

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, Matthew Pena. He is a May 2018 VTC graduate. He has spoken from his heart in the statement below. Matthew is “walking the walk.”

*Dear fellow Veteran's,*

*“Being placed in the Galveston County Veterans Court Program was an amazing experience for me in my life, and my graduation was a grand accomplishment. The skills I have learned and the knowledge I have gained are invaluable, and now, with these tools in my belt, I have been able to get my life back on track. Since May 2017, I have completed my first semester of college, maintained a year of sobriety, and now have a goal in my life, as opposed to my previous lifestyle choice. Looking back now, no one can deny, that I am a new man.”*

*“Being sober, having someone watching my back, making sure I did not fall back into the drink is what helped me to facilitate such a change. Being sober has also granted me a boost in my social life as well. Under the guidance of my mentor, Joel Camacho, and other VTC staff, I have learned that it is best to surround yourself with similar people who share the same goals as you do. The crowd of people I was associating myself with earlier was not a healthy one, not a good environment for anyone to learn and grow. Being sober has forced me, although not originally willingly, to disassociate myself with a few select individuals, and find others that shares my goals and beliefs. And being around these fellow enthusiastic individuals has helped plug me into a grand support network. From the ladies at Pathways, to the mentors at the Veterans center, to even the Doctors and VA representatives, my pool of people to go to has been widened immensely. I now know that, I do not have to go it alone. And I thank the court for that as well.”*

*“I was not made to feel like a criminal, at any point in this endeavor. Instead of being kicked around, yelled at, condescended to, belittled, I was treated like a friend. VTC staff and the Judge greet me with a handshake, not a fist. For this, I am truly grateful. Just that little detail made the journey all that much more bearable.”*

~~~~ USMC Lance Corporal Matthew Pena

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# Calendar of Events

## 2018 Scheduled court dates:

|                    |        |
|--------------------|--------|
| July 11, 2018      | @ 1430 |
| July 18, 2018      | @ 1430 |
| August 1, 2018     | @ 1430 |
| August 15, 2018    | @ 1415 |
| August 29, 2018    | @ 1430 |
| September 12, 2018 | @ 1430 |
| September 26, 2018 | @ 1430 |

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 :

This quarter VTC graduated 4 veterans participating in Galveston County Veterans Treatment Court (VTC) program. 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 December 14th was Philip McCulloch. Sergeant McCulloch was born in Tucson, AZ, and was raised in Galveston, TX. In November of 2006, McCulloch reported to Third Battalion Seventh Marines in 29 Palms, CA. In March of 2008 Philip McCulloch was promoted to Corporal meritoriously. Two months later he was meritoriously promoted to Sergeant. He deployed again in 2008 to Haditha Iraq where he served as a squad leader. In October 2009 he was ordered to report to Third Battalion Fifth Marines in Camp Pendleton, CA. During his deployment with 3/5, Philip was injured twice in combat operations. Philip medically retired April 29th, 2013 from the Marine Corps due to injuries sustained in combat. His personal awards include the Silver Star, Purple Heart with one gold star and Combat Action Ribbon with one gold star. He is married to Lindsey H McCulloch of Galveston, TX, and he is the proud owner of a local Galveston weapon's retailer called "Sgt. Mac's Gun Shack". 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 other debilitating issues which was a contributing factor in their justice involvement here in Galveston County. Since its inception, we have accepted, mentored and graduated veterans who were successfully promoted through the program's four phases. One of the main goals of the court is to restore honor to the veteran by providing an integrated set of support services addressing the many needs facing our veterans who are returning to civilian life.

Our work and our mission continue!



**Honorable  
Mark A Henry**

# Veteran Self Care 101:



Moving from active duty to Veteran status is a significant change. You may have a lot on your mind as you reunite with family and reintegrate into your community. You may also be coping with injuries you sustained in service to our nation. To help smooth the transition, VA's Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VocRehab) program has developed 10 tips to help you move from a military to civilian workforce.

1. **Network:** Ask family members, friends, and other Veterans to put you in touch with the decision-makers at the places you would like to work. Contact those people and ask for an informational interview.
2. **Emphasize character:** Your skills and certifications are important, but civilian employers also want to know about your broader experience and understand how you applied your skills.
3. **Translate:** Most of your military training can be applied to your post-military career. Learn to translate your credentials.
4. **PACE:** Yourself From your time in the military, you may already be familiar with PACE planning—the primary, alternate, contingency, and emergency plan.
5. **Use Veterans' preference:** The federal government gives preference to job-seeking Veterans over many other applicants.
6. **Reduce stress, increase confidence:** Employers want to know whether your personality will fit in well with their other employees' personalities.
7. **Ready your DD214:** Every Veteran knows the value of his or her DD214 this document is important as you prepare to enter the civilian workforce or go back to school.
8. **Prepare for a new culture:** The cultures of the civilian workforce and the military are different.
9. **Take control:** Career advancement in the military is linear and highly structured, in comparison, civilian career development is less regimented. Take control of your career.
10. **Connect to VocRehab:** VocRehab helps Veterans and Service members navigate the transition from military to civilian employment.

[https://www.benefits.va.gov/VOCREHAB/docs/VRE-005\\_10\\_Tips\\_Veterans.pdf](https://www.benefits.va.gov/VOCREHAB/docs/VRE-005_10_Tips_Veterans.pdf)

## 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



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## Important Contact Information

### VTC Presiding Judge

The Honorable Mark A. Henry  
(USAFR RET 1989-2010)  
(409) 766 - 2244

### Veterans Court Coordinator

Matthew Parrish  
(ARMY 2002-2005)  
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### Veteran Volunteer Coordinator

Heather Melton  
(USCG 2006-2009)  
(409) 944-4437



### Veterans Service Officer

Jeff Gottlob  
(USMC RET 1980-2001)  
(409) 766 - 2448

### VTC Defense Attorney

Jared Robinson  
(ARNG +20 years)  
(409) 200 - 2412

### Assistant District Attorney

Patrick Gurski  
(ARMY 2008-2016)  
(409)-766-2282

### Veterans Justice Outreach Coordinator

Dr. Edward Henderson