



Greetings from the President!

First, I would like to say THANK YOU! Thank you for the confidence in me and giving me the opportunity to serve as your President for the next two years. Eric definitely set a high standard for me to achieve and I promise I will do my best to live up the legacy of ALL the past Presidents who have helped shape our organization into what it is today.

I attended the National Association of County Veterans Service Officers annual conference in Appleton Wisconsin and want to give you a few highlights.

Walt Ward (Buncombe Co.) completed the training as a Certified Veteran Advocate and is seen accepting his diploma from Judge Clark Barnes, program director below:



Our own Darryl Crenshaw (Mecklenburg Co.), shown here teaching during the Accreditation Course, received a plaque of appreciation for accepting his new role as a Trainer for



And last but not least, I was also honored to be invited to attend a dinner at the Oneida Nation Veterans Office with my brothers from the Lumbee

Ann Knowles (Sampson Co.), is shown here with Conference Director Julia Enclade as they make plans for next year in Myrtle Beach!! Put the 14-21 of May 2016 on your calendar's now and plan to attend if possible.

Tribe, shown above with Kerry Metoxen, Director.

And speaking of conferences, Vice President Brad Stroud and his committee have a great Fall Conference lined up for us in Asheville!



Greetings from the President! Continued...

Also, don't forget to let Debbie Caldwell (Haywood Co.) know if you want to take the fieldtrip to Black Mountain Nursing Home/Cemetery on Tuesday. We have some great speakers, election of Executive Board members, proposed changes to the By-Laws, and awesome fellowship in store!

Don't forget to bring your auction item donations for the Scholarship Program as well.

See you in Asheville!!

A word from the Chaplain

WE WIN!

There will be wars and rumors of wars, Matthew 24: v.6,7. The fighting will not stop. There won't be peace in the Middle East until God returns to Earth. In the end we will win.

The veterans we are privileged to serve return from war with active or reserve military service. Some have injuries and medical problems that they are treated for and receive compensation and benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

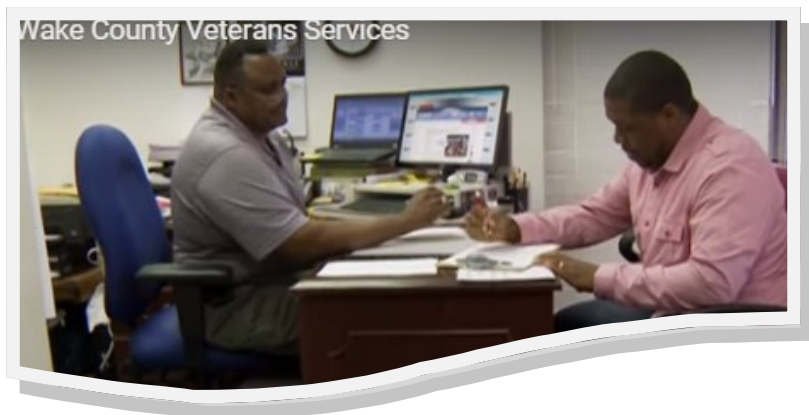
The United States of America, with its great power can respond in a quick minute with the maximum firepower to destroy most anything on earth. My question to you is, what are we fighting for? Are we fighting for land, oil, money or to live in peace? Is it to protect the homeland from various threats? God said in Mathew that there would be wars and rumors of wars, but God said in the end, if we believe in him and have faith in him — We Will Win.

People don't always get along and sometimes we even hate each other. Sometimes it's our brothers and sisters, or neighbors and people we don't even know. When I was a teenager, I had a friend that made me so mad one day, that I wanted to take his life. I went home and got a big stick and asked him to come into the street. He was smart and didn't come but stayed in his yard. I am so thankful that he didn't come out into the street because

I would have ended up in jail and two lives would have been lost over nothing. In the end, we both won and today we are still friends and laugh about it.

If it is War, the military, your friend, your neighbor or someone you really don't know that you hate, God has it all under control. The world may look like it is going to end, but god has the final say. If you have faith and believe in his word, in the end YOU WILL WIN. In the book of revelations, in the end of time God will bring peace back to earth and the believers in God WILL WIN.

In the end WE WIN!!



Chaplain

Gary Raiford

Wake County Veterans Services

Harnett County Veterans Court

Now in its second year, Harnett County's first-in-the-state Veterans Treatment Court has proved an astounding success as the court has helped veterans who have struggled making the transition from combat back to civilian life successfully reenter society. The District 11A Veterans Treatment Court graduated its first six veterans last November during a one-year anniversary celebration. One of the graduates, Tommy Rieman, was featured along with the court on CBS Sunday Morning, which documented the Silver Star recipient's journey from Iraq back home to the United States and his struggle to adjust to life away from the warzone.

