



# Judiciary of Guam

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

February 2, 2024

## **Judiciary Celebrates Graduates of Veterans Treatment Court**

(Hagåtña, Guam) — Graduates of the Judiciary's Veterans Treatment Court (VTC) are getting their lives back on track following a ceremony celebrating their achievements last week.

The ceremony was held in the courtroom of Presiding Judge Alberto C. Lamorena III, who oversees the VTC. The Veterans Treatment Court and its sister treatment programs were pioneered by the Presiding Judge, first offering its services to offenders in 2015. Since then, the program has graduated 62 justice-involved veterans with a recidivism rate of 5% and a success rate of 95%.

*"I'd like to congratulate our two graduates. I know they've worked very hard to come to this point,"* said Presiding Judge Lamorena, emphasizing the VTC's therapeutic and recovery-focused approach.

The Veterans Treatment Court is a hybrid drug and mental health court that serves veterans who are struggling with addiction and/ or mental illness by diverting them from the traditional criminal justice system into a specialized veteran's court. The program requires justice-involved veterans to participate in four intense treatment phases that address post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury, depression, drug and alcohol dependency, co-occurring mental illness, and substance abuse programs.

During the ceremony, veterans received a certificate, a Justice for Vets coin, a Chamber of Commerce coin, and a "VTC challenge coin" as a reminder of their special accomplishment. In addition to the awards, graduates of the program have their cases dismissed and expunged.

*"The key point I have to emphasize is to maintain your sobriety. Sobriety is the number one priority in your recovery,"* said Presiding Judge Lamorena. *"The Veterans Treatment Court is always open to all of you, whether you're a graduate or not."*

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