

Volunteer group aims to lighten burden on area police agencies

By BEN STEPHENS

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Who says police officers have to retire completely once they stop wearing the badge? Not Henderson resident Ted Farace.

In 2002, Farace, 64, founded the Volunteer Homeland Reserve Unit, a group of nearly 200 retired law enforcement officers who aid Southern Nevada police agencies, and his vision has since been catching on steadily, he said.

A New York City Police Department detective for 23 years and the former head of global security for JP Morgan for 15 years, Farace had a lot of untapped experience to use after he retired. He said he formed the organization after feeling helpless watching the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11 unfold.

He admitted his original pitch to police agencies could have been better: received, but the organization has grown to 198 active members who are being used by departments more than

ever.

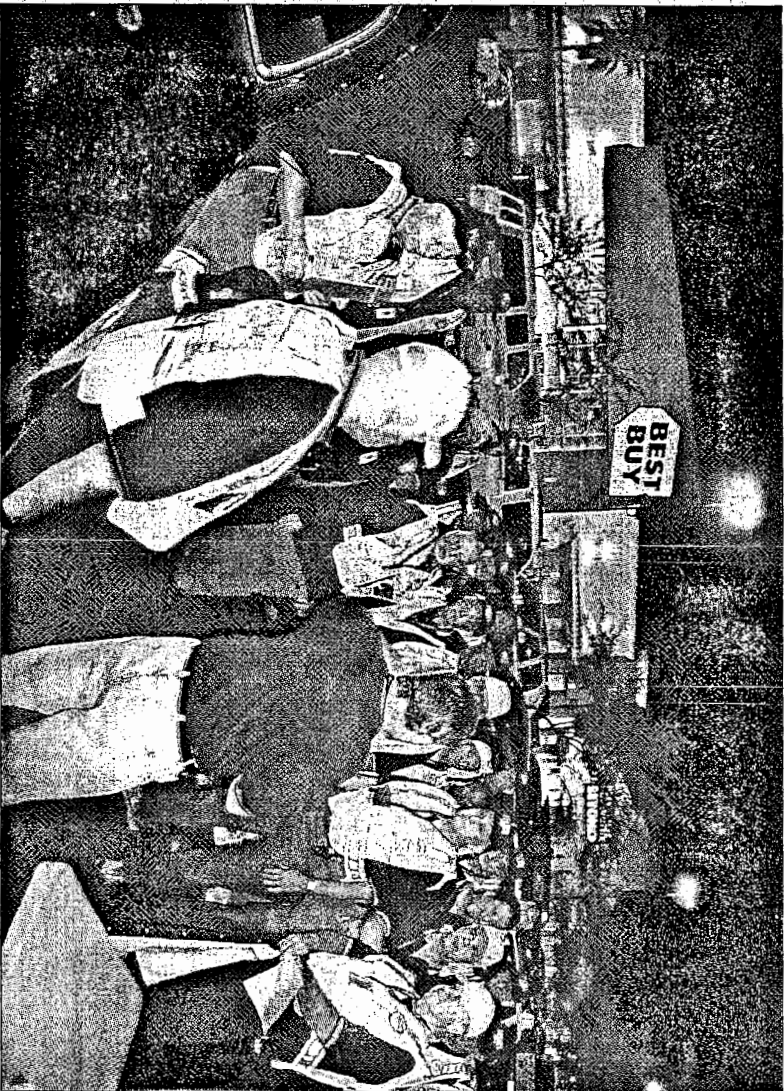
Although they know their role is no longer that of officers on the front lines, Farace said VHRU members can volunteer for minor roles in operations, freeing up paid officers for more important tasks.

For example, in 2005, Henderson police did an exercise called Loaded Dice, where the Galleria at Sunset mall was the scene of a mock terrorist attack. VHRU members covered the perimeter of the mall to block traffic from coming in, "so they could do their exercise without having to worry about other people," Farace said.

He said the police department would have had to pay officers to do the task otherwise and the VHRU members like the feeling of contributing.

Several members also were activated by the Metropolitan Police Department to attend the Laughlin River Run in April, and they went in unmarked vehicles to do surveillance in

SEE POLICE PAGE 11AA



Members of the Volunteer Homeland Reserve Unit organize themselves at Operation Loaded Dice, a mock terrorist attack staged at the Galleria at Sunset in 2005.

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