

Area Veterans Advisory Committee

Central Texas Area Veterans Advisory Committee

2021-2022 Officers

- Mack McCullar- Chair (254)258-0050 mackfih@yahoo.com
- Debbie Nash-King—Co-Chair 254-290-1336 chosen_to_service@yahoo.com
- Marty Martinez, Treasurer MOPH 1876, TREA 88, KWVA 222 338-6722 smartinez38@hotmail.com
- Maureen Jouett, Secretary ALA 223, Bring Everyone In The Zone, KWVA 222, VFW 8577 Aux 681-9112 mojo53@hotmail.com
- Website: avacentex.org
- Webmaster: Sonya Skinner

Email:

AVACCenTEX@gmail.com.

Website: centex-avac.org

Renewal of Sponsorships should be sent to our Treasurer at:
 Area Veterans Advisory Cmte
 %Marty Martinez, Treasurer
 707 Cedar Oaks Lane
 Harker Heights, TX 76548

MEETING HELD in Person at American Legion 573, 225 Cox Dr, Harker Heights—No ZOOM meeting or Facebook Live

The May 14 meeting of the Area Veteran Advisory Committee was called to order at 0900 by Chair Mac McCullar.

John Footman said the opening prayer.

Special Guests Mrs. Julia Villaronga, spouse of founding chair of AVAC, Honorable Judge Raul Villaronga, Colonel (R).

Honorable Debbie Nash King, Mayor of Killeen, Pat Christ former City Councilmember—City of Harker Heights, Frank Minosky former City Councilmember City of Belton, Maureen Jouett a former Mayor of the City of Killeen, Don Nicholas, Congressman Williams’ office, Sonja

Skinner, Military One Source.

Memorial Day Walk at Harker Heights Carl Levin Park at 0900 on May 28th.

Central Texas State Veterans Cemetery 1000 ceremony with wreath laying, bring flags by 0930.

Fairway Independent Mortgage Corporation presented on the American Warrior Initiative. Contact Cyndi McLean, LTC (Ret) if know anyone needing help, financial or other. They have branches throughout Texas. Please call her if you know of a Veteran in need. American

WarriorInitiative.com. Cyndi McLean 254-233-7673, cyndi.mclean@fairway.com.

Minutes: Frank moved to accept at written. Seconded by Debbie Nash-King. Motion carried.

Recognition of Julia Villaronga in appreciation for everything that she did to support her husband Honorable Mayor Raul Villaronga COL (R) did to help the community and to start the AVAC. He was the first Hispanic Mayor of Killeen and started LULAC in Central Texas. He contributed much to our community. He was a role model and set the

(Continued on page 3)

Next meeting will be held 11 June 2022 American Legion 573, 225 Cox Drive, Harker Heights, TX 76548 & ZOOM

Inside this issue:

Minutes- 14 May 2022	1,3,4
Next Meeting- 11 June 2022	1
Special Guests	1
Our Sponsors	2
Announcements	3 & 4
Flyers	5-10

Commanders & Auxiliary

Presidents: If your Post is not participating in our meetings, take advantage of our next meeting and take active part in our activities. If you personally can't won't come, then designate a representative to attend. Also, please see the calendar on our website for important information and up-coming events.

The meeting is open to all members and spouses of veteran's organization. Use this forum to keep us inform of ALL the activities in the Central Texas

area. If you have any information you wish to discuss or publish in this letter, please let us know by FAX or E-mail (VFW Post fax or our e-mail) before the end of the month or email, mail or fax the information to our secretary at the address to the right:

Maureen Jouett
2310 Davis Avenue
Killeen, Texas 76543
Phone:254-681-9112
FAX: 254-519-3366
mojo53@hotmail.com

VICTORY CORNER

May: WACVA 94
 June: VVA 1000
 July 40/8 V-1031 & Bell & Coryell County VSO
 August AMVETS, SF 77 & BEITZ

OUR SPONSORS!

