



Superior Court of California

COUNTY OF VENTURA
Hall of Justice
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

Michael D. Planet
Executive Officer/Clerk
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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VETERANS COURT TO HOLD ITS FIFTH ANNUAL RECOGNITION CEREMONY

The Ventura County Veterans Treatment Court will hold its fifth annual Recognition Ceremony on Friday, November 9, 2018, at 1:30 p.m. in Courtroom 22 of the Hall of Justice. The event is open to the public and the media. All current participants and past graduates of the program are invited to attend.

During the event, a special dedication ceremony will be held to rename Veterans Court after Retired Judge Colleen Toy White. Judge White was a key member of the Veterans Court team that led to the program's inception in 2010.

"Judge White used her personal courage, compassion and heart to make our Veterans Court into the success it is today," stated Gold Coast Veterans Foundation Chairman Ronald Greenwood. "Judge White is the soul and conscience of the Veterans Court. Every Veterans Court graduate is the beneficiary of her service and commitment."

Veterans Court hears criminal cases involving veterans who may be suffering physical and/or psychological trauma such as post traumatic stress disorders or substance issues, as a result of his or her military service. Depending on the nature of the criminal case, participants found to be eligible and suitable may be entitled to being placed on a diversion program that can result in the case being dismissed, or eligible for a special consideration based on their past military service at time of sentencing. Participants are subject to supervision by the probation department, must participate and complete a treatment plan, along with periodic court reviews.

Services include medically supervised care, counseling, drug and alcohol treatment, and veteran peer group support. An assigned Veterans Administration staff member is present in court to assist every participant with accessing appropriate treatment programs and finding housing and job placement.

At the time it was established, Ventura County's Veterans Court was the 42nd such program in the nation. There are now 265 Veterans Courts throughout the United States, including 30 in California.

The Veterans Court calendar is heard every Thursday at 2:00 p.m. in Courtroom 37 of the Hall of Justice in Ventura. Eligible veterans can request that their case be assigned to Veterans Court at any stage of their criminal proceedings to determine if the case is eligible and/or suitable for the program.

Veterans Court was created and continues as a collaborative effort of the Ventura Superior Court, the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Ventura County Military Collaborative and the County of Ventura Offices of the District Attorney, Public Defender, and Probation Agency. The effort to establish a Veterans Court in Ventura County was initiated by the Gold Coast Veterans Foundation in 2010.

The court wishes to acknowledge the Martin V. & Martha K. Smith Foundation, the Ventura County Community Foundation, and the Gold Coast Veterans Foundation for their generous funding and support of this program.

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