

# THE DENTON COUNTY VETERAN

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Denton County was established by the Texas legislature on April 11, 1846

County Judge Mary Horn, Commissioner Cynthia White, Precinct 1;  
Commissioner Sandy Jacobs, Precinct 2; Commissioner Bobbie Mitchell, Precinct 3;  
Commissioner Jim Carter, Precinct 4

**Serving the Veterans of Denton County**

# **Center for Minority Veterans**

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*"Helping All who served, be served by All"*

## **The CMV Vision**

The Center for Minority Veterans is the Department of Veterans Affairs model for inter-and intra-agency co-operation, to ensure all veterans receive equal service regardless of race, origin, religion, or gender. We are process improvement-oriented and both internal and external customer-centric. We assist VA in executing its mission in the most equitable, efficient and humane way possible. Dignity and an acceptable quality of life are the products we seek to deliver to ALL veterans no matter what their circumstance. We will grace our mission execution with gratitude to the men and women we now serve who in turn served our Nation so well.

## **The Center's Mission**

To assist Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to “keep the promise” by acting as facilitator, change agent, strategic thinker, honest broker and cheerleader to the men and women of VA in executing its MISSION. As internal consultants to the organization, we will facilitate VA’s ability to deliver services to veterans worldwide by approaching our mission with a “Veteran Comes First” philosophy based on a deep respect for the men and women who dedicated themselves to the defense of our Nation. We acknowledge the diversity of our veterans and profoundly value the strength and unique character this diversity has contributed to our great Nation.

## **Who We Serve**

First and foremost our staff is dedicated to all veterans regardless of race or ethnicity. As required by Congress in 1994, under Title 38 Public Law 103-446, CMV’s primary emphasis is on minority veterans. Specifically, these veterans include the following minority groups: Asian American, African American, Hispanic, Pacific Inlanders and Native American, including American Indians, Alaskan Natives and Native Hawaiians.

## **What We Do**

- Serve as principal adviser to the Secretary on the adoption and implementation of policies and programs affecting minority veterans.
- Promote the use of VA programs, benefits, and services for eligible minority veterans.
- Evaluate current programs and make recommendations on how VA can better serve minority veterans.
- Publicize the results of medical research that is of particular significance to minority veterans.
- Disseminate information and serve as a resource center for the exchange of information regarding innovative and successful programs that improve the services available to veterans who are minorities.
- Make recommendations to the Secretary, the Under Secretary for Health, the Under Secretary for Benefits and other Department officials for the establishment or improvement of programs in the Department for eligible minority veterans.

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<http://www1.va.gov/centerforminorityveterans/page.cfm?pg=63>

## **Center for Minority Veterans**

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### **How We Outreach to Minority**

CMV is charged with identifying barriers to service and health care access, as well as increasing local awareness of minority veteran related issues by developing strategies for improving minority participation in existing VA benefit programs. CMV utilizes three major outreach initiatives to ensure minority veterans concerns are addressed:

#### **Minority Veterans Program Coordinator (MVPC)**

The primary goal of this outreach initiative is to increase local awareness of minority veteran related issues and develop strategies for increasing their participation in existing VA benefit programs for eligible veterans. MVPCs are located at Regional Offices, Health Care Facilities and National Cemeteries and are responsible for:

- Promoting the use of VA benefits, programs, and services by minority veterans.
- Supporting and initiating activities that educate and sensitize internal staff to the unique needs of minority veterans.
- Targeting outreach efforts to minority veterans through community networks.
- Advocating on behalf of minority veterans by identifying gaps in services and make recommendations to improve service delivery within their facilities.

#### **Advisory Committee On Minority Veterans (ACMV)**

Appointed by the Secretary, The Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans (ACMV) was established under Public Law 103-446, sec 510, November 2, 1994 . The Committee consists of veterans who represent respective minority groups and are recognized authorities in fields pertinent to the needs of the minority group they embody. The Committee responsibilities include:

- Advising the Secretary and Congress on VA's administration of benefits and provisions of health care, benefits, and services to minority veterans.
- Providing an annual report to Congress outlining recommendations, concerns and observations on VA's delivery of services to minority veterans.
- Meeting with VA officials, veteran service organizations, and other stakeholders to assess the Department's efforts in providing benefits and outreach to Minority Veterans.
- Making periodic site visits and holding town hall meetings with veterans to address their concerns.

#### **Veteran Business and Economic Development Outreach**

A need exists to educate, inform and identify minority veteran business owners and potential business owners on the intricacies of contract and business procedures, processes and contracting opportunities available in both the government and private sectors. CMV has partnered with the VA's Office of Small and Disadvantage Business Utilization (OSDBU) to co-sponsor business outreach activities to target minority veterans, disabled minority veterans and current minority business owners. The goal is to address business related needs; identify opportunities and benefits, provide access to business opportunities and contracts within the federal government, and private sector. Specifically, we sponsor business and entrepreneurial outreach conferences for minority and disabled veterans to help them with the following:

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WELCOME TO  
VETERANS AND FAMILIES COMING HOME



## The Problem: Why is Veterans and Families Needed?

Too Little, Too Late? For many veterans, the war doesn't end with the last shot of battle. They carry their wounds, both physical and psychological, back home. Unfortunately, statistics continue to show that despite the best efforts of government and community based organizations, many veterans and their families are slipping through the cracks. Veterans and Families will mobilize returning soldiers, families, employers, and subject area experts to identify where the cracks are, and provide actionable data that helps families, providers, and employers successfully re-socialize veterans into relationships, parenting, and employment.

