with a longstanding tradition that honors the incredible service of our veterans, and we are committed to ensuring that this recognition continues to highlight their ongoing contributions through the Veteran of the Year program."

Mr. Shaffstall has demonstrated exceptional leadership and dedication through his extensive volunteer work and professional efforts supporting local veterans. He currently serves as the Program Manager for the Us for Warriors Foundation and is an active member of several veteran support organizations, including the Family Life Action Group of the San Diego Veterans Coalition and the San Diego VA Regional Medical Center's Food Empowerment Program. His involvement in this program contributed to a significant achievement—the recognition of the San Diego VA Regional Medical Center and the Us for Warriors Foundation as recipients of the 2024 Veterans Health Administration (VHA) National Community Partnership Challenge award. This prestigious award honored their collaborative efforts in providing nutritional and dietary support for veterans facing food insecurity.

One of Mr. Shaffstall's most notable contributions is his leadership in the Food4Warriors program of the Us for Warriors Foundation, where he spearheaded projects that provide food distributions twice monthly, weekly pantry services, care packages for homeless veterans, and holiday support initiatives. Through these efforts, he has played a crucial role in alleviating food insecurity among veterans, especially during the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In addition, Mr. Shaffstall has consistently led volunteer efforts in collaboration with various organizations, including the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and local community service groups, providing essential resources to thousands of veterans in need. His work with the Veterans Home of California in Chula Vista and other key projects has further solidified his commitment to supporting the well-being and health of his fellow veterans.

"The Veterans of Chula Vista represent a longstanding legacy of service, both in their military careers and in their ongoing contributions to our community. This year, we were humbled by the number of outstanding nominations, the most we've seen in years, all highlighting the incredible impact veterans continue to make," said Tony Stewart, Chair of the Chula Vista Veterans

Advisory Commission. "We are proud to honor Danny Shaffstall as the 2024 Veteran of the Year, and we remain committed to building upon the rich legacy established by the 23 past honorees. We look forward to reinvigorating this program to ensure that veterans who are making a difference continue to be recognized and celebrated. We hope that this year's honoree and future Veterans of the Year will have more opportunities to be showcased at events throughout the community."

The Chula Vista Veterans Advisory Commission encourages any organizations or individuals planning veteran recognition events to consider including the Veteran of the Year in their celebrations. Those interested in having the Veteran of the Year appear at events throughout the year are encouraged to contact the Veterans Advisory Commission for more information.

The Commission would also like to extend its gratitude to everyone who submitted nominations this year. Each nominee will receive a letter of appreciation, acknowledging their service and dedication to the veteran community.

The City of Chula Vista thanks Danny Shaffstall for his continued service to the community and extends its gratitude for his commitment to improving the lives of veterans in Chula Vista and beyond.

Contact:
Chula Vista Veterans Advisory Commission
Email: VAC@ChulaVistaCA.gov

###