



VETERANS AFFAIRS

Welcome to the Fort Worth Veterans Affairs Newsletter

The Fort Worth Veterans Affairs Newsletter is designed to support and honor our veterans and their families. This newsletter will provide essential information and updates on the programs and services available to our veteran community.



Veterans, manage your care on the go with the VA Health and Benefits App. Refill prescriptions, message your care team, and check your benefits anytime, anywhere, all from your smartphone. With the app, you can quickly send a secure message to your VA care team, just like using your favorite social media app.

Download the app here: [VA Health and Benefits App](#)

City of Fort Worth Programs for Veterans

This issue newsletter will spotlight two city programs geared towards veterans and their families.

Veteran-Owned Businesses: Seeking Contracting & Sub-Contracting Opportunities in Fort Worth!

Danielle Jackson, with the City of Fort Worth Diversity & Inclusion Department, can help veteran-owned businesses secure valuable contracts and sub-contracting opportunities.

Contact Danielle:

- **Phone:** 817-392-2675
- **Email:** Danielle.Jackson@fortworthtexas.gov

Take the first step toward success today!

Veterans: Ready to Launch Your Small Business! Dexter Sykes, Small Business Specialist with the City of Fort Worth Economic Development, offers expert guidance and resources to help you start your business.

Contact Dexter:

- **Phone:** 817-392-2647
- **Email:** Dexter.Sykes@fortworthtexas.gov

Also, check out the [Guide to Starting a Business](#) for a step-by-step approach.

Fort Worth Veterans Affairs Office in Action

Congratulations to the 2024 Fort Worth Distinguished Service to Veterans Award Recipients: Airpower Foundation & Christine Willsen! Thank you for your dedication and exceptional service to the community!

Congratulations, 2024 Distinguished Service to Veterans Award Recipients!



Airpower Foundation



Christine Willsen

City Manager Jay Chapa and City Councilwoman Elizabeth Beck joined the award ceremony to congratulate Airpower Foundation, Chairwoman Wanda Cox, Executive Director Melissa Dabi, and Christine Willsen for their outstanding contributions to veterans.

[Click here: 2024 Fort Worth Distinguished Service to Veterans Award](#)

Veteran Events in Our Area

March 17th - Fort Worth VA Mobile Food Distribution-8am-10am @ FW VA Outpatient Clinic- 2201 SE Loop 820, Fort Worth. No registration needed.

March 21st -Vet-Co Farewell-5:30-7:30pm@ American Legion Post 516 @ 6801 Manhattan Blvd, Fort Worth. Snacks and non-alcoholic beverages provided, and dinner will be for sale. No registration needed.

March 22nd - National Medal of Honor Museum Grand Opening @ 1717 East Randol Mill Road Suite 301, Arlington, [RSVP here](#).

March 22nd - Travis Manion Foundation-Little Things, Big Impact donation drive. Join Travis Manion Foundation, the North Dallas Chapter, and Lancaster ISD as we provide essential resources to students and families! We're collecting travel-sized toiletries such as shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, and body wipes. You can donate or volunteer on the day of, [RSVP here](#).

March 28th - Regional Fatherhood Conference @ TCC South Campus 7:30am-3:30pm, [RSVP here](#).

RECURRING EVENTS

- [Boots to Business/ReBoot Entrepreneurship Workshops](#)
- [Cohen Clinic](#)
- [Center for Transforming Lives](#)
- [Dept. of Veterans Affairs North Texas](#)
- [Marriage Management](#)
- [PTSD Foundation of America – Peer Group](#) - Every Thursday at Maverick Harley Davidson, 6 pm - 8 pm. [Register here](#)
- [Stop One](#) For upcoming mental health seminars, webinars, training, and resources.
- [Veteran Spouse Network \(VSN\)](#) – Open to current/former spouses of military personnel, veterans, and family members. Suicide prevention training available. For the virtual event calendar, [click here](#). For questions, contact Ashley Craig at 832-247-5137.
- [Warrior Spirit Project](#)- Yoga and more.

City Employee Veteran Spotlight: Michael Rodriguez

City Department

"I am the Outreach District Director for District 4 under Councilman Charles Lauersdorf. My role within the City of Fort Worth is to plan community events and work alongside the District 4 team to serve our community in any way possible. I serve as a link between our residents and their Municipal Government."

Military Service

United States Marine Corp 2021 -Present

Military Occupational Specialties

"I am a Corporal and Machine Gun Team Leader in the USMCR, 1/23, B Co. I have served with Bravo Company for 4 years in a Reserve capacity, and I deployed with my unit from 2021-2022 in a Force Protection capacity during Operation Allies Welcome. I still serve the USMC in the Reserves while working for the City of Fort Worth."



Advice for Other Veterans

“Personally, I have relied on my faith in God and my relationship with my family to help me transition in and out of the Military world. I could not do it alone. If I were to give advice, which I am hesitant to do since I am still young and learning more every day, I would say to actively practice humility within professional and civilian spaces, and make a perpetual, conscious effort to learn and grow in whatever field you may find yourself in. Maintaining a service-oriented mindset has been the best way for me to adjust to the wide range of experiences I have had in my life while providing value to the world around me.”

Please contact the Fort Worth Veterans Affairs Office if you have any veteran-related questions at veterans@fortworthtexas.gov