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Veteran's Passport to Hope Gala: An exciting and successful evening of fun and fundraising

Denver, CO, March 1, 2018 – The evening of February 22 came alive with music, food and drink, awards, intriguing speakers, and an array of exciting prizes at the Cable Center as Veteran's Passport to Hope (VP2H) hosted its 6th annual Gala. Above all of the glitz and fun, though, the evening will be remembered for the extreme generosity of sponsors and attendees, as the Gala raised \$94,000 for VP2H and their efforts to support veterans and veterans' organizations in our area.

Dressed in their finest, Gala guests enjoyed cocktails and entertaining videos, including one that featured Executive Director Tony Drees who spoke about VP2H and its mission. Drees was not able to attend the Gala as he was recovering from his 70th surgery for a war wound he suffered while serving in the Army during the Gulf War of 1991. Moments later, Drees appeared in a feed recorded just days before, reassuring all Gala attendees that he was ready and excited to continue fighting for veterans' issues.

VP2H's mission is to raise awareness about the issues that today's veterans are going through; to raise funds to support veteran friendly nonprofits; and to bring veteran friendly non-profits together in order to collaborate. All three pillars of their mission coming together to more effectively and efficiently help veterans.

VP2H raises money throughout the year to support organizations that help veterans transition back into civilian life, overcome trauma, and heal from their wounds, both physically and emotionally. Many of those organizations attended the Gala, including Eagles Nest Ranch, Colorado Veterans Project, and the Colorado branch of Volunteers of America.

The evening was sponsored in large part by businesses, organizations, and individuals who generously donated financially and by providing some fascinating prizes for the live and silent auctions. Those sponsors included Infiniti of Denver, Anadarko, Sailor Jerry's, Breckenridge Brewery, Hero Cellars, Spice of Life, Prism Group, EKS&H, Colorado Veterans Project, AAA Building Maintenance, Omni Financial, Oasis Advantage, Wired Mustang, Visdom, and Edie Marks.

Since its launch in 2012, VP2H has helped almost 11,000 veterans and their families through fundraising events like its annual Gala. Executive Director Drees says, "There has never been a more important time to support our veterans. The Gala is an exciting event that brings people together in our community who genuinely want to make a difference in the lives of our local veterans. Now more than ever is the time for us all to document our patriotism, and VP2H is a platform to do just that."

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