# **Mission Statement:**

The mission of the Northeast Central Judicial District's Veterans Treatment Court is to promote recovery, stability, and accountability for veterans involved in the justice system through supervision and service-oriented mentorship; therefore improving public safety and civic contribution to the citizens and State of North Dakota.

> "Veteran Accountability Leading to Ongoing Recovery"

Northeast Central Judicial District Veterans **Treatment Court**  Veterans Treatment Court

Grand Forks ND 58201

124 S 4th St

Coordinator



Providing a structured environment for justiceinvolved veterans.

**Northeast Central Judicial** District



**Veterans Treatment Court** 

## **Background:**

The Veterans Treatment Court (VTC) is the culmination of interested parties listening to various stakeholder groups in the justice community, veterans, and those representing the views of the community.

Over the past two years, the VTC Committee met as a working group and committee to consider research, analysis, and background information relating to the need for, and creation of, a Veterans Treatment Court docket.

Veterans Treatment Court is not a new initiative nationwide. Since 2008, more than 400 such courts have been created leaving North Dakota as one of the few remaining states without a court to address significant concerns that many veterans struggle with that can be attributed to military service.

#### Who is involved in this effort?

The list is long and distinguished -representatives of the North Dakota
Department of Veterans Affairs, North
Dakota Veteran's Service Officers, Adjutant
General's office, veterans, State's Attorney
offices, Public Defense Bar, Department of
Corrections and Rehabilitation, ND Job
Service, ND Behavioral Health, law
enforcement, Northeast Department of
Human Services, legislators, judges, and
North Dakota Court System staff.

#### Why do we need a VTC?

As of 2020, the veteran population for Grand Forks County is 5,500, or 9.3% of Grand Forks' population. Nelson County's veteran population is 250 or 8.3 % of the county's population. Parole and probation numbers of justice-involved veterans demonstrate a need for this court.

It is a proven, effective treatment court model that assists veterans struggling with the impact of traumatic brain injury, military sexual trauma, substance abuse, and/or post-traumatic stress disorder the consequences of which can lead to homelessness and/or criminal activity. VTCs go beyond the adult drug courts now in existence.

The court adds a military-style structure, procedures, and rules and is assisted through the creation of a mentorship model that is based on military peer-to-peer support which is found to be effective.

Veterans Treatment Court builds upon military camaraderie by allowing participants to go through the treatment court process with people who are similarly situated and have common past experiences and through the use of volunteer veteran mentors.

The veteran also has access to services they've earned within the VA system for mental health and addiction. They also access support from the North Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs and their local veteran service officers.

The courtroom truly becomes a place of hope and healing.

### How can you help?

Donate goods and services to the VTC (gift certificates for groceries, gas, haircuts, restaurants, recreation, etc.) ♦ Consider hiring VTC participants ♦ Consider renting to veterans court participants ♦ Volunteer to be a veteran mentor ♦ Consider VTC participants when hiring for your business ♦ Consider making a tax-deductible donation to the Northeast Central Judicial District VTC. NDACP is a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization to reduce substance abuse, crime, and recidivism by promoting and advocating for the establishment and funding of VTC and providing for the collection and dissemination of information, assistance with technology for the veteran participant, and mutual support to association members. Donations can be sent to Cassandra McCamy: ND Association of Drug Court Professionals, VTC, 1010 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave S, Fargo, ND 58103



