

[Texas Veterans Commission 14th Veterans Summit Begins January 31](#)



**TEXAS VETERANS
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**E-Vets Newsletter
January 11, 2012**



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14th Annual Veterans Summit will be held in Austin from January 31-February 1

The Texas Veterans Commission 14th Annual Veterans Summit will be held at the Crowne Plaza Austin at 6121 Interstate Highway 35 North from January 31 - February 1, 2012.

There are many changes to the format of this year's Summit. After the opening session, the Exhibit Hall will open. The Exhibit Hall will feature groups that help Veterans and the opportunity to share what they do to help Texas Veterans and their families with those in attendance and to find new ways to work together.

Breakout sessions will feature several different tracks for attendees.

The legislative track will feature state and federal legislators and staff. There will also be issues panels that will explore the topics of veteran-owned businesses and property tax exemptions for

Veterans Honored on Pearl Harbor Anniversary with Park Road Dedication

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Veterans and their families.

The service track will include breakouts across a number of different topic areas: membership, housing, claims, employment, education, mental health, and Veterans' history.

The grant track will feature a grant capacity workshop that will be taught by the San Antonio Area Foundation.

The Texas Coalition of Veteran Services Organizations will meet Tuesday afternoon from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and is working to secure sponsorship for a reception that evening.

The conference will continue on Wednesday morning, February 1, 2012, with additional breakouts.

The conference will conclude with a closing session featuring a keynote speaker.

There is no cost to attend the Summit, but you do need to register online to attend. Go to <http://www.tvc.state.tx.us/> and click on the "Summit Registration" link, which is featured at the top of the page and under "Quick Links" on the right side of the page.

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Donate to Texas Veterans on your Vehicle Registration

On December 14, Texas Veterans Commission (TVC) Executive Director Thomas P. Palladino joined Sen. Wendy Davis, Tarrant County Judge Glen Whitley, Tarrant County Tax Assessor-Collector Ron Wright, Judge Brent Carr, and Texas Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) Director of Vehicle Titles and Registration Randy Elliston to promote a new option for supporting Veteran services.

Due to legislation sponsored by Sen. Davis and Rep. Joe Farias in the last session, Texas motorists will now have the ability to make a contribution through their vehicle registration form to support the TVC's Fund for Veterans' Assistance (FVA). Since the first FVA grants were made in 2010, TVC has awarded over \$18.5 million in grants to 69 local government and non-profit organizations. In fiscal year 2011, FVA grants helped to serve 65,700 Veterans and their family members. Services include emergency financial assistance, transportation services, counseling for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and Traumatic Brain Injury, housing assistance, family and child services, Veterans Courts and legal services.

Under the legislation, Senate Bill 1635, someone wishing to

donate an amount – be it \$1 or \$1000 – may insert the amount in the “fee box” at the bottom right hand corner of vehicle registration renewal notices. Customers would then add that amount to whatever their vehicle registration fee would be. The DMV will then send the donation to the FVA to directly support Veteran services.

According to Mr. Elliston, the legislation has already generated \$21,000 for the FVA from January registrations.

In addition to the vehicle registration, donations to support Veteran services may also be made through online donations by going to www.tvc.state.tx.us/help, by purchasing a Veterans Cash Lottery Ticket, or through the State Employee Charitable Campaign.

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About the Texas Veterans Commission

The Texas Veterans Commission is a state agency committed to ensuring all Veterans within the state of Texas receive the maximum benefits earned as a result of their service to their country. We provide superior service to Veterans in the areas of claims assistance, employment services, education benefits and reimbursement grants that significantly improve the quality of life of Texas Veterans and their families.