



"Footprints"



"We will be known forever by the tracks we leave."

This is a story I never wanted to write, but it is important. My first thought is to wish all of you good health. There is a terrible virus sweeping across the world right now. We are scrambling to meet the ever increasing needs created by horrible situation we are facing. The Coronavirus is an urgent emergency. We are helping with emergency food.

Today was the first day of many to come delivering food and supplies to Native American Veterans and their families. We are prioritizing our deliveries to the most vulnerable first. The elderly Korean and Vietnam War Veterans. Many of these individuals will be the most impacted by this deadly virus.

Now there are reports telling people over age 60 – which is all of our Korean and Vietnam Veterans, to stay indoors.



As we drove through the mud to reach some of the homes, I knew it was important and we had to do it, so onward we trekked. These men and women gave so much to this country, it is now time for NAVA to give back to them in this emergency. We do what is necessary, not always what is easy. The poor often suffer the most. We are here to meet this immediate need. So on we drove to help the less fortunate.

We loaded up pickups and made our way in many different directions. We are determined to reach as many as we can to give them a sense of security in the event of widespread chaos. A friend of mine who is a medical doctor for the state department assured me it is coming and will soon be widespread. We are giving these veterans and their families a weeks supply of food so they have it on-hand.

The first stop was a United States Navy Vietnam Veteran 78 years old. I cannot adequately describe the appreciation of this veteran. They often feel forgotten and when they see someone who is there to help them, it is often followed with tears. She is scared to go out much. This virus situation is having an impact on people already and it is still spreading like wildfire.

Our staff are all strong healthy Native Americans. We do not fear helping people.



I also have to share some not so good news. It is just the way it is. We stopped at another 73-year-old United States Marine Corps Vietnam Veteran's house. He is missing a leg from his service. He was very thankful for the food and cleaning supplies. Then he shared with me his home had been broken into recently. The perpetrators kicked in his door and broke it off the hinges. I was devastated listening to his story. We need to find a way to help him get the door fixed on his trailer.

We also made the rounds to the Elderly Meals Centers to give supplies so the staff could make up emergency packs for those who come in seeking help. So many are worried they will not be able to get to the store if things continue to get worse.

We do not know what will happen in the coming weeks. We just know we need to be prepared and providing emergency food for those in greatest risk and needs are our priority. We will continue to make home deliveries. It is our job as well as our passion. It is all about helping people.

I wish I could tell you about all the stops and deliveries we make on a weekly basis. However, I try to share some of the experiences with you so you know what we are doing.

The pictures we share hopefully fills in any gaps in my writings to ensure you know what we do all the time to help people.

We help Native American Veterans and their families. We drive the dirt roads to make deliveries to those often forgotten. We do not have a professional photographer. We just snap pictures with our phones to show you the work we do.

Here is Jolene with her youngest daughter. We had to drive up and over muddy hills to reach her family home. The home might be a bit rough with bare plywood floors, but it is a home built by her father a Vietnam War Veteran and respected Elder. Her daughter was so excited to see visitors.

