

The mission of the Galveston County Veterans Treatment Court is to assist Veterans and their families to become integral and productive members of the community through a collaborative effort, and to honor them and restore their dignity for their selfless services to our country; we shall leave no Veteran behind.

ALL RISE

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Walking the Walk:

The mission of the Galveston County Veterans Treatment Court is to assist Veterans through a collaborative effort to become integral and productive members of the community. We take pride in all our participants, especially upon their graduation from the program. Meet former Veterans Court participant, Misael Garcia, Jr. He is an October 2016 VTC graduate. He has spoken from his heart in the letter below. Misael is "walking the walk."

Dear fellow Veteran's,

My name is Corporal Misael Garcia Jr. United States Marine Corps. I entered the program about a year ago. Some say it goes by fast. Well for me it went slow. Don't let that discourage you. I've accomplished so much in one year. And I believe you can too. Entering the program I lost my job, CDL, and my bills were getting bigger. With a family of 4, kids, and buying my house, it wasn't an easy road. I felt that AA meetings, court, community service, and probation were only making my situation worse. But that was me just looking at my obligation and not seeing the opportunity right in front of me. So I started looking at the pros about the program. I got sober, made friends, felt healthier and had time to go back to school. I had no money but classes were 100% free for Veteran's. There were days I had to miss class to come to court. But the court did excuse me on my important days of testing. Keep in mind, they had records that I was caught up on payments, attending AA meetings, and my community service. Everything was getting better for me, except my bills.

Finally, I had to do what I really hate. I had to ask for help!

I hate it because I get an awful feeling inside and my eyes want to cry. So if you do to, you're not alone. The court helped me once again. I encourage anyone that might need assistance, please ask. They're really here to try to help the best they can. I received a certificate in pipefitting and passed my type 1 and 2 EPA 608 technician test. Soon I will take the type 3 test. I'm currently working as a pipefitter, loving it, and I am making more money than I was being a truck driver. In a couple more months, I will qualify to get my CDL back.

I wish you all the best. And hold on. Things will turn for the better.

~~ 2016 VTC Graduate: Misael Garcia Jr. USMC

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Calendar of Events

2017 Scheduled court dates:

January 4th, 2017 @1430

January 18th, 2017 @ 1430

February 1st, 2017 @ 1430

February 15th, 2017 @ 1430

March 1st, 2017 @ 1430

Graduation: *(Tentative)*

March 15, 2017 @1415

All eligible U.S. Veterans interested in information about the

FREE LEGAL

ADVICE CLINIC

Should call the
Houston Volunteer
Lawyers Program at

(713) 333-8387



Judges Corner :

As 2016 comes to a close, we have 14 veterans participating in Galveston County Veterans Treatment Court (VTC) program. Two veterans, having completed all four program phases, graduated from VTC in September, and we recognize their accomplishment. Our graduation ceremony provides an opportunity for us to honor the hard work, determination and perseverance by the veterans, guaranteeing their success in the future. Our guest speaker on September 13th was Bryan Escobedo. Sergeant Escobedo joined the United States Marine Corps upon graduating Clear Creek high school in 2003, and served five years as a Sergeant and Combat Engineer where he specialized in explosives. Bryan is a Purple Heart veteran, with three back-to-back tours in Operation Iraqi Freedom from 2005-2007. He earned the Purple Heart for multiple blast injuries while in the Al Anbar Province of Iraq. Bryan works in the local and national veteran non-profit community where he spearheaded a veteran employment initiative, and created a veteran peer-to-peer counseling program focused on suicide prevention. His speech inspired all in attendance.

For those not familiar with our program, Galveston County Veterans Treatment Court (VTC) was formed in 2012, and held its first court session on February 11, 2013. The purpose of VTC is to serve veterans and active military who suffer from service connected challenges and subsequent substance use; which was a contributing factor in their justice involvement in Galveston County. Since its inception, we have accepted, mentored and graduated veterans who were successfully promoted through the program's four phases. The goal of the court is to restore the honor of the veteran by providing an integrated set of support services addressing the many needs facing our veterans returning to civilian life.

Our work and our mission continue!



**Honorable
Mark A Henry**



Veteran Self Care 101:

Get Recommended Screenings and Tests:

Screening means looking for a condition before there are any signs or symptoms of that condition. If you already have a symptom of the condition, you should talk with your provider about it, even if you were recently screened and no problem was found.

Be involved in your Healthcare:

Plan- Plan ahead for your visits by writing down the questions and concerns you want to raise. Share them with your provider at the beginning of each visit.

Communicate- Share your ideas and beliefs about your health problems and any treatments with your provider.

Participate- Participate in decisions about your health care and treatments with your provider.

Prevent Self Harm:

Once you recognize signs, you can help act to keep yourself or others safe. People experience emotional and mental health crises in response to a wide range of situations—from difficulties in their personal relationships to the loss of a job. For Veterans, these crises can be heightened by their experiences during military service.

Be Physically Active:

Less than half of U.S. adults get the amount of physical activity recommended in the 2008 Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans. Physical activity is safe for almost everyone, and the health benefits of physical activity far outweigh the risks.

See more at: http://www.prevention.va.gov/Healthy_Living

To qualify for the VTC, a defendant **MUST:**

- ◆ Be charged with a criminal offense in Galveston County
- ◆ Be a veteran, on active duty, or in the Reserves or National Guard
- ◆ Have an Honorable Discharge, or General Discharge Under Honorable Conditions (if separated or retired)
- ◆ Be a resident of Galveston County or a county adjoining Galveston County
- ◆ Have a mental illness or disorder, substance abuse disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury or military sexual trauma related to military service.

If you believe you are a qualifying veteran and would like to apply to the VTC program, please notify VTC Court Staff at (409)-765-2679 or a Galveston County Veterans Service Officer immediately.



9850 Emmett F. Lowry Expressway

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Important Contact Information

VTC Presiding Judge

The Honorable Mark A. Henry
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