Sponsor fee is \$60 Annually payable in January




Star Group
Veterans Helping
Veterans
Dec 2022



KOREAN WAR
VETERANS, ASN.
Don C. Faith
Dec 2022



Operation Stand
Down Central
Texas (OSDCT)
Dec 2023



Military Order of the Purple Heart
and Ladies Auxiliary
CENTEX Chapter 1876
Dec 2022



VFW
Post & Auxiliary 9192
Killeen, Texas
Dec 2022



Dec 2022
Chapter 88
& Auxiliary
ENLISTED
Association



Vietnam
Veterans
of America
VVA #1000
Dec 2022



Military
Officers
Association
of
America
Dec. 2022




Dec. 2022

AMVETS
Post 91
Dec. 2022




W.R. Hold Chapter
DAV/DAVA 147
Dec. 2021

Genevieve
Chapter 94
Dec 2022




American Legion
Post 573
Harker Heights, TX
Dec 2021




Dec. 2022



BELL COUNTY
VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE
POST OFFICE BOX 2169
BELTON, TX 76513
254-933-5915 (PHONE)
254-853-4181 (FAX)
Dec 2021



VFW 9191
Killeen, Texas
Dec 2022



STOP
TALK
HEAL
FRIENDS
HELPING
VETERANS
Tony Smith
Veteran Service Officer
Peer to Peer Group Facilitator
Cell 254-394-2091
Free, Confidential
Peer to Peer Support
Dec. 2022 Email: airhornranger63@yahoo.com
Donations Accepted

American Legion
Riders Post 573
Harker Heights, TX
Dec 2022




Dec 2022
In Memory of
Elijah King, Jr.
Sponsored by
Debbie Nash-King



Bring Everyone In The Zone, Inc.
Maureen Jouett
254-681-9112
<http://www.bringeveryoneinthezone.org>
Email: mail@bringeveryoneinthezone.org
Free, Confidential
Peer to Peer Support




American Legion
Post 573
Harker Heights, TX
Dec 2022


REMINDER: All Sponsorships were due in January

In Loving Memory of Our Parents
Eldon Lee Jouett, SFC (Army-Ret)
Gerald (Jerry) Allen McGrath, Major (Army Ret)
Helen (Jeannie) Jean Keister McGrath, 1 LT (ANC-Ret)

Thanks veterans for all you have done and do for us!



Take care and God bless,
Richard and Maureen Jouett



Minutes Cont'd from Page 1

example for others to follow. Several friends and his son Robbie were also in attendance. Chair Mac McCullar presented Ms. Villaronga with the AVAC coin and pin along with a certificate of appreciation. The AVAC was a way to bring the commanders together to work jointly to impact the communities.

Garrison Commander Chad Foster was our guest speaker. He thanked everyone for their on-going support of the Fort Hood Installation. After our last meeting, they began this discussion regarding Soldier Suicide. Despite putting resources toward this

problem, they have not made big strides against these. Service Member suicide is a multi-faceted problem. There is no one answer. The most complex question to answer is the reason why. The reason why Service Members chose to end their lives. In the study of this, one thing they have discovered that you need to put this into two pieces. They had a summit to discuss this complex problem. This requires a community response. They had a lot of work to do to get after the problem. The People Center is going to be there to get after the why. Why do they make that choice. They do not want to just limit their focus to just that.

There is something else they can do. Privately owned fire arms are used in less than half of suicides, but over 90% of completed suicides due to lethality. They are not talking about limiting second amendment rights. They are talking about if you so choose to own a privately owned weapon, there are certain responsible obligations you have in owning those weapons. We want those soldiers to emulate your example on responsible use and care of weapons. Each of us understand the necessity for good care and control of those weapons. We want them to look at you and learn that is something he needs to do himself. I do not want a loaded gun sitting on the couch. They are



looking for ways to harness the Veteran community to help with this area so that our soldiers do not become complacent with their lives. Without the soldiers none of the great equipment is worth anything. This is an Army and societal problem. He sent a letter via email on what everyone can do to help. He wants everyone to look at the letter and offer suggestions toward solutions on these problems. He wants to have a follow-up meeting with those who have input. Maybe at the Soldier Center on Fort Hood. He will come to where we decide to meet. Means safety is what they are looking at. If we can create space and time between someone who is troubled and access to the lethal means to complete suicide. Irresponsible storage of a weapon in conjunction with a weapon can become a lethal weapon. There is power in being a good example to those currently service. They look up to those who served before them. He is looking for our participation. He wants it to be more than one event. If he has a recreational

