



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: November 1, 2016

Contact:
Hon. Judge Colleen Toy White
(805) 289-8717

VETERANS COURT TO HOLD ITS FOURTH ANNUAL GRADUATION CEREMONY

The Ventura County Veterans Treatment Court will hold its fourth annual Graduation and Recognition Ceremony on Thursday, November 10, 2016, at 1:30 p.m. in Courtroom 22 of the Hall of Justice. Twenty-three veterans are scheduled to graduate during the ceremony.

This special court session will be led by Judge Colleen Toy White and Presiding Judge Donald Coleman. The event is open to the public and the media. All past Veterans Treatment Court graduates are invited to attend.

Veterans Treatment Court hears criminal cases involving honorably discharged veterans who suffer from the effects of substance abuse or combat-related psychological injuries. After a plea of guilty or no contest, it places them on a specialized track of treatment, rather than incarceration. Participants must complete their treatment plan to receive a reduced overall sentence on their current case.

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.

There are currently 12 Veterans Treatment Courts in California. The program in Ventura County was one of the earliest, beginning as a pilot project in November

2010. It was spearheaded by Judge Colleen Toy White, who has continued to hear the weekly calendar since the program's inception.

The Ventura County Veterans Treatment Court is 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 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.

The Ventura County Veterans Treatment 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 Treatment Court at the time of arraignment or through their attorney.

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