

Nevada Public Education

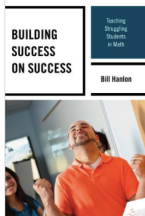


Academics Not a Priority In Clark County

Bill Hanlon

Why do I keep reading about how our service men and women, active and retired, are not having their needs met.

When these Americans experience medical or psychological problems as a result of their duties, we owe it to them to take care of those needs and the needs of their families.



It really bothers me to watch these ads on television from non-profits asking for funds to pay for such necessities as prosthetics for military members who lost a limb. That's nuts. Those lifetime medical issues should be factored in when Congress is creating budgets and should not depend on charity or fundraisers. The same is true when our defenders come home experiencing difficulty psychologically based on upon their deployment. Too many of our veterans are not receiving the services they need and find themselves homeless and on the street.

It's inconceivable to think that while these young men and women are on assignment away from home, their families don't have enough income to pay their bills. Are we really saying they should go hungry or lose their homes? Psychologically, that has to weigh heavily on active duty members away from home knowing their spouses and children are struggling to survive in an America where being poor is detrimental to your health and well being.

We can do better, America can do better, for the very people who protect our interests and freedom. We need to be accountable. If we want a military second to none, then we need to be willing to pay the immediate and ongoing costs of achieving that goal.

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Bill Hanlon, is a noted speaker, an author, educator, consultant and coach for schools, former Director of the Southern Nevada Regional Professional Development Program, and is a national presenter for organizations such as AASA, ASCD, ALAS, NMSA, NASSP, NSBA, and NCTM. He was the coordinator of Clark County School District's Math/Science Institute and was also responsible for K-12 math audits. He served on the Nevada State Board of Education, Regional Director of the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) and as a member of the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) States Partnership Board. He also hosted a television series, "Algebra, *you can do it!*" on PBS Las Vegas.

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