

Veterans



My service to this country as a United States Army Officer is probably the most formative professional experience of my adult life. The lessons that I learned as a soldier, such as devotion to duty, sacrifice, and a focus on mission accomplishment, are lessons that I have brought to my position as a DeKalb County Commissioner. As a veteran, the issues that affect other veterans and their families are very close to my heart.

The “suck it up and drive on” ethos that we are taught as soldiers, for the most part, serves us well. We are trained to persevere and maintain our focus when times get tough. This way of operating has certainly served me well in various aspects of my life. But there are times when this ethos works against us. There are times when our training and instincts compel us to “tough it out” when what we should be doing is asking for help. Every time I hear about a fellow veteran who has taken his or her own life, it breaks my heart.

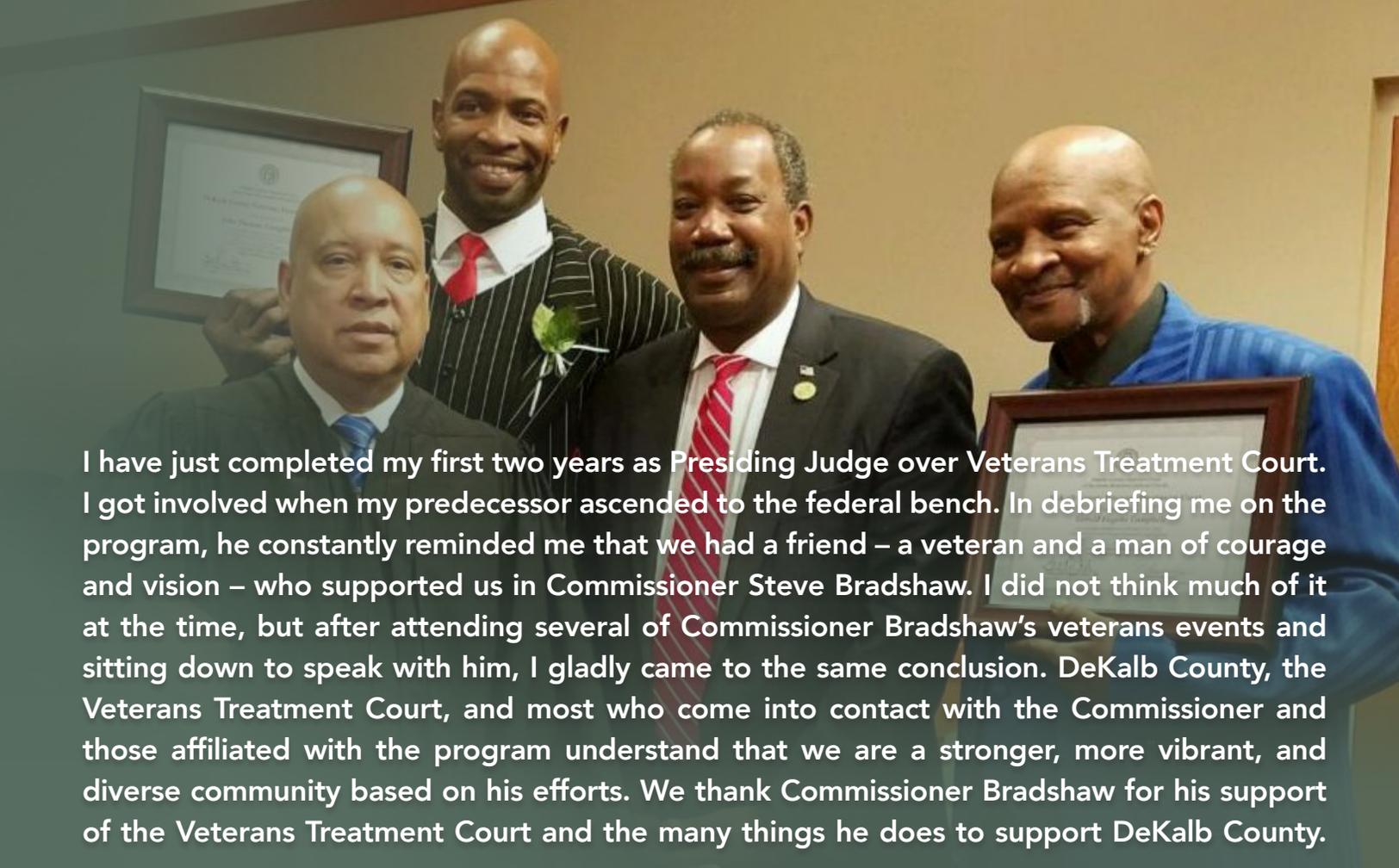
The Federal Government is charged with attending to the needs of our veterans through the Veterans Administration. Even so, upon taking this office, I was determined to do whatever I can to be of service to those who served this country in the uniform of our armed forces – and I will continue to do so.



AMVETS (American Veterans) Post 44 members help grill and prepare hamburgers, hot dogs, and drinks for the Veterans Expo.



Proudly standing with the other veterans in attendance at the NAACP’s Armed Services and Veterans Affairs Breakfast November 2019.



I have just completed my first two years as Presiding Judge over Veterans Treatment Court. I got involved when my predecessor ascended to the federal bench. In debriefing me on the program, he constantly reminded me that we had a friend – a veteran and a man of courage and vision – who supported us in Commissioner Steve Bradshaw. I did not think much of it at the time, but after attending several of Commissioner Bradshaw's veterans events and sitting down to speak with him, I gladly came to the same conclusion. DeKalb County, the Veterans Treatment Court, and most who come into contact with the Commissioner and those affiliated with the program understand that we are a stronger, more vibrant, and diverse community based on his efforts. We thank Commissioner Bradshaw for his support of the Veterans Treatment Court and the many things he does to support DeKalb County.

Judge Mark Anthony Scott, Superior Court – Division 9, Stone Mountain Judicial Circuit, with graduates of the First Veterans Treatment Court, November 22, 2019.

DeKalb County – District 4

Accomplishments

- Hosted a Resources Expo for DeKalb County Veterans in 2018 and 2019
- Allocated \$40,000 of District 4 reserve funds to the Veterans Treatment Court
- Appointed Vice-Chair of the National Association of Counties Veterans and Military Affairs Committee



May 2017: Honoring Mr. and Mrs. Josiah Benator for Older Americans Month. Mr. Benator served in WWII, is a Purple Heart and Bronze Star recipient, and has been a Boy Scout Troop leader for 68 years. Mr. and Mrs. Benator have been married for almost 70 years.