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TEXAS VETERANS COMMISSION

November 11, 2015

Dear fellow Texans:

Since 1927, the Texas Veterans Commission has been leading the way in Veterans services.

We were there 70 years ago after World War II to assist the thousands of servicemembers who returned to Texas after fighting in Europe, Africa and Asia. We were there 65 years ago, when the Korean War began, to help those who were fortunate enough to make it home after serving their country in defense of freedom.

The armistice which ended World War I occurred at 11 a.m. on Nov. 11, 1918, ending hostilities. In 1919, President Wilson designated November 11th as Armistice Day to honor the Veterans who fought in the Great War.

The Texas Veterans Commission was created in 1927 to advocate for those Veterans and help secure their benefits.

We were there 50 years ago, when the Vietnam War began, guiding our Veterans to the benefits they earned while fighting in conflicts overseas. We were there 25 years ago, following Operation Desert Shield in Iraq, advising our brothers and sisters in arms on how to receive their earned benefits.

We are still here more than 14 years later for the men and women who deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

For almost nine decades, the Texas Veterans Commission has progressively provided more support for the now 1.7 million Veterans in Texas. Our services have modernized and evolved as the needs of our Veterans also evolved. Our responsibility to Veterans throughout the state will always be our top priority.

Making Veterans a top priority for Texans could not have happened without every Texan's support, which speaks of the high caliber of individuals who make up our great state.

President Abraham Lincoln once said, "Honor to the Soldier, and Sailor everywhere, who bravely bears his country's cause. Honor also to the citizen who cares for his brother in the field, and serves, as he best can, the same cause."

We continue that tradition in Texas and at the Texas Veterans Commission. Our traditional services providing Veterans with Claims assistance, Education benefits and Employment Assistance remain steadfast. With recent legislation, our Women Veterans Program, Health Care Advocacy Program and Military Veteran Peer Network (MVPN) are signs of our commitment to all Veterans and their families.

Veterans Day is a reminder that there are millions of men and women who have worn the uniform. Some signed up in the voluntary force and some were drafted during times of crisis. To recognize them for one day is the least we can all do and I hope that all Texans thank a Veteran today and by doing so saying, "we salute you."

Sincerely,

Eliseo "Al" Cantu
Chairman, Texas Veterans Commission