



# Press Release

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## Fairbanks Veterans Court Honors and Supports Veterans

**Fairbanks, AK, November 7, 2022** - The Fairbanks Veterans Court honors veterans' service to our country and offers support to those Veterans who have criminal cases before the court. Fairbanks is home to almost 3000 Veterans, some of whom left the service struggling with trauma, mental illness (such as PTSD), and substance use disorders. Veterans treatment courts like Fairbanks Veterans Court save the lives, families, and futures of our veterans while also saving taxpayer dollars.

The Fairbanks Veterans Court is the newest therapeutic court in Alaska and was launched earlier this year with the support of the Alaska Department of Law, the Alaska Public Defender Agency, the Office of Public Advocacy, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the advocacy group, Alaska Veterans for Justice. The Court is currently accepting referrals of Veterans who have felony or misdemeanor charges and are eligible for VA benefits.

Fairbanks Superior Court Judge Thomas Temple, who presides over the Fairbanks Veterans Court, said that the goal is to "enhance the quality of life for the veteran offender by breaking the cycle of criminality and connecting the veteran to appropriate treatment and services." Judge Temple is a former U.S. Marine rifleman and machine gunner.

Learn more about the [Fairbanks Veterans Court](#) and [other therapeutic court programs](#) on our website.

**About the Therapeutic Court Model:** The therapeutic model is an alternative justice model in which a collaborative court team made up of a supervising judge, district attorney, defense counsel, probation officer and/or substance abuse or mental health treatment provider, oversees and closely monitors participants who chose the treatment program in lieu of incarceration for some felony and misdemeanor offenses. The participants work hard over a lengthy multi-month process to meet milestones while being held accountable for any issues that arise.

**About the Alaska Court System:** The mission of the Alaska Court System is to provide an accessible and impartial forum for the just resolution of all cases that come before it, and to decide such cases in accordance with the law, expeditiously and with integrity.