

## Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 973

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Charles Holcomb  
P.O. Box 2978  
Sherman, Texas 75091

February 21, 2013

Re: Faithful Friend Ministry

To Whom It May Concern:

The Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 973 (VVA 973) strongly supports Les Castro's Faithful Friend Ministry. VVA 973 is partnered with the Air Chapel and Les Castro's Faithful Friend Ministry to help rescue youth from a life of crime. The Air Chapel is located at the North Texas Regional Airport adjacent to the Department of Juvenile Services Boot Camp which serves 10-17 year old boys with offenses of assaults, property crimes, drug offenses, sexual offenses and continued violation of probation.

Les Castro's Faithful Friend Ministry goes into state and county juvenile prisons to mentor to inmates. These types of programs are necessary for a positive alternative to a possible life of crime. Les Castro's Faithful Friend Ministry and the Air Chapel would like to extend their programs to include some of the graduates of the Boot Camp to help care for and help train Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) service dogs to pair with veterans suffering from PTSD.

VVA 973 commits to serving Les Castro's Faithful Friend Ministry and the Air Chapel with our Texas Department of Health sponsored Bring Everyone In The Zone (BEITZ) PTSD, Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), Sexual assault and traumatic experiences programs for active duty, reserves, guard, veterans, their families and others. These programs performed by our professional Peer-to-Peer facilitators are essential to our community. VVA 973 also meets with veteran prisoners with PTSD or TBI, at Buster Cole State Jail located in Bonham, Texas and provides professional Peer-to-Peer facilitator support.

Trained service dogs paired with severely PTSD injured veterans helps by waking a veteran from a nightmare or create a buffer in large crowds or public places. PTSD injured veterans often experience a dramatic improvement, and feel renewed confidence in social situations, decrease medication use, and are less likely to experience a shock or be alarmed.

I ask that you to take this letter of commitment under advisement when making your decision.

Sincerely,

Charles Holcomb  
President  
Vietnam Veterans of America  
Sherman, Texas Chapter 973