



PRESS RELEASE

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**OAKLAND COUNTY COMBAT VETERANS TREATMENT COURT
HOLDS ITS FIRST GRADUATION CEREMONY**

Oakland County, MI (January 13, 2015) – The Combat Veterans Treatment Court of Oakland County will graduate its first two participants on Wednesday, January 14, 2015, at 11:00 in Chief Judge Nanci Grant’s courtroom. Special guests include Sgt. Xayvier Swensen of Los Angeles, CA, who was featured on Soledad O’Brien’s CNN documentary *The War Comes Home*.

One of the participants graduating served in Vietnam and was awarded a Purple Heart, Silver Star, two Bronze Stars and several medals and commendations. The other graduate served both in Afghanistan and Iraq as part of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. That graduate received several medals and commendations and was honorably discharged. These participants not only attended vitally necessary treatment programs through various veteran services, but they also provided extended community services targeted toward veterans as well as current members of the military.

This program was created in 2013 by Chief Judge Grant as a way to help citizens who literally placed themselves in harm’s way to protect our freedoms. To be accepted into the program, participants cannot have a criminal record prior to their service and

they must have been honorably discharged. They are in the program because their service, and the effects of their service, whether physical or emotional, led directly to their involvement with the criminal justice system. Veterans Court does not seek to give veterans special treatment, but focuses on the unique issues faced by our veterans.

According to Judge Grant, "These veterans deserve special attention, not special treatment, to help them better regain the place they held in society and in the community prior to their service." Grant continued "They picked up weapons to protect us and our freedoms; in turn, I believe we need to ensure they have access to and are being treated with the services they earned."

For more information about the graduation ceremony or the Oakland County Veterans Treatment Court, please contact Brenda Beiter at 248-858-8953.

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An electronic photograph of Chief Judge Nanci J. Grant is attached.