



RICHARD BRIAN/STAFF PHOTO

veterans

und in a common care kit. This year the chapter is setting up a tent to talk to veterans at the Las Vegas Intertrib-Veterans Powwow on Nov. 7, and 9 at the Silver Bowl park, 100 E. Russell Road. Also, once a year the chapter gives out 15 medals and \$100 U.S. Savings Bonds to cadets in the JROTC programs to high school around the Las Vegas valley.

For the holidays, the chapter donates turkeys to the poor, gives care kits and clothes and participates in toy drives for children.

The future for veterans looks brighter, George said. Although Iraq is considered unpopular war by many, it doesn't see history repeating itself when it comes to mistreatment of troops on returning to the United States.

"I find it is the complete opposite — returning veterans from Iraq are treated as heroes should be — they are welcomed home," he said.

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Young architect wins regional award

By JEFF POPE

Las Vegas architect Michael Del Gatto received the American Institute of Architects Young Architect Award for the Western Mountain Region on Oct. 25.



Del Gatto

The award honors the six-state region's top architect who shows leadership in design, education or service to the profession early in his or her career. Del Gatto, 34, has been a licensed architect for five years and principal for Carpenter Sellers Associates since 2005. He grew up in Las Vegas and lives in Summerlin with his wife and 17-month-old son.

"It's a personal honor, but architecture is not something that any one individual does on their own. So I have to give a lot of credit to our staff and my mentors," he said. "It's an award from your peers, so it means a lot."

Del Gatto has been the lead architect for the Andre Agassi College Preparatory Academy and has designed buildings for the University of Phoenix throughout the country.

He's also designed the Girl Scouts of Frontier Council administration building, Kennedy and Al's Garage restaurants at The District at Green Valley Ranch and the new liberal arts building for Nevada State College.

He has been part of the local architecture community since 1991. While in high school, Del Gatto quit a job at a pizza shop to be a runner for the Domingo Cambeiro Corp. architecture firm, even though it meant a pay cut of 25 cents an hour.

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Michael Del Gatto,
Las Vegas Architect

He started at CSA in 2000 as an intern and said the company's principals, Rick Sellers and Steve Carpenter, have been his mentors.

Del Gatto said he's known he wanted to become an architect since he was a child building with Legos, making forts in the desert and sheet tents in the house, and sneaking onto construction sites.

He was named the Nevada Young Architect two years ago and is a registered architect in Nevada, California, Florida, Alabama, Montana and Ohio.

He donates his time to the UNLV School of Architecture as a guest juror and has chaired the scholarship committee for the school's Alumni Association. He was recently named to the Board of Directors for the Las Vegas Chapter of the AIA and to the Board of Directors for Boys Hope Girls Hope. He also received the 2006 AIA Young Architect Citation Award and was named one of 2007's Nevada Business Journal 40 under 40. Del Gatto has a strong commitment to mentoring others and leads CSA's Intern Development Program.

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