



Honoring the Highest Form of Service

Over our country's history, generations of young men and women have answered the call to serve our military. World War I—known as the Great War—alone claimed the lives of over 9.7 million military personnel, leaving many more wounded. The war culminated on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month of 1918 when Germany signed an armistice agreement with the Allies, calling an end to the “war to end all wars.”

Still, over 100 years later, freedom, democracy, and the rule of law remain exposed to foreign and domestic threats. These demands require continued sacrifice and courage. This Veterans Day, on November 11, we honor those, past and living, who have shouldered the burdens of liberty and freedom.

The Texas Young Lawyers Association is excited to announce the launch of *Texas Courts for Texas Veterans*. In partnership with Texas Lawyers for Texas Veterans and the Texas Access to Justice Commission, we've created a video that includes comments from Texas Supreme Court Chief Justice Nathan L. Hecht; Army Spc. Carlo Villarreal (recent graduate of a Texas Veterans Treatment Court program); and Judge Oscar Hale (Veterans Treatment Court judge), of the 406th District Court in Webb County. They describe in personal detail the history and purpose of veteran specialty courts in Texas. Additionally, we've created a brochure that identifies resources and other important information for counties wanting to create a veterans treatment court in their community.

The debt owed to our veterans is one that we can never fully repay. Together, we should serve those who first served us.

This year, our TYLA directors will present *Texas Courts for Texas Veterans* as part of the free Texas CLE Roadshows being hosted across the state. If you want more information about this project, please send an email to TYLA at tyla@texasbar.com.

TYLA also is supporting and encouraging the efforts of the Texas Access to Justice Foundation, or TAJF, this month. In honor of Veterans Day, during the entire month of November, legal aid programs, local bar associations, law schools, and pro bono private lawyers will take part in a coordinated effort of TAJF to serve the civil legal needs of Texas veterans.

Clinics and workshops will be held throughout the state during Texas Veterans Legal Aid Week to meet the demand for services. If you are interested in giving a little of your time back to those who gave their all in our defense, review a list of events that can be found at texaslawhelp.org/tvlaw-2019.

The debt owed to our veterans is one that we can never fully repay. Together, we should serve those who first served us.

To the men and women who have served our nation with such courage and humility, we pray for blessings over you and your families. We pray that you be encircled with strength and peace. And, we pray that as you navigate the difficulties of returning from battle and reintegrating into normal everyday life, you find favor and goodness. Thank you for your service and sacrifice.

Better Together,

VICTOR A. FLORES
2019-2020 President,
Texas Young Lawyers Association