Increase in combat-stress disorders.. A recent New England Journal of Medicine study found that 15-17 percent of U.S. Iraq veterans were suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), a condition strongly correlated with high rates of depression, suicide, alcoholism and drug abuse.

"The Army's study found that only one-third of soldiers who wanted help actually got it." (Associated Press on Army's first-ever survey of mental health in a combat zone, March 26, 2004.) "The bad news is that the study underestimated the prevalence of what we are going to see down the road," said Dr. Matthew J. Friedman, a professor of psychiatry and pharmacology at Dartmouth Medical School who is executive director of the VA's National Center for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. Since the study was completed, Friedman said: "The complexion of the war has changed into a grueling counterinsurgency. And that may be very important in terms of the potential toxicity of this combat experience" (LA Times, 11/14/04).

"Last year, 1,100 troops who had fought in Iraq or Afghanistan came to VA clinics seeking help for symptoms of depression or post-traumatic stress; this year, the number grew tenfold. In all, 23% of Iraq veterans treated at VA facilities have been diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder," (LA Times, 11/14/04).

"Our findings indicate that...the subjects reported important barriers to receiving medical health services, particularly the perception of stigma among those most in need of such care." (New England Journal of Medicine, July 1, 2004)

"We cannot afford to waste any time in preparing to address this important matter. Our troops will be coming home to a system that, in many cases, is treading water just to meet current veterans' mental health needs," said Evans. "GAO's independent findings should send a message to us all that DoD and VA must improve their preparation and capacity to meet the increased demand in mental health services from returning troops and their families." (The Government Accountability Office (GAO) Sept 2004)

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**U.S. Department of Defense**  
**Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Public Affairs)**  
**News Release**

On the Web:

<http://www.defenselink.mil/cgi-bin/dlprint.cgi?http://www.defenselink.mil/releases/2005/nr20050407-2441.html>  
<http://www.dod.mil/faq/comment.html>

**DoD Announces Criteria for Two New Campaign Medals**

The Department of Defense announced today the creation of two campaign medals for Afghanistan and Iraq.

Presidential [Executive Order 13363](#) established the Afghanistan and Iraq campaign medals to recognize members, who made specific sacrifices and significant contributions in these areas of operation.

Service members authorized the [Afghanistan Campaign Medal](#) must have served in direct support of Operation Enduring Freedom on or after Oct. 24, 2001, to a future date to be determined by the Secretary of Defense or the cessation of the operation. The area of eligibility encompasses all land areas of the country of Afghanistan and all air spaces above the land.

Those authorized the [Iraq Campaign Medal](#) must have served in direct support of Operation Iraqi Freedom on or after March 19, 2003, to a future date to be determined by the Secretary of Defense or the cessation of the operation. The area of eligibility encompasses all land area of the country of Iraq, and the contiguous water area out to 12 nautical miles, and all air spaces above the land area of Iraq and above the contiguous water area out to 12 nautical miles.

Service members must have been assigned, attached or mobilized to units operating in these areas of eligibility for 30 consecutive days or for 60 non-consecutive days or meet one of the following criteria:

- Be engaged in combat during an armed engagement, regardless of the time in the area of eligibility; or
- While participating in an operation or on official duties, is wounded or injured and requires medical evacuation from the area of eligibility; or
- While participating as a regularly assigned air crewmember flying sorties into, out of, within or over the area of eligibility in direct support of the military operations; each day of operations counts as one day of eligibility.

Service members qualified for the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal by reasons of service between Oct. 24, 2001, and April 30, 2005, in an area for which the Afghanistan Campaign Medal was subsequently authorized and between March 19, 2003, and Feb. 28, 2005, in an area for which the Iraq Campaign Medal was subsequently authorized, shall remain qualified for that medal.

Upon application, any such service member may be awarded the Afghanistan or Iraq Campaign Medal in lieu of the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal for such service. No service member shall be entitled to all three medals for the same act, achievement or period of service.

The awarding authority for the Afghanistan and Iraq campaign medals shall be the prescribed by the member's respective military service regulations. Both medals may be awarded posthumously.

Only one award of the Afghanistan Campaign Medal and Iraq Campaign Medal may be authorized for any individual. Service stars are not prescribed.

Individuals may receive both the medals if they meet the requirement of both awards; however, the qualifying period of service used to establish eligibility for one award cannot be used to justify eligibility for the other.