shooting event on Fort Hood, he would like to have a mentor standing right next to them, showing them, talking to them, and sharing with them. As Garrison Commander is he not the one that the soldiers would feel as comfortable with as they would with a Veteran. He is tired of everyone thinking that Power-Point slides will make a difference. You will make a difference and that is what he is asking for now. He wants to set up a time in the very near future to get together to try to address this problem. AVAC members are connected in the community with those who deal with weapons. They could be integral in helping with this effort. Col Foster can control what happens on base, but he cannot control what happens off base. Even those who grew up around weapons, sometimes become careless with storage, caring and use of weapons. He loves Fort Hood and what makes Fort Hood special is their troopers, soldiers. He identifies with Fort Hood and

is tired of losing our most precious asset by losing soldiers to this problem. He believes that we can all do a lot better than what we are currently doing. Chair McCullar advised that we were on board. The American Legion has experienced suicide. Most of the members here have known those who have completed suicide. He believes that a lot of those who want to own weapons do not want people to know they are dealing with PTS or other trauma. He believes that there are a lot of people dealing with depression and anxiety who are afraid to reach out for help. He believes that suicide is becoming the thing to do. If we can help save one life, we have done what we can do. Col Foster said they are not trying to take the weapons away but are trying to help those who are in a dark place. They need to pick up the phone and call someone. Maybe, someone joins your organization so that they can have someone to talk to. Communication helps so that the person does not feel alone. We can help them or their family members to get to a better place. They want to

SPECIAL NOTE!!!!!! Clothing for homeless Adults, no children's clothes, less business clothing, NO high heels period --
DERGARMENTS: sports bras, panties, socks, underwear, undershirts

make it easy and universal. Not something that we make them do, but something that is available to those who need and want it. They are looking for the Veterans example. Maybe some of the business owners can offer free storage when a Service Member is in crisis.

Earl Williams stated that Bring Everyone In The Zone, Inc. had offered a class on this. Maureen explained the three different classes available. Mental Health First Aid, Counseling on Access to Lethal Means and AS+K Suicide Prevention. Col Foster indicated that was not what they were looking for, but mentors help the

Service

To coordinate your donations please call 254-681-8522 or EMAIL: operationstanddowncentraltexas@gmail.com

Members.

Col Foster said that it is not just the mental health, but he wants to focus on the modeling of means safety. We can make a difference. Fort Hood is on the cutting edge of a lot of things that impact the Army universally. We care about what is happening. This community is strongly for Fort Hood. He has not

seen this in other places. The more complex the problem, the more people you bring in to provide resources, brainstorm ideas and help offer solutions to the problem. Please think about this and he want to set a follow-up. How do we get businesses off base to help? What can they do e.g. firearm recreation to encourage proper storage of lethal



means?

Frank suggested building scenarios that deals with the aftermath of suicide. What happens to those who are left behind? People do not often think about what happen after they are gone permanently.

Mac asked everyone to stick around for fellowship. There is plenty to do here. Come join them.

Many suggestions coming in online.

American Legion 10377 voted \$500 toward the signs for the Purple Heart Highway.

American Legion Armed Forces Day Rally May 21 from noon to 4. The event is honoring Mary Gregory, the Patriot Guard Riders of Central Texas Coordinator.

Lupe reminded everyone to get involved with the Central Texas State Veterans Cemetery Memorial Day ceremony. Bring flag at 0930. Harker Heights Veterans Council meeting on Tuesday at 0130.

Meeting adjourned at 1000 with a prayer by John Footman and salute to our Nation's Flag.

Operation Stand Down Central Texas is in need of sponsors, businesses and individual donations of products and/or money.

Monetary donations can be done via Amazon smile:

smile.amazon.com/ch/47-3300500

Personal Items Needed which can be taken to their location at (eye drops, toothpaste, floss, mouthwash, eye drops, foot powder (travel), small baby wipes, pocket tissue, body lotion, deodorant M&W, shaving cream (travel))

--ALL personal items full size unless noted --Belts for Men & Women All Sizes -- Winter Hats and Gloves

—Also looking at getting more sleeping bags -- Undergarments (M&W), Men's Under-shirts and Towel/Washcloth drives (NEW for Goody Bags)

--Men's Jeans small sizes 28-36 waist --Tennis Shoes, Sneakers, comfortable walking shoes

SPECIAL NOTE!!!!!! Clothing for homeless Adults, no children's clothes, less business clothing, NO high heels period --

ONLY NEW UNDERGARMENTS: sports bras, panties, socks, underwear, undershirts

To coordinate your donations please call 254-681-8522 or EMAIL: operationstanddowncentraltexas@gmail.com



TVC'S VETERANS MENTAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT Veteran Suicide Prevention Program

Every day, approximately 17 Veterans take their lives across the United States, according to data from the Department of Veterans Affairs. Veterans are at 50% higher risk of suicide than their peers who have not served. In 2019, the suicide rate was 1.5x higher for Veterans than for non-Veteran adults over the age of 18 in the U.S.

