

GEORGE E. WAHLEN
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL CENTER
VA Salt Lake City Health Care System
500 Foothill Drive
Salt Lake City, UT 84148

February 2, 2011

In Reply Refer To: 660/

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to provide an ecclesiastic endorsement of Arnold Thomas. Mr. Thomas has served as a Ceremonial Leader and Chaplin Intern for the Eagle's Nest Residential Treatment Program at the George E. Wahlen Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center. As coordinator of the Eagle's Nest, I have had the opportunity to witness Mr. Thomas in his capacity as Chaplin Intern and on other previous occasions. I have also received input from Veterans served by Mr. Thomas, in his capacity as Ceremonial Leader of the Sweat Lodges and other events. I have experienced him to be of high moral character, deeply aware of the needs of Veterans and competent as a spiritual leader. His inspiration and guidance has led many Veterans to declare that his work with them has made the ultimate positive impact on their spiritual transformation.

He has been highly creative in developing opportunities that invite Veterans to spiritually. During his internship he voluntarily held a group on spirituality. This group helped many to explore their experience of spirit in ways they later reported helped to sustain their sobriety and overall well being.

Mr. Thomas has not only served as Chaplin Intern, but has offered services for more than five years to the Eagle's Nest. The importance of his presence has manifest by saving many Veterans from further suffering symptoms of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Countless Veterans, from the Vietnam Era to Operation Enduring Freedom in Iraq, have reported major relief from blessings received during Sweat Lodge Ceremonies, Healing Ceremonies and Cleansing Ceremonies led by Mr. Thomas. Veterans report they have found resolution of grief, termination of negative self-doubt and prevention of suicide by participating with him. Mr. Thomas' immense capacity as a Spiritual Leader has created an opening for healing the most recalcitrant, complicated experiences of trauma, grief and substance abuse endured by many Veterans of diverse backgrounds. Mr. Thomas' Chaplin training, clinical experience as well as his Ceremonial Leadership offers an unsurpassed treasure for enhancement and healing of humanity.

If I may be of further assistance, please contact me at (801) 582-1565 Extension 1871.

In service to Veterans,

Kym Couture, L.C.S.W., C.P.
Psychotherapist
Licensed Clinical Social Worker