One of the major reasons the court has been so successful is that each veteran is paired with a mentor who holds them accountable and assists them through the treatment process. As more veterans have learned of and applied to the program, more mentors are needed to help them navigate the treatment process.

Veterans Treatment Court Mentor Coordinator Steve Dally said there are currently 17 veterans participating in the court's treatment program with 14 veterans waiting to be accepted to the program and only eight mentors available to serve them.

When veterans begin the treatment program, they are given an individualized schedule and treatment plan. Veterans start out by going to court every Wednesday. Over the course of the next one to two years, they transition from weekly court appearances to having to attend every other week, then every three weeks and finally on a monthly basis.

During each appearance, the judge gives the veterans an assignment, which can range from completing community service to recitation of one of the court's rules and regulations. The assignments are aimed at keeping the veterans focused on their treatment.

That's where the mentor comes in.

Mentors attend court with their veterans and serve as accountability partners to make sure the veterans complete their assignments and are progressing through the program as they should. More than anything else, the mentor is someone the veteran can talk to.

"These guys need a buddy," said Dally. "A mentor is a listener. When you visit with a guy, you let him talk and you listen to what he's saying."

Because veterans will likely be dealing with issues related to their combat experience, mentors must also have served in the military.

"We prefer combat veterans, but will take any honorably discharged veteran," said Dally.

Harnett County Veterans Services Officer Eric Truesdale said court officials attempt to pair participants with mentors from the same branch of military service to help them feel more comfortable talking about their experiences with their mentors.

"Air Force and Air Force talk one language, Marines talk another and the Army talks another," he said.

Outside of previous military service, the main qualification for being a mentor is being a good listener.

"You don't have to have a degree in psychology. You've just got to be a good friend to that veteran," said Senior Mentor Gordon Harrington. "We're not their judge, jury, doctor or any of that."

Normally, Harrington said, the time commitment for mentors is less than two hours a week. Mentors are asked to attend their veteran's court appearances and to sit and talk with their veteran as needed. Some veterans will be required to attend treatment classes as part of the program and mentors are there to make sure they keep up with their appointments. Some mentors may even provide rides to appointments for veterans without transportation. Mentors are reimbursed for mileage.

"Basically, your job is to assist the veteran through the program," said Harrington. "You listen to them and try to help them with their difficulties."

Many times, he said, veterans will tell their mentors things they don't feel comfortable saying in court and the mentor can advise them or put them in touch with the right person to help them.

"You develop a bond and there's a lot of trust there," said Harrington.

He said the transformation that takes place in the lives of the veterans over the course of the program is unbelievable.

"There was one guy who, when he first came in, he was like a zombie. Three or four months later, he came in wearing a suit and tie, he was cleaned up and had a smile on his face," he said. "When you work with one of these guys, you see the change in them. They have their confidence restored and they get their sense of community back. You're reminding them who they are and that they can move forward in society."

He said the rewards he's received from being a mentor have been great.

"I get more out of it than I put in," Harrington said. "For me, it's one of the most rewarding things in the world."

For more information contact:

Harnett County Veterans Services

910-893-7575

Johnston County VBAC

The event was held 26-28 August 2015 at the Johnston County Agricultural Center. An average of 350 veterans per day were seen by VSO's and VA raters.

County VSO's from Johnston (Robert Boyette/Deidra Creech), Wayne (Brenda DuBose/Sandi Lugo), Harnett (Amy Noel), Sampson (Ann Knowles/Sherry Hope) and Wayne (Don Evans/Dottie Garris) supported the event.

NCDVA also provided a lot of support including Frank Hicks, Rob Jones, Jeff Smith, Glenn Batten, Wanda Jones, Janelle Benson, Chuck Sanchez, Brenetta Washington, and many others.

Thousands of Resource Guides were distributed.

The VARO sent 12 raters as well as Doug Chapman and a visit from Cheryl Rawls.

Congressman Rouzer was present for opening ceremonies each day.

Other county veteran service organizations were present which included the American Legion, Marine Corps League, VFW, DAV and Vietnam Veterans of America.

NCDMV was on-site to issue license endorsement for veterans.

Durham VAMC attended to assist with enrollment in VA healthcare.

Red Cross, Upward Bound and Local employers were also present seeking to hire veterans.

Other notable attendees where NC Housing Finance Agency, Behavioral Health personnel from Alliance Healthcare, NC Division of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, NC Seniors Health Insurance Information Program for Medicare support, District 11A Veterans Treatment court representatives, NC Div of Voc Rehab

And Commwell Health and Dental.

American Legion and Cajun Comeau really supported the event and spent a lot of time helping planning and executing this.