Our Mission

While suicide is often thought of as an individual problem, it has devastating impacts on families, loved ones, and communities making it a public health issue. Our goal is to reduce Veteran suicide across Texas through collaboration with national, state, and local partnerships and initiatives bringing together many different resources, perspectives, and strategies aimed at saving the lives of Texas Veterans.

Our Role

The Veteran Suicide Prevention Program is housed within Texas Veterans Commission's (TVC) Veterans Mental Health Department (VMHD). The Veteran Suicide Prevention Coordinator and the VMHD team are ready to offer technical assistance and training on suicide prevention and intervention strategies including gatekeeping, lethal means restriction, best practices, safe messaging, accessing local community resources, and others.

FREE Certified trainings offered:

- AS+K? Basic Suicide Gatekeeper Training
- CALM: Counseling on Access to Lethal Means
- Military Cultural Competency / Military Informed Care
- PTSD & Military Traumas
- And more

For More Information Contact:

*Jessica Del Rio, M.Ed., LPC
Veteran Suicide Prevention Coordinator
Jessica.DelRio@tvc.texas.gov
Work cell: 512-560-9469*

www.tvc.texas.gov (click mental health)
www.veteransmentalhealth.texas.gov | www.milvetpeer.net



Apply for Services at:

1-844-400-vets (8387)
vethelp@lonestarlegal.org
www.lonestarlegal.org

LSC | America's Partner
for Equal Justice
LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

TEXAS | ACCESS to JUSTICE
FOUNDATION

BOB WOODRUFF
FOUNDATION

Qatar Harvey Fund



Lone Star Legal Aid's Military and Veterans Unit is made possible, in part, by a grant from the Texas Veterans Commission Fund for Veterans' Assistance, which provides grants to organizations serving veterans and their families. For more information on the Texas Veterans Commission, visit www.TVC.Texas.gov.

Lone Star Legal Aid – Areas of Service

- Veterans Benefits
 - Discharge upgrades; service connected disability; non-service connected pension; DIC; GI Bill
- Family Law
- Employment Law
- Eviction & Foreclosure
- Consumer Protection & Bankruptcy
- Estate Planning & Probate
- Public Benefits
 - Unemployment, Social Security, SNAP, Medicare & Medicaid
- Expunctions & Non-Disclosures
 - Not available for family violence, sexual or assaultive offenses

The information and content provided on this video are for informational purposes only and not for the purpose of providing legal advice. Please contact Lone Star Legal Aid's Military and Veterans Unit at **1-844-400-8387** for assistance.



VSACT

Veterans Service
Alliance of
Central Texas



The Veterans Service Alliance of Central Texas (VSACT) is a coalition of entities in, and around, Bell county that provide services to Veterans who live in the region. Our mission is to measurably improve the quality of life for Veterans in our service area by increasing awareness--among our member organizations, other organizations, and the public at large--of the services we provide while facilitating communication across Veteran Service Organizations (VSO's) in Killeen, Temple, Belton, and surrounding areas.



VSO/COMMUNITY ORG? COME JOIN US!



