



**COMAL COUNTY, TEXAS
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE**

Contact:

Judge Charles Stephens, County Court-at-Law No. 2
830.221.1180
evansa@co.comal.tx.us

Comal County to introduce court program focused on veterans

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, AUGUST 13, 2015:

NEW BRAUNFELS — The Comal County Commissioners Court unanimously approved on Thursday the creation of a new misdemeanor court program focused on helping struggling veterans receive the support they need.

The Veterans Treatment Court will bring together court, probation, mental health and veterans officials to assess the needs of veterans or active-duty service members who are charged with misdemeanor offenses.

The program will be led by Charles Stephens, judge for County Court-at-Law No. 2, and can function either as a pretrial diversion to avoid conviction, a condition of deferred adjudication or as a condition of probation after conviction.

“These men and women have risked their lives on our behalf, and many of them return home with physical and mental disabilities that make it difficult for them to adjust,” Stephens said. “The goal is to rehabilitate them and help them become productive members of society rather than simply putting them in jail.”

The specifics of the program will vary based on the needs of each defendant, Stephens said. However, each veteran will receive a veteran mentor to help shepherd them through the program. Those interested in becoming mentors are encouraged to email Stephens’ office, evansa@co.comal.tx.us, for more information.

The veterans program joins similar specialized courts in Comal County focused on offenders addicted to drugs and/or alcohol, and second-time DWI offenders.

###

Comal County Public Information Office | Paul Anthony, Public Information Officer
830.221.1110 | paul.anthony@co.comal.tx.us | www.mycomalcounty.com