

***Harris County Veterans' Court***  
***Harris County District Courts***  
*Harris County, Texas*

Judge Marc Carter  
Presiding Judge  
Mary Covington  
Special Programs Manager

1201 Franklin  
Houston, Texas 77002

**MEDIA ADVISORY**  
February 1, 2011

**For Immediate Release**  
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**Harris County Veterans' Court Holds  
Inaugural Graduation Ceremony**

**WHO:** Harris County Veterans' Court Program

**WHAT:** Inaugural Commencement Celebration

**WHERE:** 228<sup>th</sup> District Court, 1201 Franklin, 16<sup>th</sup> Floor, Houston, Texas

**WHEN:** **Wednesday, February 2, 2011 at 2:30pm**

**WHY:** The graduation ceremony will showcase the accomplishments of the Veterans' Court program and honor the program's first graduates. The Harris County Veterans' Court Program was established in December, 2009 and was the first Veterans' Court in the State of Texas. The mission of the Harris County Veterans' Court Program is to rehabilitate eligible offenders who suffer from mental illness, mental disorder and/or substance use disorders due to military service, which was a contributing factor in their criminal offense. The goal of the program is to divert veterans and service members from the traditional judicial system and into treatment services thereby reducing recidivism, improving public safety and improving the quality of life for these offenders who have served their country.

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