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## U.S. Military Flight Information and Assistance

American servicemen and women will receive brief vacations from the war in Iraq under the rest and relaxation (R&R) program. DFW Airport has assisted thousands of men and women since the flights first started last November.

DFW Airport welcomes home these members of the armed forces as they return from duty. DFW wishes all of them a well-deserved break from military action to share time with family and friends, and would also like to thank them for the sacrifices they have made for us all.

Click on the links below for service member support, family member R&R support and community R&R support information.

[Service Members Support](#)

[Family Members R&R Support](#)

[Community R&R Support](#)

## Coalition to Salute America's Heroes

<http://saluteheroes.org/redesign/>

### HOMES FOR WOUNDED HEROES

Imagine the huge emotional boost, the enhanced ability to be less physically dependent on others and the far greater financial security that a nearly cost-free, disability-adapted new or renovated home would bring to a wheelchair-bound or blind young veteran of the War on Terror. Lower, more readily accessible kitchen and bathroom countertops, wider hallways, exterior access ramps and the like will all serve to ease the daily burdens and personal struggles that forever will be part of the lives of our wheelchair-bound and blind veterans. That's why the Coalition is initiating its "Homes for Wounded War Heroes Fund" to ensure our ability to provide a nearly cost-free, disability-adapted new or, if preferred, renovated home to every wheelchair-bound or blind War on Terror veteran that wants one.

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## Coalition to Salute America's Heroes

<http://saluteheroes.org/redesign/>

### HOMES FOR WOUNDED HEROES

#### Here's how the program works:

Let's assume the average new home has a \$300,000 market value and is financed with a VA guaranteed 30-year loan. The veteran will be asked to assume responsibility for \$50,000 of the loan, which would normally require a principal and interest payment of about \$6.00 a month per \$1,000 of loan or a total of \$300 a month. Service-connected disabled veterans also may apply for a VA grant program that provides up to \$50,000 to specially adapt a home. Additionally, we expect to secure at least \$50,000 worth of gifts-in-kind from home materials suppliers and manufacturers, who will receive a great deal of publicity for their cooperation. This leaves a remaining mortgage liability of \$150,000 with a monthly payment of approximately \$900.

The "Homes for Wounded War Heroes Fund" will be used to cover these monthly payments until the \$150,000 in principal is paid on the loan. We expect this will be achieved within five years if not sooner. The Coalition will ask organizations and individuals to themselves guarantee the \$900 monthly loan payment until the \$150,000 in principal is paid. The guarantor could, if it so wished, initiate its own effort to collect sufficient donations to pay off its \$150,000 guarantee – from friends, employees, customers, vendors or whomever.

Beyond providing the home itself, the Coalition will seek corporate sponsors to compensate desiring and qualifying wheelchair-bound or blind home recipients to become "Ambassadors" to their own and surrounding communities. The "Ambassadors" would tell the Coalition's story and seek support for all severely wounded War on Terror veterans from schools, service clubs, churches, companies, etc. – giving them an opportunity to play a productive and gratifying role in their community. The cost to sponsor an "Ambassador" would be approximately \$25,000 annually plus vehicle expenses.

We believe "Homes for Wounded War Heroes" is not only just what the doctor ordered for these forever-to-be-challenged War on Terror veterans, but the very least we can all do to show our lasting gratitude and support.

For more information about how you can help a wheelchair-bound or blind hero in or closest to your area, please [email us](mailto:info@saluteheroes.org) or call (703) 556-4376.

**Show Your Pride For Troops!**



**Order Your Hero Band Today**

<http://saluteheroes.org/redesign/>

**For Local Help**

Denton County Veterans Service Office  
306 N. Loop 288, Suite 146  
Denton, TX 76209  
940-349-2950  
Fax: 940-349-2951  
Monday through Friday  
8:00 am to noon  
1:00 pm to 5:00 pm



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- Understanding the processes involved for business start-ups, financing and government contracting.
- Gaining basic working knowledge of contracting, SDB, Hub Zone, 8A certifications, marketing and business legal structures.
- Developing immediate contracts and emphasizing the importance of networking, communication and relationship building.

**Minority Veteran Program Coordinators (Veterans Health Administration)**

<http://www1.va.gov/centerforminorityveterans/page.cfm?pg=67>

**Minority Veterans Program Coordinator (Veterans Benefit Administration) A-W**

<http://www1.va.gov/centerforminorityveterans/page.cfm?pg=60>

**Minority Veterans Program Coordinators ( National Cemetery Administrations) K-W**

<http://www1.va.gov/centerforminorityveterans/page.cfm?pg=68>

## **U.S. Department of Defense**

The Afghanistan Campaign Medal shall be positioned below the Kosovo Campaign Medal and above the Iraq Campaign Medal. The Iraq Campaign Medal shall be positioned below the Afghanistan Campaign Medal and above the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal.

Each military department will prescribe appropriate regulations for processing, awarding and wearing the medals and ribbons for their service members, to include application procedures for veterans, retirees and next-of-kin.

<http://www.defenselink.mil/releases/2005/nr20050407-2441.html>

