



2200 Austin Ave. Waco, TX 76701 - Office# 254-297-7171

Agency / Services Catalogue

McLennan County Veteran Service Officer's (VSO's): VSO's assist veterans and family members with a variety of issues, such as filing benefits claims or seeking food or housing assistance. Additionally, the VSO's determine eligibility for state and federal Veterans Benefits, submit applications to Department of Veterans Affairs for approval of disability claims, assists surviving spouses in the completion of applications for federal and state benefits for areas involving pensions, disability compensation, home and education loans and benefits, available grants, community needs, burial allowances, scholarships, memorial ceremonies, and hospital issues. The VSO also visits veterans and family members in their homes to facilitate admission and treatment in VA medical facilities, as well as referrals for domiciliary and VHA long-term care facilities. VSO also communicates with all elected officials regarding matters pertaining to Veterans.

Times of Services Provided: Monday – Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

- **Contact:** Steve Hernandez 254-297-7171 ex 4111 (US Air Force Vet.)
Larry Bethea 254-297-7171 ex 4113 (US Army Ret.)

Department of Veteran Affairs Health Care Team:

- **Women's Health Care Team:** Provides ongoing health care and psychosocial service provision for women veterans within the CTXS VA health care system.
 - **Time of Services Provided:** Tuesday 12 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Contact: Kimberly Kinerd 254-297-3515 (US Navy Vet.)
- **OEF/OIF Transition Patient Advocates:** Advocates for OEF/OIF/OND veterans within the VA system to assist with health care, social. And psychosocial need provision.
 - **Time of Services Provided:** Thursday 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Steve Pullin Jr. 254-297-3145 (US Army Ret.)
Everlyn Trate 254-297-5339 (US Air Force Ret.)
- **Killeen Heights Vet Center:** Provides free counseling services to combat veterans.
 - **Time of Services Provided:** Thursday 10 to 4 p.m. (optional evenings as needed)
Contact: Arthur H. Baker, LCSW 254-953-7100 (US Army Ret.)



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Military Veterans Peer Network (MVPN):

- **Aaron S. Nunn, LCSW:** Overall responsibilities include day to day management of Veterans One Stop programming, community interactions, and mental health crises response. MVPN Local Peer Coordinator duties include: Training of all MVPN volunteers and clinical staff. Facilitates Peer-to-Peer support groups and provides one-on-one guidance to veterans and family members. Develops and coordinates veteran outreach events in community. Coordinates Veteran reintegration activities post-incarceration.
 - **Time of Services Provided:** Monday – Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 - **Contact:** 254-297-7070 (US Navy Vet.)
- **Dr. Fernando V. Garza, Ed. D:** Facilitates Peer-to-Peer support groups and provides one-on-one guidance to veterans and family members. The Peer-to-Peer support groups assists active duty, reserves, national guard, veterans, family members and others who suffer from the effects of Post-Traumatic-Stress Disorder, Traumatic Brain Injury, and Sexual Assault.
 - **Time if Services:** Monday 9-3 p.m. & Wednesday 9-1 p.m.
 - **Contact:** 254-300-3335 (US Army Vet.)
- **Joseph Robert:** Facilitates Peer-to-Peer support groups at the Veterans One Stop and also in Mexia, Texas. Joseph Robert is also trained in providing Operation Resilient Families (a program of experiential learning: empowering veterans and their families to address the Post-deployment Challenges with strength intention, and shared community).
 - **Time of Services Provided:** Wednesday 1-5 p.m. (Waco)
 - **Contact:** 254-723-7810 (US Air Force Vet.)
- **Rachel Mims, MS, LPCI:** Provides one-on-one peer support to veterans who suffer from the effects of Post-Traumatic –Stress Disorder, Traumatic Brain Injury, and Sexual Assault. Rachel specializes in therapeutic art interventions.
 - **Time of Services Provided:** Monday – Friday 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.
 - **Contact:** 254-867-3651 (US Army Vet.)



