



NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

September 1, 2011

Mr. West Huddleston
CEO
National Association of Drug Court Professionals
1029 N. Royal Street, Suite 201
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Mr. Huddleston:

On behalf of the National Sheriffs' Association (NSA) and the over 3,000 elected sheriffs nationwide, we are writing to express our strong support for the establishment of Veterans Treatment Courts within local criminal systems across the United States.

These specialized treatment courts rely on the collaboration among the local criminal justice system; both the U.S. and states' Departments of Veterans Affairs; and a multitude of veteran support organizations to ensure veterans receive the appropriate care and prevent their recidivism. Since the original court was established in 2008, there are currently 80 Veterans Treatment Courts operating across the nation, with hundreds more in the works.

As you are aware, along with serving as the chief law enforcement officer of a county, sheriffs are also typically responsible for managing the local jail and providing local courthouse security. Therefore, it is our duty to partner with the criminal justice system to implement effective programs to ensure individuals have the help and services needed to be successful in society and prevent their recidivism - ultimately preserving public safety for all citizens.

The exceptional efforts of Veterans Treatment Courts will provide invaluable service and assistance to our brave military men and women in need and help to break the cycle of recidivism. We are proud to express our strong support for Veterans Treatment Courts and look forward to working with the National Association of Drug Court Professionals and Justice for Vets (the national clearinghouse for Veterans Treatment Courts) to increase awareness of these courts nationwide.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul H. Fitzgerald".

Sheriff Paul H. Fitzgerald
President

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Aaron D. Kennard".

Aaron D. Kennard, Sheriff (ret.)
Executive Director