

VETERANS AFFAIRS

Welcome to the Fort Worth Veterans Affairs Newsletter

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

2025 VA News- Maximizing benefits, accessing free assistance, and avoiding scams



As tax season approaches, many Veterans begin gathering their necessary financial documents and consulting with tax professionals. VA wants Veterans to know they may qualify for special tax breaks and free assistance programs to help them navigate the filing process and maximize their returns. For more details click here.

City of Fort Worth Programs for Veterans

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

Fort Worth Veterans Resources Website

A comprehensive breakdown of key resources is available for veterans, offering assistance in healthcare, housing, job training, and more community support programs. Veterans in need of assistance are encouraged to visit FortWorthTexas.gov/Veterans for resources on:

- Business opportunities
- Employment
- Filing VA claims
- Healthcare
- Financial assistance
- And more

For further inquiries, email: Veterans@FortWorthTexas.gov

Please contact (817)-392-7703 for more information.

P.A.W.S. for Patriots (P4P)

<u>P.A.W.S.</u> for <u>Patriots (P4P)</u> is a program designed to support veterans and active service members by offering hands-on opportunities in animal welfare. It provides career pathways, job training, and volunteer opportunities, all centered around the profound emotional bond between humans and animals. Veterans benefit from the therapeutic effects of volunteering with shelter animals, promoting emotional healing, reducing stress, and alleviating anxiety. These interactions not only enhance veterans' well-being but also help care for animals in need, offering a sense of purpose and fulfillment.



In addition to emotional benefits, P4P focuses on skill-building, allowing veterans to gain valuable work experience while caring for, training, and socializing animals. This program is vital for supporting mental health recovery while also improving the lives of the animals they serve. Veterans can participate in various upcoming programs, such as:

- Resource Hub
- Foster Volunteer Program
- Ruck & Roll | Doggy Day Out Program
- Volunteer Program
- Boot Camp Program
- Return to Work Program

For more details, visit the volunteer page or contact (817) 392-1924 or fwacvolunteers@fortworthtexas.gov.



Fort Worth Veterans Affairs Office in Action

The Fort Worth Veterans Affairs Office recently teamed up with Human Resources, Neighborhood Services, the Fort Worth Library, and Code Compliance for the Fort Worth Veterans Initiative at the Tarrant County Salutes Veterans event at Will Rogers Memorial Center. This collaboration provided over 1,000 veterans with valuable resources, including employment opportunities, housing assistance, and educational support, all aimed at helping local veterans thrive in their post-service lives.



Veteran Events in Our Area

Feb. 17 – Entrepreneur Session with Center for Transforming Lives (Fort Worth Residents). Via Zoom. 6:00 p.m. Register here.

Feb. 23 – <u>Cowtown Half Marathon</u>. The Wear Blue Tribute Mile hosted by The Mission Continues.

Volunteer to display 175 posters along a mile of the route and hold full-sized American Flags as athletes pass by. 6:00 a.m. -10:00 am, Tarrant County Court, 100 W Weatherford St, Fort Worth Register here to participate.

RECURRING EVENTS

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

Congratulations to Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth



NAS JRB Fort Worth has been awarded the 2024/2025 Installation Excellence Award for outstanding performance and contributions to military readiness. This honor is part of the Navy's annual program, recognizing top installations for aligning with strategic goals set by the Office of the Secretary of Defense. Congratulations to Commander, Captain Beau Hufstetler and his team for this outstanding achievement!

City Employee Veteran Spotlight: Terry Baldwin

City Department

"I currently work in the Fire Department, and I am the Assistant to the Assistant Chief of Operations and serve as an (HRC) Human Resource Coordinator and (MRC) Medical records coordinator."

Military Service

United States Army 1988-1999

Military Occupational Specialties

"I was trained in the military as a 71L Human Resources Specialist. And 79R Recruiter. My role as a HR Specialist, focused on administrative and personnel management tasks. I was also selected to be an Army Recruiter and served as one for 3 years here in Fort Worth. Being an Army Recruiter was both rewarding and challenging as being a recruiter involves connecting people with military opportunities while meeting the demands of the Army. To be a successful recruiter you have to have excellent communication and interpersonal skills and they must be organized,



persuasive, and empathetic. Overall, being an Army recruiter can be a fulfilling career path for those who enjoy working with people and have a passion for service, but it requires hard work, adaptability, and perseverance. I am able to use the same skills I learned in the military to help me with the day-to-day tasks that I do for Fort Worth Fire as a Human Resource Coordinator. "

Advice for Other Veterans

"Advice for Veterans leaving the military and entering into the civilian sector would be to take a deep breath and breathe. Make sure you have copies of all of your military personnel and medical records. It's a good idea to make a certified true copy of your DD214 and have it registered at the county courthouse."

Please contact the Fort Worth Veterans Affairs Office if you have any veteranrelated questions at <u>veterans@fortworthtexas.gov</u>