



## Hidalgo County Commissioners Court

**Richard F. Cortez**  
*County Judge*

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*Commissioner, Precinct 1*

**Eduardo "Eddie" Cantu**  
*Commissioner, Precinct 2*

**Joe M. Flores**  
*Commissioner, Precinct 3*

**Ellie Torres**  
*Commissioner, Precinct 4*

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## NEWS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 21, 2019

## **Veterans Treatment Court offers guidance and assistance for veterans struggling with addictions**

**EDINBURG** – The Veterans Treatment Court held a ceremony on Feb. 20 for four graduates of the treatment program.

Family members and elected officials gathered at the 430<sup>th</sup> District Court for the occasion.

Graduates of the program were former U.S. Marine Jorge Garcia, and former U.S. Army Veterans Jerold Heckman, Jacob Luna, and Michael Perez.

"This program is successful because of the panel of experts and volunteers who make it possible," said District Court Judge Israel Ramon.

The treatment program can last between 12 and 24 months, depending on the progress of the individual said Veterans Court Program Coordinator Martha I. Calderon Galassi.

Hidalgo County Assistant District Attorney, Roberto Colegio, who served in the U.S. Army offered words of encouragement to the graduates and families.

"Those of you who graduated today didn't give up; remember that," said Colegio. "Let this be a reminder to yourself that you're able to finish something that you started, and today you proved that."

The Veterans Treatment Court provides intensive treatment and supervision to veterans and their families in order to promote public safety and reduce recidivism.

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**PHOTO:** Staff, treatment court volunteers and elected officials celebrate four honorably discharged graduates of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Veterans Treatment Court.

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*Hidalgo County is home to one of the fastest growing regions in the nation. We provide health and justice to the over 800,000 residents of our county. We strive to be accessible and responsive to our citizens by providing excellent public service through the values of leadership, transparency, fairness, collaboration, respect and fiscal responsibility. Follow our social media feed at [www.co.hidalgo.tx.us/followus](http://www.co.hidalgo.tx.us/followus)*