

READY FOR BUSINESS

Director proudly opens VA doors

By John Stephens
Sentinel-Voice

An army veteran who once interned at the veterans' care medical center in Los Angeles is now head of Las Vegas' newest veterans care facility.

At 8 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 5, Ramon Reevey began his first day at the helm of the Addeliar D. Guy III Ambulatory Care Center, at the corner of Vegas Drive and Martin Luther King Boulevard.

"This facility has been a long time coming," the 56-year-old Neptune, N.J. native said of the new federal medical center.

The two-floor, 149,000-square-foot facility

has 52 beds and triples the size of the West Charleston veterans administration clinic facility. Officials said the clinic will dramatically boost the quality and number of veterans services.

Reevey spent three years in the Army. While pursuing a bachelor's degree in public administration, he interned at the VA clinic in Los Angeles.

"I really enjoyed working with the veterans," he said. Later, he earned a master's degree in hospital administration from the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA).

The Addeliar D. Guy Center will act as a link to the Michael Callahan Federal Hospital, an

overnight, in-patient hospital located at 1703 W. Charleston Blvd.

Initially, the center will provide outpatient care and one-day surgery for veterans with honorable discharge, but will expand its operations, Reevey said.

Reevey also said he plans to increase specialty services like cardiology, urology, nuclear medicine and CAT scans.

"This is the newest and most modern

clinic in the country," said Steve Clark, the clinic's deputy commissioner. "Veterans are very appreciative of what has been built. The complaints have been very few."

"Being the director here is one of the best opportunities for me."

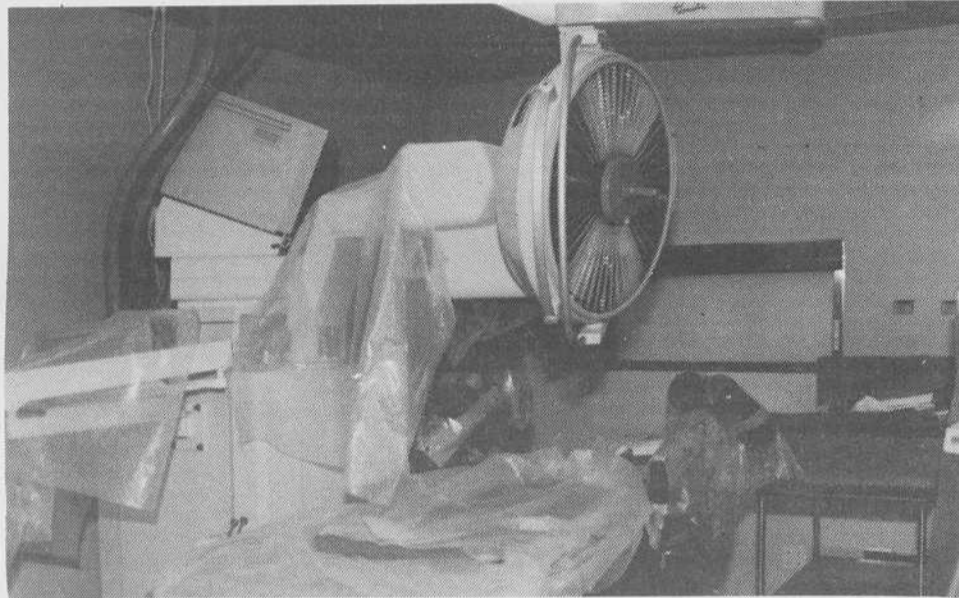
—Director Ramon Reevey



"Looks pretty good," said first-time visitor Pete Van Meter. He came to get medical attention.

Van Meter is one of the 150,000 to 200,000 veterans the clinic is expected to serve yearly, officials said. Host and hostess greet the estimated 30 or more new visitors who come daily and use their veterans' benefits for the first time, officials said.

Reevey is thrilled about his new job. "Being the director here is one of the best opportunities for me," he said. "(It's) an opportunity to help those who served our country."



Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy

One of the Guy Clinic's new surgical centers awaits patients.

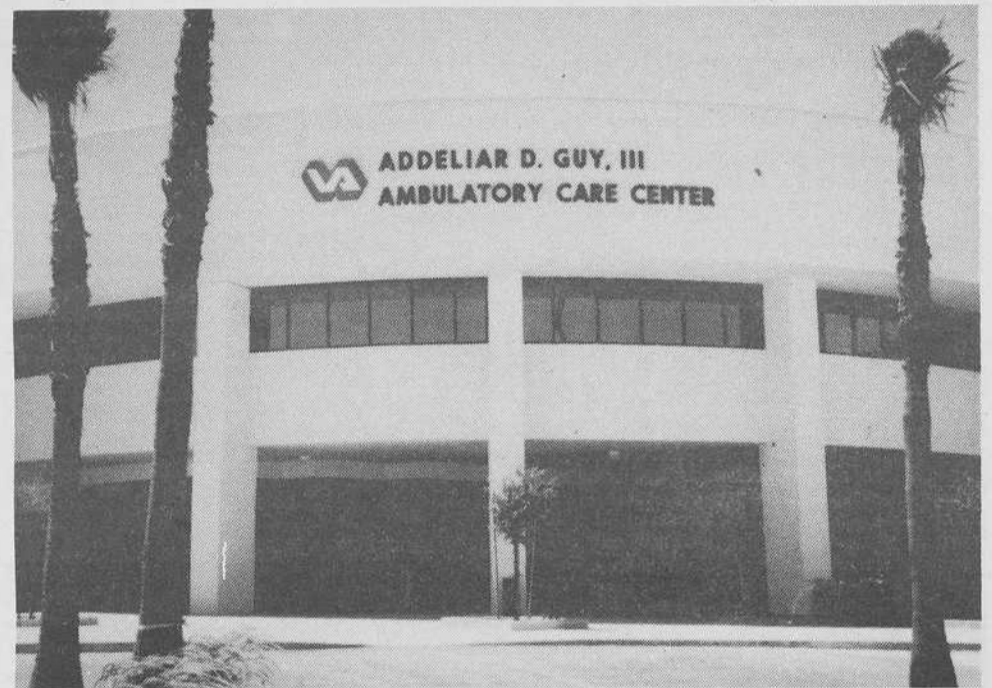


Photo special to Sentinel-Voice

The clinic is located at Vegas Drive and Martin Luther King Boulevard.

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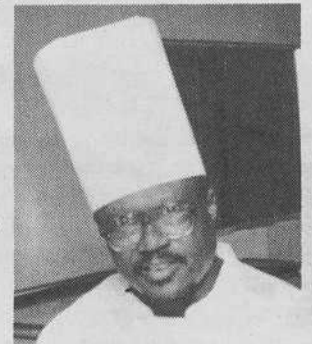


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