

STATE OF FLORIDA
SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
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NEWS RELEASE

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Veterans Court renamed to honor Judge David B. Beck

Veterans Court in Volusia County was renamed today, May 26, in honor of Judge David B. Beck, a retired judge and U.S. Army veteran.

The event, held at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, included city and county proclamations and commemorative gifts from several veterans groups, as a tribute to the judge who had helped to found Veterans Court in November 2013.

In his work, Judge Beck had seen firsthand how veterans struggled in civilian life and would become entangled in the criminal justice system. He helped to establish a new court in Volusia County to focus on veterans specifically and was its first presiding judge. Judge Beck served 11 years in the 7th Circuit and retired in 2014.

When he was in his 20s, he served in the U.S. Army, supervised a military police unit and served in Okinawa, Japan, and earned the rank of lieutenant. "People didn't like us very much back then," he said about coming home to Ormond Beach during the Vietnam War era. "There I was, serving in a war that nobody wanted."

He remained dedicated to veterans causes and worked several years to start the Veterans Court program. "For my veteran friends, I'm proud to be one of you and thank you for your service," he added.

Veterans Court continues in Volusia County, with hearings in both DeLand and Daytona Beach. The program has had 174 graduates since its inception. The program has since expanded to St. Johns County. One of the current presiding judges, Volusia County Court Judge Steven Henderson, lauded the low recidivism rates for the graduates.

Chief Judge Terence R. Perkins presented the administrative order, officially dedicating the "Judge David B. Beck Veterans Court." Judge Beck received proclamations from the Volusia

County Council, as presented by Volusia County Chair Ed Kelley; from Daytona Beach, as presented by City Commissioner Aaron Delgado; from Ormond Beach, as presented by Mayor Bill Partington; and from the office of Rep. Ron DeSantis. The judge also received gifts from the Special Olympics, having been a basketball coach for the athletes; the Vietnam Veterans of America, who also served as honor guard during the ceremony; and a special gavel from Circuit Judge Howard McGillin, who presides over Veterans Treatment Court in St. Augustine. Attendees included 28 current and retired judges, longtime friend Tom Warner, several Volusia County officials who had served on the canvassing board with him, as well as several organizations, including Habitat for Humanity and the homeless coalition, for which Judge Beck volunteered and served on boards.

As fitting for the Memorial Day Holiday weekend, the event also included a "white table" presentation, which is a symbolic table to remember members of the military who were killed or are missing in action. Judge Beck had presented the white table at a Veterans Court hearing for Veterans Day last year and the event included his own audio explaining the various symbols on the white table.

Volusia County Court Judge Bryan Feigenbaum, who presides over Veterans Court in Daytona Beach, had organized the event.

"I'm overwhelmed. Seeing all of you here is more than I express," he said, as he surveyed the crowd of about 300 people at the Gale Lemerand Auditorum.

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