



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

County Judge Mary Horn, Commissioner Cynthia White, Precinct 1;  
Commissioner Ron Merchant, Precinct 2; Commissioner Bobbie Mitchell, Precinct 3;  
Commissioner Andy Eads, Precinct 4

**Serving the Veterans of Denton County**



### **Suicide Prevention Awareness**

Suicide is the 11th most frequent cause of death in the US: someone dies from suicide every 16 minutes. Suicidal ideas and attempts to harm oneself are the result of problems that may seem like they can't be fixed. Together, Vet Centers and VA Medical Centers stand ready to reach out and help veterans at risk for suicide. Seek professional help...Call the toll-free National Suicide Prevention hotline and indicate you are a veteran. You'll be immediately connected to VA suicide prevention and mental health professionals. We can help-- If you feel you are in Crisis--Call the Suicide hotline (1-800-273-TALK), your local VA Medical Center (link to Find a facility) or Vet Center (link to Vet Center) today!

### **Suicide is not the answer**

Are you, or someone you love, at risk of suicide? Get help if you notice any of the following:

- Talking about wanting to hurt or kill oneself
- Trying to get pills, guns, or other ways to harm oneself
- Talking or writing about death, dying, or suicide
- Hopelessness
- Rage, uncontrolled anger, seeking revenge
- Acting in a reckless or risky way

- Feeling trapped, like there's no way out
- Saying or feeling there's no reason for living

### **Returning from War**

The newest patients to the VA have been returning combat soldiers, men and women who served in Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. (OEF/OIF). In a recent study, Dr. Karen Seal and colleagues at the San Francisco Veterans Affairs Medical Center and USC, reviewed records for over 100,000 veterans, who separated from active duty between 2001-2005 and sought care from VA medical facilities. The most common combination of diagnoses found was post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and depression. Young soldiers were three times as likely as those over 40 to be diagnosed with PTSD and/or another mental health disorder. Most mental health problems were first identified during visits with primary care doctors, not with mental health professionals.

Getting help early can prevent PTSD and other problems from becoming chronic. VA is expanding counseling and mental health services to meet the needs of the returning veterans and provide early treatment. For more information on PTSD and its treatment, please visit the [National Center for PTSD](#).

## **PATRIOT DAY—SEPTEMBER 11TH**

In the [United States](#), **Patriot Day** occurs on [September 11](#) of each year, designated in memory of the nearly [three thousand](#) who died in the [September 11, 2001 attacks](#). However, the name does not seem to have yet caught on in the American vernacular; most people still refer to the day as "September 11th", "Nine-Eleven (9/11)", or some variation thereof.

[U.S. House](#) Joint Resolution 71 was approved by a vote of 407-0 on [October 25, 2001](#). It requested that [the President](#) designate [September 11](#) of each year as "Patriot Day." President [George W. Bush](#) signed the resolution into law on [December 18, 2001](#) (as [Public Law 107-89](#)). It is a discretionary day of remembrance.

Initially, the day was called the [National Day of Prayer and Remembrance for the Victims Of the Terrorist Attacks](#). On [September 4, 2002](#), President Bush used his authority created by the resolution and proclaimed [September 11, 2002](#) as Patriot Day. He has continued to make similar declarations every year since.

(continued on page 5)



### **Application for Merchant Marine Veteran Status DD214**

Mariners in “ocean-going service” during World War II have Veteran Status. They may be entitled to a gravestone, flag for their coffin, and burial in a National Cemetery. Check with the Veterans Administration for medical and other benefits. Mariner or survivor should complete the following steps and mail to the proper address:

1. Complete Form DD2168. Supply as much information as possible. You can download Application [DD Form 2168](#) here, or you can use old versions of the

form. The address on the back of the form is not valid for mariners, so is not included there.

2. Include photocopies of discharges, identification, and other supporting documents.
3. You will need the mariner’s signature or a certified death certificate. The Coast Guard will issue documents for a person listed as an official casualty without a death certificate.
4. No fee required if service was between December 7, 1941 and August 14, 1945.
5. Include check or money order for \$30 payable to US Treasury if seeking veteran status for the period from August 15, 1945 through December 31, 1946.

