

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.