

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.

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ALL RISE

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SUMMER 2017

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, Dana Rice. She is a March 2017 VTC graduate. She has spoken from her heart in the statement below. Dana is “walking the walk.”

Dear fellow Veteran's,

During this time in Veterans Treatment Court I have learned so much about the diversity of those effected by service related traumas. During my transformation I have had many road bumps and pit stops along the way. None of this would have been possible without the unwavering support from so many people in my life. Given the nature of my charges I did not expect for my support persons to stand by my side thorough all of this. The most important and dedicated person to my recovery has been my husband, Aaron Rice. There were times that I feared he would leave me and honestly, I would not have blamed him at all. He stood by my side without any judgment, seeing me through the arrest, charges, civilian court, extensive treatment which included an impatient stay in a center in San Antonio, which left him alone with our three young boys to care for on his own. I would not have been able to be as successful as I have been without his unconditional love. There have been many things I have learned throughout my tenure in VTC, the foremost is humility. Learning that I am not alone and all walks handle these experiences similar to the way I have. The feeling of brotherhood with the other members, the way we support each other, has warmed my heart and has shown me that I am not alone. No one should be defined by their lowest moment and we all have something to be proud of. Perseverance through one of the most trying times and working to better themselves and their families should be commended without the judgment on one poor choice of which we have suffered through the consequences of. We are strong, we are brave, and we are dedicated to make ourselves better and whole again.

~~ Petty Officer Dana Rice

Calendar of Events



2017 Scheduled court dates:

June 7, 2017	@ 1430
(Graduation) June 21, 2017	@ 1415
July 5, 2017	@ 1430
July 19, 2017	@ 1430
August 2, 2017	@ 1430
August 16, 2017	@ 1430
August 30, 2017	@ 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 :

So far this year, VTC has 15 Veterans participating in Galveston County Veterans Treatment Court (VTC) program. Two veterans, having completed all four program phases, graduated from VTC in March, 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 March 24th, was Monique Rodriguez LMSW. Monique was born and raised in Houston, Texas and joined the US Army at the older age of 28, to achieve her goal of becoming a first generation college graduate in her family. She served on both Active Duty status and as a Reservist stationed in North & South Carolinas, Maryland, and Houston, TX as a 25M Multimedia Illustrator/ Graphic Designer for 8 years. After leaving Active Duty service, she worked with Big Brothers Big Sisters for three years leading their military initiatives in providing child mentoring for military children in the Houston area. She completed her MSW internship training at the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center in Houston. She is a licensed Master of Social Worker in Texas. At home, she has a supportive husband, who also served in the US Army, and has two boys, ages 5 & 7 years old.



**Honorable
Mark A Henry**

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!

Veteran Self Care 101:



Post 9/11 GI BILL : It's your Future

- The Post- 9/11 GI Bill is an education benefit program for individuals who served on active duty after September 10, 2001.

Am I Eligible?

- You may be eligible if you served at least 90 aggregate days on active duty* after September 10, 2001, or were honorably discharged from active duty for a service-connected disability after serving 30 continuous days following September 10, 2001.

What will I receive?

- A Tuition and Fee payment that is paid to your school on your behalf.
- A Monthly Housing Allowance (MHA)** that is equal to: the basic allowance for housing (BAH) payable for the zip code of your school to a military E-5 with dependents for students.
- A Books and Supplies Stipend of up to \$1000 per year.

How many months of assistance can I receive and how long am I eligible?

- Generally, you may receive up to 36 months of entitlement under the Post-9/11 GI Bill. You will be eligible for benefits for 15 years from your last period of active duty of at least 90 consecutive days.

What kind of training can I take?

- You can use the Post-9/11 GI Bill at colleges, universities, trade schools, for on-the-job training, apprenticeships, small business's, and flight schools.

Can I transfer my entitlement to my dependents?

- You must be a member of the uniformed services to transfer your unused benefits to your spouse or dependent(s). Generally, you must agree to serve four more years when transferring benefits.

What is the Yellow Ribbon Program?

- The Post-9/11 GI Bill can cover all in-state tuition and fees at public degree granting schools, but may not cover all private degree granting schools and out-of-state tuition. The Yellow Ribbon Program provides additional support in those situations.
- VA matches each dollar of unmet charges the institution agrees to contribute, up to the total cost of the tuition and fees.

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.



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Important Contact Information

VTC Presiding Judge

The Honorable Mark A. Henry
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