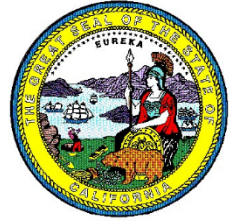




SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF FRESNO



Media Advisory

August 22, 2019

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Five Valley Veterans to Graduate Veterans Treatment Court

The Fresno Superior Court will hold its Fall Veterans Treatment Court graduation ceremony at 3:00 p.m., Thursday, August 29, 2019, at the **B.F. Sisk Courthouse, 1130 "O" Street**, Fresno. The Honorable Hilary A. Chittick, Presiding Judge of the Veterans Treatment Court (VTC), will officiate the ceremony, which will commence with the Presentation of Colors by the VFW Post 8900 Honor Guard. Anticipated attendees of the ceremony include five graduates of the VTC Program, their friends and family, program mentors, and dignitaries from the District Attorney's Office, the Public Defender's Office, the Alternative Defense Office, the Probation Department, and Veterans' Administration, in addition to many others. Media interviews will be available at the event.

VTC is a specialty court designed to provide a treatment-based approach to address criminal offenses involving military veterans. Implemented in 2016, the court-supervised VTC Program has worked to divert veterans from the traditional justice system and to give them the treatment and tools needed for rehabilitation. They are partnered with a mentor from a military background to provide the needed guidance and support from an experienced perspective. Through the collaborative efforts of the Court, the District Attorney's Office, the Probation Department, the Public Defender's Office, the Alternative Defense Office, and Veterans' Administration, as well as numerous law enforcement agencies and other programs, August 2019 will mark the third year of successful graduations from the program.

"We are proud of the hard work of these graduates and thankful for the partnerships, including those with our veteran volunteer mentors, that helped [the graduates] succeed." says Judge Hilary Chittick. "We are pleased to honor their accomplishments."

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