



Fifteenth Judicial Circuit MEDIA RELEASE

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FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT CREATES VETERANS' TREATMENT DOCKET

WEST PALM BEACH, FL – Fifteenth Judicial Circuit Chief Judge Peter D. Blanc today signed Administrative Order 4.905, creating the first Veterans' Treatment Docket in the Palm Beach County Criminal Justice System. This initiative, spearheaded by Judge Blanc, involves myriad volunteer and agency participants. The signing of the Veteran's Docket Administrative Order coincides with the 235th anniversary of the founding of the Marine Corps. County Court Judge Ted Booras, a former Marine, has volunteered to dedicate time to preside over this docket, in addition to his existing caseload. The first docket will take place on Thursday, November 18th.

Modeled after successful drug courts across the Country, the Veterans' docket will provide much-needed assistance to qualified veterans at no additional cost to Palm Beach County or the State of Florida. It will also address root causes of veteran crimes; thereby, reducing recidivism. A Veteran Coordinator, funded by the Veterans' Association (VA), will identify veterans coming through the system and utilize individual evaluations and computer screening to define needs and match them with relevant VA resources. These activities will result in the establishment of customized plans for veterans to resolve existing problems and again become valued, law-abiding citizens.

Veterans are more receptive to the input and guidance of other veterans. In that context, a critical component of the Veterans' docket is the Volunteer Mentor Program made up entirely of veteran volunteers who strongly believe in the credo, "no one is left behind." The Vietnam Veterans of America and Stand Down House are providing training and coordination for this team of volunteers.

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