



TEXAS VETERANS COMMISSION

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Press Release

For Immediate Release: November 13, 2012

Release No. 20121113-01

Texas Veterans Commission hosts first "Beating the VA Backlog" event in Houston

HOUSTON - On Saturday, November 17, the Texas Veterans Commission (TVC) is hosting the first "Beating the VA Backlog" event in order to provide direct, one-on-one assistance to Texas Veterans with disability claims currently pending with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). This event will take place at the Sheraton Brookhollow in Houston on November 17, 2012 from 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Members from the TVC State Strike Force Teams, as well as TVC Claims Counselors, will be on hand to provide direct and specific assistance to Veterans, family members, and survivors, including:

- Checking the status of pending claims
- Identifying all additional development required for claims processing
- Collecting evidence for cases identified as missing documentation

"Since the TVC State Strike Force Teams were authorized by the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and Speaker of the House two months ago, we have already helped more than 6,900 Veterans whose claims were stuck in the VA backlog and provided over 2,300 cases to the VA for action," said Thomas Palladino, TVC Executive Director. "This 'Beating the VA Backlog' event is the first of several events that the TVC looks forward to holding around the state as we try to help Texas Veterans get the benefits they deserve."

With the backlog of VA disability claims in Texas consisting of over 64,700 pending claims, Veterans everywhere are experiencing extensive delays in receiving the benefits that are owed to them in service to their country. Two State Strike Force Teams consisting of eight claims counselors each are located at the two VA Regional Offices in Houston and Waco. These teams take claims that are backlogged and ensure that the claims have all information and evidence necessary for the VA to immediately process the claim. Additionally, TVC Fully Developed Claims Teams are located at the VA Regional Offices and in TVC offices throughout the state in order to improve access and assist Veterans in filing fully developed claims, which are processed faster by the VA.

This event is open to all Veterans, their families, and survivors and all services, free of charge. Preregistering will give staff an opportunity to research your claim prior to the event and provide you with the ability to select an appointment time. Walk-ins are allowed on a first-come, first-served basis as time allows. For details regarding this event, contact information and registration, please visit <http://www.tvc.texas.gov/tvc/Beating-the-VA-Backlog.aspx>

Texas Veterans Commission

The mission of the Texas Veterans Commission is to advocate for and provide superior service to Veterans and their families in the areas of disability claims assistance, employment services, education benefits and grant funding. Over 200 skilled counselors in 75 cities provide one-on-one guidance to Veterans and their families to ensure they receive all of the benefits to which they are entitled. For more information about the Texas Veterans Commission services click here: <http://www.tvc.texas.gov/Home.aspx>.

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