For more information contact:

Robert Boyette

[Johnston County Veterans Services](#)

919-989-5067



Ann doing her thing.

Here is a link to an article from the News and Observer on the event.

<http://www.newsobserver.com/news/local/counties/johnston-county/article33680544.html>



\$470,000 in Retro Benefits

CLICK ON THE PICTURE BELOW TO READ THE VISN 6 NEWSLETTER



Hospitality — Flower Power

Flower Power

Remember This.....

We can't relive the past but we can dress up for it! If you weren't old enough for it, you can help us remember it. Get those funky clothes out of the closet.....we know you could not throw them away just like you can't get rid of the music!!

Get ready for RETRO
FUN!!!!!!!!!!

Hope to see you all at our Hospitality Night on Wednesday September 23rd 2015.



Get Funky

North Carolina Association of County Veterans Service Officers
Fall Training Conference - Asheville
September 22—25, 2015

Tuesday September 22

Time	Event	Presenter	Location
1:30 - 4:00	Optional Tour Black mountain	Debbie Caldwell	Black Mountain
4:30 – 5:30	Scholarship Committee	Ann Knowles	TBA
5:30 – 6:30	Education Committee Meeting	Brad Stroud	TBA
6:30 – 7:30	Executive Board Meeting	Jim Prosser	TBA

Wednesday September 23

Time	Event	Presenter	Location
08:00 – 08:30	Registration	Teresa Ball	
08:30 – 08:45	Opening Remarks	Jim Prosser	Meeting Conf Room
08:45 – 10:15	Consumer Fraud protection	Toni Camilli	Meeting Conf Room
10:15 – 10:30	Break		
10:00 – 12:00	Reference Materials	Walt Ward	Meeting Conf Room
11:30 – 1:00	Lunch		
1:00 – 2:00	C & P Exams	Mark Wilson	Meeting Conf Room
2:00 – 3:00	Fiduciary Hub	Marcia Hempy	Meeting Conf Room
3:00 – 3:15	Break		
3:15 – 4:15	NCDVA Updates	Ilario Pantano/Jeff Smith	Meeting Conf Room
5:30– 7:00	Hospitality		Hospitality Room

North Carolina Association of County Veterans Service Officers
Fall Training Conference - Asheville
September 22-25, 2015

Thursday September 24

<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Presenter</u>	<u>Location</u>
07:30 – 08:30	Prayer Breakfast	Gary Raiford/Jimi Sowell	Meeting Conf Room
08:45 – 09:00	Opening Remarks	Jim Prosser	Meeting Conf Room
09:00 – 10:00	SEP/PIV Updates	Martiez Taylor	Meeting Conf Room
10:00 – 10:15	Break		
10:15 – 11:15	SEP/PIV Continued	Martiez Taylor	Meeting Conf Room
11:15 – 12:00	General Business Meeting	Jim Prosser	
12:00 – 1:30	Lunch		
1:30 – 3:00	Debt Management Center	Jennifer Ware	Meeting Conf Room
3:00 – 3:15	Break		
3:15 – 4:30	Pension Center Updates	Gary Hodge	Meeting Conf Room
6:00 – 8:30	Banquet/Auction	Darryl Crenshaw	Dining Room

Friday September 25

<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Presenter</u>	<u>Location</u>
8:30 – 8:45	Opening Remarks	Jim Prosser	Meeting Conf Room
8:45 – 9:45	W-S VARO Updates	Cheryl Rawls	Meeting Conf Room
9:45 – 10:00	Closing/Certificates	Brad Staud	Meeting Conf Room



Crowne Plaza Resort Asheville

1 Resort Drive
Asheville, NC 28806

Hotel Front Desk; 1-828-254-3211
Fax; 1-828-285-2688
Email; reservations@hulsinghotels.com



Nearby Attractions

- Biltmore
- Blue Ridge Parkway for picnics, hiking and biking
- Chimney Rock Park
- Great Smoky Mountains National Park
- Whitewater Rafting
- NC Arboretum
- Grove Park Inn
- Thomas Wolfe House
- WNC Nature Center
- Folk Art Center
- Cherokee Reservation / Harrah's Casino
- Great Smoky Mountains Railroad
- Mount Mitchell (largest Mntn E of the Rockies)
- Flat Rock Playhouse Theater
- Grandfather Mountain
- Asheville Zipline Canopy Adventures



NACVSO Conference 2016

Myrtle Beach, SC - Hilton Hotel

Date: May 14-21, 2016

Place: Myrtle Beach, SC

Property: Beach Club Hilton

1000 Beach Club Myrtle Beach, SC

Room Rate: 132.00

Make plans now!

Scholarship

Don't forget a gift for the Banquet

Auction

And your cash