



Superior Court of California

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

Michael D. Planet
Executive Officer/Clerk
and Jury Commissioner

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: December 13, 2013

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VETERANS INTERVENTION COURT TO CELEBRATE ITS FIRST GRADUATION CEREMONY

The judges of the Ventura Superior Court are pleased to announce that on Thursday, December 19, 2013 at 1:30 p.m. in Courtroom 37, eight veterans will graduate from the Ventura County Veterans Intervention Court; a program that takes veteran participants with criminal convictions and places them on a specialized track of treatment, rather than incarceration. This is the Court's first graduation ceremony. The Ventura County Veteran's Treatment Court began hearing cases involving veterans of the United States Military as a pilot project in November 2010.

The Ventura Superior Court Veterans Intervention Program is a cooperative effort of the Ventura Superior Court, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and the County of Ventura Offices of the District Attorney, Public Defender and Probation Agency to connect veterans to treatment services before they return to their community. Under California *Penal Code* 1170.9, the Ventura Veterans Intervention Court is a criminal court that provides veterans who face charges with the option to participate in treatment and services provided by the Veterans Administration that include mental health, drug and alcohol treatment, rehabilitation and other life skills. The Ventura Superior Court also wishes to acknowledge Kim Evans, Ventura County Veterans Court Liaison and Director of Ventura County Military Collaborative for her coordination role to bring together the local justice, veteran, and community-based services for veterans. The court also recognizes the Martin V. & Martha K. Smith Foundation, Ventura County Community Foundation, and Gold Coast Veterans Foundation for their generous funding and support of this program.

The court is conducted under the direction of Judge Colleen Toy White, who spearheaded this program. Judge White stated, "Veterans Intervention Court presents an opportunity for us to provide services and support to the men and women who have served in the military and who are suffering as a result of their sacrifice to this country. We are proud to participate in this effort to provide these veterans with accountability and supervision to ensure they embrace treatment, but the real rewards, of course, are reuniting families and restoring lives.

The Ventura County Veterans Intervention Court is an ongoing program with hearings every Thursday at 2 p.m. in Courtroom 37 at the Ventura Superior Court. The ceremony is open to the public.

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