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Military Veterans Peer Network (MVPN):

- **Kathy Ishaim (VA Claims Specialist):** Provides disability claims assistance for peers and educates peers on the VBA disability claim process. Kathy is a retired VBA employee.
 - **Time of Services Provided:** Tuesday & Wednesday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
 - Contact:** 254-297-7171 (US Army Vet.)
- **Walter Lavender (Health & Wellness Specialist):** Provides health and wellness education and peer support to veterans experiencing minor and chronic physical illness concerns. Walter is a former VHA employee.
 - **Time of Services Provided:** Monday, Wednesday, & Friday 10 to 2 p.m.
 - Contact:** 254-297-7171 (US Navy Ret.)
- **Donna Pickett: (Hill & Bosque County – Military Family Liaison):** Facilitates peer to peer support groups for current and former military dependents and their caregivers.
 - **Time of Services Provided:** Tuesday 1-5 p.m.
 - Contact:** 254-205-1705 (Daughter of US Army WWII Vet.)
- **Wanda Wood:** Facilitates Female Peer-to-Peer support groups and provided one-on-one guidance to female veterans.
 - **Time of Services Provided:** Tuesday 3-5 p.m.
 - Contact:** 254-349-1448 (US Army Vet.)

Baylor Veteran Law Clinic: Baylor Veteran Law Clinic assists Veterans with such issues as a Power of Attorney, Medical Directives, Paternity Issues, and other civil litigation.

- **Time of Services Provided:** 2nd Friday of Month 2 to 4 p.m. (appointment helpful)
- Contact:** Mark Altman 254-710-1911 (US Navy Act.)

Lone Star Legal Aid (LSLA): Lone Star Legal Aid is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit law firm that provides legal services on behalf of low-income and underserved populations. LSLA was created for the purpose of equalizing access to justice for low-income persons who otherwise would not be able to afford an attorney to protect their rights and help meet basic needs.

- **Time of Services Provided:** 4th Friday of Month 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. (appointment

helpful)
Contact:

Jonathan Silva

713-652-0077 (US Navy Vet.)



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Agency / Services Catalogue

Army Wounded Warrior Program (AW2): The Army Wounded Warrior Program is the official U.S. Army Program that assists and advocates for severely wounded, ill, or injured Soldiers, Veterans, and their Families, wherever, they are located, regardless of military status. Soldiers qualify for AW2 are assigned to the program as soon as possible after arriving at the Wounded Transitional Unit (WTU). AW2 supports these Soldiers and their Families throughout their recovery and transition, even into Veteran status. This program, through the local support of AW2 Advocates, strives to foster the Soldier's independence. To qualify for AW2, a Soldier must suffer from wounds, illness, or injuries occurred in the line of duty after September 10, 2001, and receive or expect to receive at least 30% rating from the Integrated Disability Evaluation System (IDES) for one of the conditions that follows, or receive a combined 50% IDES rating for any other combat/combat-related condition: Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, Severe Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), Severe loss of vision/blindness, Severe hearing loss/deafness, Fatal/incurable disease with limited life expectancy, Loss of limb, Spinal cord injury, Severe burns and/or limited Severe paralysis.

- **Time of Services Provided:** Monday-Friday 9 a.m.to 3 p.m.
Contact: Ralph Baxter 254-297-7171 ex 4102 (US Army Ret.)

Texas Veterans Commission Employment Representatives: Texas Veterans Commission employment representatives' offer employment services to Texas veterans and help employers find qualified veteran job applicants. TVC-Employment Services provided job coaching and pathways to overcome employment barriers. Texas Veterans Commission VERs provide a full range of employment services and offer one-on-one assistance with job applicants, resume preparation, job matching and searches, as well as other intensive services. Intensive services are offered to disabled veterans and veterans with barriers to employment, including but not limited to homeless, economically or educationally disadvantaged veterans with other barriers to employment.

- **Time of Services Provided:** Monday – Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Contact: Ken Nowak 254-297-7171 ex 4117 (US

Army Ret.)

