



GOVERNOR GREG ABBOTT

September 2, 2016

TO: State Agency Heads

SUBJECT: Texas Veterans Portal

Texas veterans have made extraordinary sacrifices to protect and defend our state, our nation and the freedoms we all cherish. In return, it is our duty as Americans and Texans to provide certain services and benefits to our veterans with the same level of dedication they have demonstrated in their service to each of us. To that end, we must inform them of the assistance that is available to them in an easily accessible and navigable format.

The Texas Veterans Portal website provides information on veteran-specific benefits and services, such as a list of community service providers, easy access to forms and applications for benefits and answers to questions such as, "Where can I get help finding a job?" and "Who can help me file for benefits through the VA?" This mobile-enabled website is a great source of vital information for the more than 1.7 million veterans who call Texas home.

Currently, the Texas Veterans Portal is being updated with changes that will make it easier to navigate for a veteran or family member looking for information on benefits and services. The new portal will be launched on Veterans Day, November 11, 2016. During the updating process, the current Texas Veterans Portal website will remain fully accessible and functional, and upon completion, the web address will remain the same: <http://veterans.portal.texas.gov>.

Many state agencies' homepages already provide a link to the Texas Veterans Portal; however, a majority of Texas' state government websites do not. **In order to ensure we are providing adequate access to essential information for our veterans, I am directing every state agency to incorporate a link to the Texas Veterans Portal on the agency's homepage. In providing these links, we create more opportunities for veterans and their families seeking assistance to have greater accessibility to these important resources.**

The Texas Veterans Portal is a collaboration among the Department of Information Resources (DIR), Texas Veterans Commission, Texas Workforce Commission, Veterans Land Board, Health and Human Services Commission and Texas A&M Health Science Center and is managed by the Texas.gov program. If you have questions about the website or need assistance incorporating a link into your homepage, please contact Jennifer Buaas, Director of Digital Government at DIR, at Jennifer.buaas@dir.texas.gov or (512) 463-3602.

As Texans, we are grateful for all of our veterans and their families who have sacrificed greatly for our freedoms. As a state, let us join together and help serve them to the best of our abilities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Abbott".

Greg Abbott
Governor
GA:cbd