VIA ZOOM—Hosted by Goodwill Job Source

June 15, July 20 and August 17

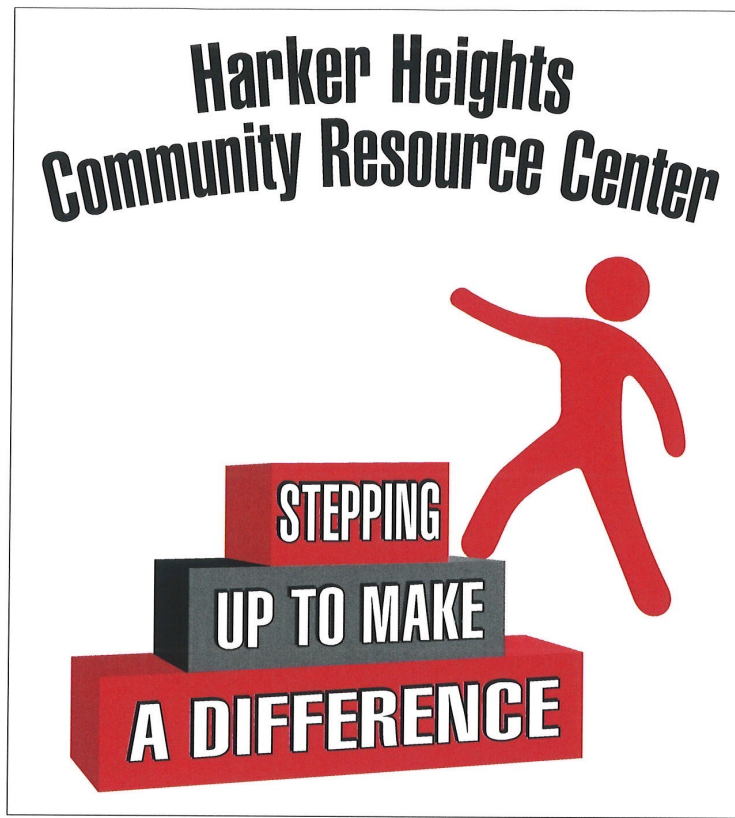


ID Number: 831 1986 2452 , Password 208107

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83119862452?
pwd=dTdFRmdBN0YybWhkUi9jYUQ4YkYrUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83119862452?pwd=dTdFRmdBN0YybWhkUi9jYUQ4YkYrUT09)



<https://www.texvet.org/vsact>



FOOD DISTRIBUTION

EVERY THIRD SATURDAY

Apr 16, May 21, June 18, July 16, Aug 20

10 am - 12 pm

128 W. Veterans Memorial Blvd
(Corner of VMB and Harley Dr)



**TEXAS VETERANS
COMMISSION**

Helping Veterans Starts Here

MONTHLY Q & A

*Join us to learn how
we can help you access
your state and
federal benefits*

Date: 2nd Tuesday of the Month

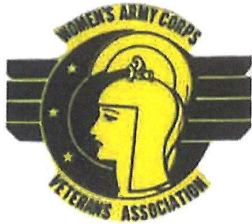
Time: 1:30pm-2:30pm CST

Link to Briefing: <https://rb.gy/jscle4>

Find out how we can help you!

www.tvc.texas.gov • 800-252-VETS (8387) • info@tvc.texas.gov

Texas Women Veteran's Day



It's a Celebration of Women Veteran's - past,
present and future!

5K Fun Run/Walk, Balloon Launch and Music

June 11, 2022

0800 - 1200

Lion's Club Park, 1704 Stan Schlueter Road

Hosted by Women's Army Corps Veterans Association (WACVA)

Genevieve Chapter 94 - Killeen

REGISTER ONLINE TODAY!

www.eventbrite.com or contact Stephanie Mello, mellos2@hotmail.com

\$25.00 Registration includes participation in the 5K Fun Run/Walk.
Register early to reserve an awesome commemorative **Dri-Fit T-Shirt**
and **drawstring backpack**.

Door prizes awarded at the site. All proceeds from the 5K Fun/Run Walk go to the Genevieve Chapter 94 WACVA Scholarship Fund in support of our community.



EVENT INFORMATION:

<https://www.fhahfh.org/women-build>

Ms. Patti Reyes served in the U.S. ARMY in the 1980's as an administrative specialist. Her home is in the final phase of construction and we are looking forward to hosting an event that empowers strong women to come together and build each other up.

Female Veterans uniting to help build a home for one of their own.

New home build for Ms. Patti Reyes

There are over 2 million female veterans today. More than 7% are homeless and over 40% struggle to maintain permanent housing.

Fort Hood Area Habitat strives daily to create housing solutions for our Central Texas community with the hope that one day everyone will have a decent place to live.

Where: (208) Northside Dr. Harker Heights, TX

When: June 11, 2022

10:30am - Arrival Time

12.30pm - 02:30pm Lunch (will be provided) and team building exercises to allow prior service females to engage with active duty women currently serving in the armed forces

2:30 - 4:30pm - Finishing touches

What: Interior finishes for Ms. Patti Reyes, a female Veteran currently enrolled in our Homeownership Program. (activities will be dependent on current status of build site) there will be cosmetic activities along with interior finishes.

Please join us as we host a wall-raising ceremony for another local Veteran at 9:30 at 214 Northside Dr.