Vietnam Veterans of America: Provides peer support and disability claims assistance for Vietnam veterans and spouses. Also, the VVA provides education on illnesses that may occur secondary to Agent Orange exposure while serving in Vietnam.

- **Time of Services Provided:** Monday & Thursday 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Contact: Henry Kapser 254-644-7544 (US Army Vet.)



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Agency / Services Catalogue

Veteran's Consultant (Vet consultant): Member of a local Veterans of Foreign Wars VFW or American Legion chapter that volunteer their time explaining to other veterans the processes of how to begin and complete a claim and also assist veterans in completing the necessary VA forms. Additionally, they also assist veterans in need of financial help through the use of local resources.

- **Time of Services Provided:** Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Contact: Robert Carter 254-297-7171 (US Army Ret.)

The Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH): Is a congressionally chartered organization: The Military Order of the Purple Heart is unique among all veteran service organizations in that their membership is comprised entirely of combat veterans who were wounded on the world's battlefields while services our country in uniform. The Military Order of the Purple Heart Service Program exists to assist Veterans in working with the VA and filing claims for the many benefits that are available. You do NOT need to be a Member of the Purple Heart Organization to seek assistance.

- **Time of Services Provided:** By Appointment only
Contact: Martha Ybarra 254-297-5023 (US Air Force Ret.)

American GI Forum (AGIF): Is a congressionally chartered Hispanic veterans and civil rights organization. AGIF currently operates chapters throughout the United States, with focus on veteran's issues, education, and civil rights. It was initially formed to request services for WWII veterans of Mexican descent who were denied medical services by the United States Department of Veteran Affairs, the AGIF soon spread into non-veteran's issues such as voting

rights, jury selection, educational desegregation, and advocating for the civil rights of all Mexican Americans. Today, the AGIF advocates on behalf of all Hispanic Veterans.

- **Time of Services Provided:** 2nd & 3rd Wednesday of Each Month 6 p.m.
Contact: Jimmy Duarte (US Army Vet.) / Betty Manchego 254-836-1905



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Blue Star Mothers:

Blue Star Mothers volunteered throughout the tough times of World War II. They worked in hospitals, train stations, packed care packages for soldiers and were a working part of homeland security during times our time of war. Being attacked on our own soil has once again started mothers hanging flags in their windows at home proclaiming pride in the fact that we have children protecting our freedom during at time of war. Our organization not only provides support for active duty service personnel, promotes patriotism, assists Veterans organizations, but is also available to assist in homeland volunteer efforts to help our country remain strong.

- **Time of Services Provided:** 3rd Monday of Each Month 5:30 p.m.
Contact: Jana Teakell 254-548-9369

Hunger Coalition: Assists veterans and their families in applying for federal benefits such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formally known as Food Stamps. Additionally, Esther Morales assists individual veterans and their family members in applying for Medicaid, Children's Health Insurance Program known as CHIP and facilitates the access to other community resources as needed.

- **Time Services Provided:** By appointment Only
Contact: Esther Morales 254-753-3545

Dallas Neighbors Inc.: Provides Homeless Prevention, Utility Assistance, Rent Assistance and Transportation Assistance. Additionally, Dallas Neighbors Inc. will provide living accommodations for Veterans and Family members based on the following needs: Emergency Housing, Temporary Housing, and Permanent Housing. Furthermore, Dallas Neighbors Inc. provides Construction Training – Veterans will receive training in various construction trade skills, to include General Carpentry, Painting, Flooring, etc. Moreover, veterans will receive training in Blue Print interpretation and use of Power and Measuring tools. In addition to the aforementioned services, Dallas Neighbors has a Home Modification Program – Emergency repairs for disabled low-income Veterans. Counties services include: McLennan, Limestone, Freestone, and Williamson counties.

- **Time of Services Provided:** **By appointment Only**
Contact: **Elisha Lewis 214-662-5553**

