



Texas Veterans Online

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

VA to Continue All Services at Waco	2
Training for Newly Appointed Veterans Service Officers Scheduled for January	2
Expanded Dental Coverage for Children & Other Eligible Beneficiaries	3
Upcoming TVC Spring Training Conferences	3

Our Veteran
Online Partners

Texas Adjutant
General's Department
www.agd.state.tx.us

Texas Veterans
Commission
www.tvc.state.tx.us

Texas Higher Education
Coordinating Board @
www.thecb.state.tx.us

Texas Veterans
Land Board
www.texasveterans.com

Texas Workforce
Commission @
www.twc.state.tx.us

United States
Department of Labor
www.dol.gov/vets/



STATE OF TEXAS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

On December 7, 1941, at 7:55 a.m., the Japanese bombed the United States fleet at Pearl Harbor. With more than 2,300 Americans killed, more than 1,000 wounded, and the destruction of five U.S. battleships, three destroyers and almost 200 aircraft, the attack, a devastating blow, caused America to enter World War II.

As we reflect on "the day that shall live in infamy," we recognize all whose patriotism enabled freedom to endure. Their relentless drive and irrepressible courage during the two hour battle at Pearl Harbor prevented the Japanese from accomplishing their goal of destroying the Pacific Fleet. Their love of country will forever be revered and respected.

Each December, Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day is recognized across the nation. It is a time of reflection and a time of remembrance. It is a time when all Americans should come together to embrace the ties that bind, to embrace all who have served and all who continue to serve, to recognize the determination and sacrifice of all at Pearl Harbor.

At this time, therefore, I call upon citizens across Texas to remember with deep reverence all that Pearl Harbor represents to each and every one of us as Americans. In commemoration, let us visibly demonstrate our every respect for those who valiantly lost their lives by flying the flag half-staff on this December 7, 2006.

Therefore, I, Rick Perry, Governor of Texas, do hereby proclaim
December 7, 2006,

Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day in Texas



in Texas, and urge the appropriate recognition whereof.

In official recognition whereof,
I hereby affix my signature this the
13th day of November, 2006.

Rick Perry
Governor of Texas



VA to Continue All Services at Waco

After a comprehensive review of the Waco Veterans Affairs (VA) Medical Center, its mission and veterans' needs, the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs, Jim Nicholson, announced December 1 his decision to keep the Waco veterans hospital open.

“Meeting the health care needs of veterans is VA’s highest priority,” Nicholson said. “I have visited Waco and seen firsthand the world-class care we provide to Texas’ veterans. VA’s Waco facility is invaluable to veterans not just in Waco, but throughout the region.”

Waco’s recent designation as a Center for Excellence in outpatient post-traumatic stress disorder services also builds upon the services to be provided by Waco.

Nicholson also noted that the facility’s inpatient and outpatient services are important to residential care homes in the Waco area that care for veterans who do not need to be in an institution, but require outpatient services and periodically inpatient care.

“We have a vital partnership with our residential care homes, and we’re going to support them as they provide invaluable care to veterans,” the secretary added.

The secretary said VA will work through its ongoing planning process with the community and other partners to find ways now to use under-utilized portions of the Waco campus.

“I want to thank the local panel who advised us, along with many others, including the Texas congressional delegation, veterans groups, state and local leaders, other stakeholders and VA employees for their input into this important decision,” Nicholson said.

The study has been part of VA's Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services (CARES) program, a VA initiative to modernize facilities by matching projected demand for health services with programs and facilities through a comprehensive review of veterans' health care needs.

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Dec. 1, 2006
www.va.gov

*“To care for him
who shall have
borne the battle,
and for his
widow, and his
orphan”*

*-Abraham
Lincoln*



In the Spotlight

Training for Newly Appointed Veterans Service Officers Scheduled for January

As a matter of interest, the next Training Session for Newly Appointed Veterans County Service Officers is scheduled for January 15-19, 2007, at the Holiday Inn at Reliant Park, 8111 Kirby Drive, Houston, Texas. Monday, January 15, 2007, will be the travel day, with training beginning at 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday, January 16, 2007, and ending by noon Friday, January 19, 2007.

For others involved in veterans’ benefits programs wishing to attend please be advised that Veterans County Service Officers have priority, all others will be on a space available basis. For further information, contact Terry C. Burns at TVC Headquarters in Austin at (512) 463-6834 or on the VCSO Headquarters WATS line.★

Visit www.tvc.state.tx.us/Training.htm for further details.



Expanded Dental Coverage for Children and Other Eligible Beneficiaries

The National Defense Authorization Act of 2007 legislated a change to the TRICARE dental benefit to cover anesthesia services and institutional costs for dental treatment for beneficiaries with developmental, mental or physical disabilities, and children age 5 or under. For TRICARE to reimburse claims, beneficiaries must save their bills for medical care occurring after Oct. 17, 2006. The change in statute does not include the actual dental care services coverage through the TRICARE Dental Program and the TRICARE Retiree Dental Program.

Once program officers finalize implementation requirements, TRICARE will announce when beneficiaries may submit their bills for reimbursement. Implementation requires changes to TRICARE Manuals and dental care services contracts.

To avoid costly and extensive dental procedures requiring anesthesia, children should start seeing a dentist by the time their first tooth appears or by their first birthday; this helps to prevent tooth decay and other oral diseases. Decay is the single most common chronic childhood dental disease — and it's completely preventable.

About TRICARE Management Activity

TRICARE Management Activity, the Defense Department agency that administers the health care plan for the uniformed services, retirees and their families, serves more than 9.2 million eligible beneficiaries worldwide.

TRICARE, Dec. 1, 2006, No. 06-53
www.tricare.mil



Texas Veterans Commission **TRAINING FOR VETERANS SERVICE OFFICERS** Spring 2007 Schedule

March 6 – 8, 2007
Travel Day: March 5
YO Ranch
2033 Sidney Baker St.
Kerrville, TX

April 10 – 12, 2007
Travel Day: April 9
Hilton NASA Clear Lake
300 NASA Parkway
Houston, TX

March 20 – 22, 2007
Travel Day: March 19
Hilton Hotel
117 West Wall St.
Midland, TX

April 24 – 26, 2007
Travel Day: April 23
Holiday Inn at the Falls
100 Central Frwy.
Wichita Falls, TX

NOTE: Travel day is Monday; conferences will begin at 8:00 am. on Tuesday.

Persons with disabilities who plan to attend this conference and who are in need of auxiliary aids or services e.g., interpreters for persons who are hearing impaired, readers, large print, or Braille, are requested to contact [Terry C. Burns, TVC Headquarters](#), three (3) weeks prior to the meeting so that appropriate arrangements may be made.

Visit www.tvc.state.tx.us/Training.htm for further details.

Please send suggestions or comments pertaining to this newsletter to:

Terry C. Burns,
Director of
Administration & Training,
Texas Veterans Commission
P.O. Box 12277,
Austin, Texas 78711
Or email him at
terry.burns@tvc.state.tx.us