Contact Joelle Hawkins for partnership opportunities

(254)952-7336

giving@fhahfh.org

Contact Pam Wilson for volunteer opportunities

(254)554-0923

community@fhahfh.org

#SheServed

#FHAHFHWomenBuild

#ServingThoseWhoHaveServed



Introducing the Housing Assistance for Veterans Program

Helping Better the Lives of Post 9/11 Service Members and their Families

According to a recent report from the United States Census Bureau, post September 11, 2001 (9/11) veterans are 54 percent more likely to have a service-related disability than other veterans. When we consider the toll it takes on a veteran's physical health, mental health, living conditions and lifestyle after he or she spent years serving the country, we see a greater need to offer programs that will improve their post-service lives in the most fundamental way. The Housing Assistance for Veterans (HAVEN) is one small way of giving back to those who have given so much of their lives to protect and serve.

The HAVEN program from the Federal Home Loan Bank of Dallas (FHLB Dallas) provides grants to post 9/11 veterans, who need home modifications related to their disabilities or other housing needs.

Who Qualifies?

United States veterans, active-duty, reserve and National Guard service members who became disabled as a result of their military service since 9/11. Additionally, HAVEN has been expanded to assist Gold Star families, who have lost loved ones to service since 9/11. Households with income of 165 percent or less of the area median income may qualify. HAVEN funds are available until the funds are exhausted or until December 31, 2021, whichever comes first and are disbursed on a first-come, first-served, homeowner-by-homeowner basis.

Uses:

- Home modifications related to injuries, such as installing grab bars, lowering or raising countertops, handicap-accessible bathrooms
- Offsetting construction costs of a newly constructed home
- Paying for a third-party inspection
- Necessary modifications or repairs to a primary residence

Benefits:

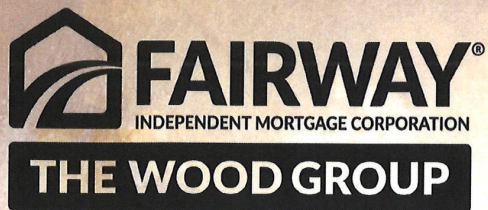
- Up to \$10,000 per household toward home modifications or rehabilitation of a property
- Can be used on properties anywhere in the United States

Contact Us Today to Apply

*April Niswonger, Assistant Vice President
Fort Hood National Bank
254-312-7276
april.niswonger@fhnbc.com*

To determine income eligibility, visit fhlb.com/haven to use the Income Calculation Tool, or view a list of median incomes by county and state.





AMERICAN
WARRIOR
INITIATIVE



Become an American Warrior Initiative
PARTNER!

As we educate realtors and mortgage professionals on how to handle the home purchase needs of veterans and active duty clients, we are also looking to serve veterans in need. No need is too big or small. Veteran must have been honorably discharged.

Contact Cyndi McLean, LTC (RET)
cyndi.mclean@fairwaymc.com • 254.233.7673

Learn more at AmericanWarriorInitiative.com

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Military Veteran Peer Network of Central Texas MVPN Peer Basic Training

May 13th , June 10th & July 8th From 0800-1400 (2pm)

Basic training is an entry level course that will enable you to become more aware of the Military and Veteran community as well enable you to become a state sponsored peer mentor with the Military Veteran Peer Network (MVPN).

This six hour training is designed to provide volunteers with frontline intervention tools to address the immediate basic needs of individual service members, veterans and their families.

Phase 1

- MVPN Overview
- Suicide Awareness
- Active Listening
- Military Cultural Competency

Phase 2

- Ethics
- Depression Awareness
- Addictive Behaviors
- PTSD
- Moral Injury

LOCATION

204 Priest Dr
Killeen, Texas 76541
POC:
Greg Gutierrez
(254)813-5834
Bill Barker
(254)423-0399

Peer Support Positions Include

Peer Mentor — Peer Group Leader — Events Leader
Peer Court Mentor — TDCJ Veteran Volunteer — Community Outreach



MILITARY VETERAN PEER NETWORK

**Bring Everyone in The Zone, Inc
Annual Training & Appreciation**

Saturday, June 18, 2022

1100 to 1300



Free Information & Exhibits & Food!
For Veterans, Dependents & Surviving Spouses
204 Priest Driver, Killeen Texas

Questions? Please Contact us!

254-813-5834

254-423-0399

254-681-9112



*Free, Confidential
Peer to Peer Support*

**Bring Everyone In The Zone, Inc.
Member - Military Veteran Peer
Network (MVPN)**