



2012-7

NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION SUPPORTS VETERANS TREATMENT COURTS AND JUSTICE FOR VETS – THE NATIONAL CLEARINGHOUSE FOR VETERANS TREATMENT COURTS

WHEREAS, when veterans return from combat, some turn to drugs or alcohol to cope with mental health issues such as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and/or Traumatic Brain Injury;

WHEREAS, an unfortunate number of veterans are entering the criminal justice system to face charges stemming from these issues;

WHEREAS, Veterans Treatment Courts are hybrid Drug Courts and Mental Health Courts and have evolved out of the growing need for a treatment court model designed specifically for justice-involved veterans to maximize efficiency and economize resources while making use of the distinct military culture consistent among veterans;

WHEREAS, many veterans have access to exclusive economic benefits and health services through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, State Departments of Veterans Affairs, County Departments of Veterans Affairs, and a variety of additional programs for veterans operated through Veterans Service Organizations at federal, state and local levels;

WHEREAS, grouping justice-involved veterans into a specific court docket significantly expedites access to veteran-specific resources, including benefits and treatment, earned through military service;

WHEREAS, veterans deeply value their military experience and share an inimitable bond among their peers and Veterans Treatment Courts build upon this camaraderie by allowing participants to go through the treatment court process with people who are similarly situated and have common past experiences, and pair veterans with volunteer veteran mentors;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Sheriffs' Association supports the continued growth of Veterans Treatment Courts as a vital court model for best serving this nation's justice-involved veterans in need of treatment and restoration;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the National Sheriffs' Association supports Justice For Vets - the National Clearinghouse For Veterans Treatment Courts to this end.

Adopted at a Meeting of the General Membership in Nashville, TN on June 18, 2012