

Mr. Chair, members of the committee, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to introduce you to Indian Springs Ranch.

Indian Springs Ranch has been a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization since August of 2018. We provide a place of retreat, healing and hope for veterans, law enforcement officers, first responders and others who have experienced trauma.

Our mission is deeply personal to us. We work with individuals who may be struggling with PTSD, anxiety, the effects of trauma, and even thoughts of suicide. Our goal is to provide them with a safe place where, for a few days, the noise of the outside world simply stops.

Guests who come to Indian Springs Ranch stay for a minimum of three days. During that time, they are completely unplugged from society.

There is no electricity. There is no cell phone service. There are no computers, television or social media.

Instead, there are mountains, horses, campfires, conversations and time—time to slow down, time to think, time to listen and, sometimes, simply time to breathe.

We incorporate what is often called the three-day wilderness

effect. Removing people from the constant distractions and pressures of everyday life and immersing them in nature can create an opportunity for meaningful connection and reflection.

We combine that wilderness experience with equine activities, horseback riding and peer-to-peer support. There is something very powerful about sitting around a campfire with someone who understands where you have been because they have walked a similar road.

Faith is also an important part of what we do. We reintroduce the Gospel and the message of hope, grace and purpose found in Jesus Christ. We do not pretend that three days at Indian Springs Ranch can erase someone's trauma. What we can do is provide a place where healing can begin, hope can be rediscovered and a person can be reminded that their life still has tremendous value and purpose.

And we do all of this at absolutely no cost to our guests.

Their stay has already been sponsored through private donations before they arrive. We provide their meals, drinks, horseback rides and the other materials and activities they need while they are with us.

Since becoming a nonprofit in 2018, Indian Springs Ranch has

never received state or federal funding. We have operated through the generosity of private individuals, businesses and organizations that believe in our mission.

Another thing that makes Indian Springs Ranch unique is that everyone who works with our organization is a volunteer.

That includes those of us working at the ranch and our Board of Trustees.

There are no wages and no salaries being paid from donated funds.

One hundred percent of the money donated to Indian Springs Ranch goes back into the mission—supporting our guests, caring for our horses, maintaining and improving the ranch, and providing the resources necessary to continue welcoming people who need this place.

Madam Chair and members of the committee, Indian Springs Ranch may not be a large organization, but we believe that sometimes making a difference in someone's life doesn't require a large institution.

Sometimes it looks like a horse.

Sometimes it looks like a campfire and a conversation with someone who understands.

Sometimes it looks like three quiet days in the mountains, away from everything that has become overwhelming.

And sometimes it is simply reminding someone who has spent their life serving others that their life is worth fighting for, too.

That is what we strive to provide at Indian Springs Ranch—a place of rest, a place of healing, a place of faith, and above all, a place of hope.

Thank you, Madam Chair and members of the committee, for allowing me to share our mission with you today. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.