More information:

<http://www.uscg.mil/hq/g-m/nmc/wwiimm.htm>

### **CFR 38 BOOK B**

§3.7 Individuals and groups considered to have **performed active military, naval, or air service**

(x) *Active military service certified as such under section 401 of Pub. L. 95-202.* Such service if certified by the Secretary of Defense as active military service and if a discharge under honorable conditions is issued by the Secretary. The effective dates for an award based upon such service shall be as provided by §3.400(z) and 38 U.S.C. 5110, except that in no event shall such an award be made effective earlier than November 23, 1977. Service in the following groups has been certified as active military service.

(15) American Merchant Marine in Oceangoing Service during the Period of Armed Conflict, December 7, 1941 to August 15, 1945

#### **Where to Mail Application:**

##### **U.S. Merchant Marine Veteran Status**

**(the address on the back of the DD2168 is no longer valid)**

WWII Merchant Mariner Qualification  
Wachovia QLP Wholesale-NC 0810  
Lockbox#70960  
1525 West WT Harris BLVD  
Charlotte, NC 28262

U.S. Army Transport Service Veteran Status:

Commander, Army Reserve Component  
ARPERSCOM-PSV-V  
9700 Page Ave.  
St. Louis, MO 63132-5200

**The veteran or his immediate next-of-kin may be able to receive a [duplicate of the DD214 via the Internet](#)**



Until July 18, 1979, no commemoration was held to honor America's POW/MIAs, those returned and those still missing and unaccounted for from our nation's wars. That first year, resolutions were passed in the Congress and the national ceremony was held at the National Cathedral, Washington, D.C. The Missing Man formation was flown by the 1st Tactical Squadron, Langley AFB, Virginia. The Veterans Administration published a poster including only the letters "POW/MIA" and that format was continued until 1982, when a black and white drawing of a POW in harsh captivity was used to convey the urgency of situation and the priority that President Ronald Reagan assigned to achieving the fullest possible accounting for Americans still missing from the Vietnam War. National POW/MIA Recognition Day legislation was introduced yearly, until 1995 when it was deemed by Congress that legislation designating special commemorative days would no longer be considered by Congress. The President now signs a proclamation each year. In the early years, the date was routinely set in close proximity to the League's annual meetings. In the mid-1980's, the American Ex-POWs decided that they wished to see the date established as April 9th, the date during World War II when the largest number of Americans were captured. As a result, legislation urged by the American Ex-POWs was passed covering two years, July 20, 1984 and April 9, 1985, as the commemoration dates.

<b>For Local Help</b>	940-349-2950
Denton County Veterans Service Office	Fax: 940-349-2951
1505 E. McKinney St. #183	Monday through Friday
Denton, TX 76209	8:00 AM to Noon
	1:00 PM to 5:00 PM



### DID YOU KNOW CORNER

- September 2 - V-J Day—Japan signed formal surrender, 1945
- September 3 - Labor Day is celebrated as a legal holiday for the first time, 1894  
Treaty of Paris ended the Revolutionary War, 1783
- September 9 - Operation Avalanche - Allies land at Salerno, Italy, 1943  
“The United Colonies” is renamed the “United States” by the Continental Congress, 1776
- September 11 - Patriot Day - By a joint resolution approved December 18, 2001, the Congress has designated September 11 of each year as “Patriot Day”.
- September 18 - U. S. Air Force established, 1947
- September 21 - POW/MIA Recognition Day (National, US) - Observed each year on the third Friday of September. <http://www.pow-miafamilies.org/recogday.html>
- September 26 - Thomas Jefferson becomes the first US Secretary of State—1789
- September 29 - U. S. Army established, 1789  
VFW established, 1899

### PATRIOT DAY

On this day, the President directs that the [flag of the United States](#) be flown at half-staff and displayed from individual American homes, at the White House, and on all U.S. government buildings and establishments, home and abroad. The President also asks Americans to observe a moment of silence beginning at 8:46 A.M. (Eastern Daylight Time) marking the first plane crash on [Sept. 11, 2001](#). Some countries have also shared Patriot Day with the U.S. as well. For example, in Canada, the prime minister orders [flags](#) on the [Peace Tower](#) (in Ottawa on [Parliament Hill](#)) and on all Canadian diplomatic missions in the U.S be flown at half-staff.

