

**IT IS THE SOLDIER**

*“It is the soldier, not the reporter, who has given us freedom of the press. It is the soldier, not the poet, who has given us freedom of speech.*

*It is the soldier, not the campus organizer, who has given us the freedom to demonstrate. It is the soldier, not the lawyer, who has given us the right to a fair trial.*

*It is the soldier who salutes the flag, who serves under the flag, and whose coffin is draped by the flag, who allows the protester to burn the flag.”*

NAVY CHAPLAIN

**For more information:**

Contact the Veterans Court Coordinator at 215-683-1584 or via email at [VeteranMentors@courts.phila.gov](mailto:VeteranMentors@courts.phila.gov)

**Mentor Program Information Sessions:**

Held the third Monday of every month at 5:30 PM, in the Jury Selection Room of the Criminal Justice Center (101 CJC), 1301 Filbert Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107.

**Website Link**

[WWW.COURTS.PHILA.GOV/VETERANSCOURT](http://WWW.COURTS.PHILA.GOV/VETERANSCOURT)

*Spend a few hours per month as a Volunteer Mentor with the Philadelphia Veterans Court. Improve our city. Help a fellow veteran. Remember the code: “We take care of our own”*

**PHILADELPHIA  
VETERANS COURT  
MENTOR PROGRAM**



*Leave No Veteran Behind*

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## What is the Philadelphia Veterans Court?

The Philadelphia Municipal Court's Veterans Court was founded in 2010 in order to address the growing number of veterans involved in the criminal justice system. This new Court is a "problem-solving" Court, which uses a collaborative approach to criminal justice proceedings. The Court works in conjunction with the District Attorney's Office, defense counsel, the Philadelphia Veterans Mentor Group and the Veterans Administration to give each program participant the best possible chance of getting back on track as a healthy, productive Veteran and citizen.

Just as every Veteran is different, so is every criminal proceeding. There are some individuals who may not be able to participate in this program. Even those who are not eligible to have their cases heard in Veterans Court may benefit from speaking with Veterans Administration personnel assigned to the Court. This is a voluntary program, with no additional costs or administrative burdens for program participants.

### What is a mentor?



The Veterans peer-to-peer mentoring program is an integral part of Veterans Court. The ability to speak with a fellow Veteran who has "been there" offers Court participants an informal way to ask questions, solicit feedback and discuss how they are feeling about their situation.

Mentors are Court-trained volunteers, who have served in the US Military (including Guard and Reserves), and are assigned by Philadelphia Veterans Court to work with a specific Veteran as he or she progresses through their involvement with the Court. Mentors serve as liaison, advocate and guide to fellow Veterans as they work to address issues related to their criminal case. The Mentor training is conducted on the 3rd Monday of

every month in Philadelphia's Criminal Justice Center, 1301 Filbert Street in Center City. Prospective Mentors learn an overview of the Criminal Justice System, Veterans Court procedures as well as insights on how to be an effective listener. Mentors work closely with the Veterans Court Coordinator, under the auspices of the Court. The goal of the Court, and of the mentoring program, is to offer a hand to a buddy who may have stumbled. Through the combined efforts of the Municipal Court, the District Attorney, Defense Counsel, the VA, Veteran Mentors and the program participants themselves, we hope to offer our fellow Veterans access to needed services, an opportunity to address their justice-related issues and a chance to get "squared-away".

We need your help.

Philadelphia Veterans Court

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