

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

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 3



SPRING 2020

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, Michael K. He has spoken from his heart in the statement below. Michael is "walking the walk."

Dear fellow Veteran's,

During my time in the VTC program I have rediscovered my old self. After getting out of the Army I lost sight of what made me successful, alcohol had a huge role in that. My behaviors combined with not seeking help landed me in this program. I am so very glad it did! Initially when I entered VTC I was doing it to get the DUI charge off my record, and not really looking at all the benefits that the program had to offer, eventually that would catch up with me. After a relapse, I had some serious soul searching & deciding what was next in the VTC program. I came to realize that there's a good chance I would relapse again even before I finished the program, or graduate and end up with another DUI or even worse. I chose to receive help but I told myself that I would have to recommit to do what is expected of me 100%. When it got tough, I would find reasons to stay sober, not excuses to drink. There were times that I was tempted, but I went with reasons and not excuses. That worked for me. I began to take pride in my sobriety. I began to realize that there can be a happy & successful life for me without alcohol. The other thing this program has done is help me realize my symptoms with PTSD. Before I entered this program, I was avoidant about PTSD.

Now that I am graduating, I am getting the needed treatment to help me lead a successful life. Looking back on this entire process I am so very grateful that I did get pulled over, it was the necessary evil for me to come to terms with everything that I've been through, and how to overcome it all in a positive & healthy way.

~~~ Sergeant Michael K.

US. Army

# Calendar of Events

## 2019 Scheduled court dates:

- |               |        |
|---------------|--------|
| May 6, 2020   | @ 1430 |
| *May 20, 2020 | @ 1415 |
| June 3, 2020  | @ 1430 |
| June 17, 2020 | @ 1430 |
| July 1, 2020  | @ 1430 |
| July 15, 2020 | @ 1430 |
| July 29, 2020 | @ 1430 |

\* VTC tentative Graduation

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 :

Veterans Treatment Court (VTC) graduated 4 Veterans on March 11, 2020. Our graduation ceremony provides an opportunity for us to honor the hard work, determination and perseverance by Veteran participants, guaranteeing their success in the future. Our guest speaker was Tom Stroud Combat Medic, U.S. Army, who served honorably in Kosovo, Kuwait and Iraq from May 1999 until November 2003. Joining Tim was his canine companion, Colton! Tim is heavily involved in veteran service organizations and in October 2019, was inducted into the Impact a Hero Hall of Fame for his work in the veteran community and volunteer work during and after Hurricane Harvey 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. To date, Sixty-three (63) Veterans have graduated and successfully completed all four phases of the program. 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 accept, mentor and graduate Veterans who are 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.



**Honorable  
Mark A Henry**

**Our work and our mission continue!**

# COVID-19 Resources:



## VTC:

- ***GCVTC Emergency assistance program*** (all participants are eligible to receive various resources )  
Contact court coordinator at (409)-765-2679

## Galveston:

- **Center for Disease Control:** <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- **Galveston Health district:** <https://www.gchd.org/about-us/news-and-events/2019-novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov>

Galveston County Health District is offering free COVID-19 testing to anyone, regardless of symptoms, in Texas City and Galveston.

In order to better handle the high-volume calls coming through, our appointment call center hours are now:

### Texas City testing

8 a.m.-1 p.m.

Please call 409.978.4040.

Testing will be done at the Galveston County Health District, 9850 Emmett F. Lowry Expressway.

### Galveston testing

1:30-5 p.m.

Please call 409.978.4080.

Testing will be done at Fire Station No. 5, 5728 Ball St.

## Veterans Administration:

- **What should I do if I have an upcoming VA health appointment?**

For routine appointments, we recommend using telehealth (phone or video) for your scheduled appointment. You can also cancel and reschedule your appointment for a later date.

If you have a non-urgent elective procedure scheduled, we may contact you to cancel or reschedule for a later date. **Note:** Urgent and emergent procedures will continue as scheduled.

- **To change your in-person appointment to a telehealth visit:**

Use Secure Messaging through My HealtheVet to send a message to your provider.

Use the VA appointments tool to request a telehealth appointment online. (Available only for some types of health services.)

Once your provider schedules a telehealth appointment, you'll receive a VA Video Connect link (or another approved video meeting tool). Learn more about VA Video Connect

\*Veterans should call VA at 713-794-8985 if you have symptoms of fever, cough, sore throat, or shortness of breath before going to any of our VA facilities.



9850 Emmett F. Lowry Expressway

Texas City, TX 77591



## 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)  
(409) 765 - 2679

[Matthew.Parrish@co.galveston.tx.us](mailto:Matthew.Parrish@co.galveston.tx.us)

### MVPN Peer Services Coordinator

Glen McGraw  
(USAF 1993 – 2008)  
(409) 944-4437



### Veterans Service Officer

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

### VTC Defense Attorney

Amber Spurlock  
(USAF 2008— 2011)  
(281)-280-0100

### Grand Jury Chief

Paul Love  
409-766-2375

### Veterans Justice Outreach Coordinator

Dr. Edward Henderson  
(713)-503-0151