



*Veterans Treatment Court
Cumberland County, North Carolina*

Luis J. Olivera
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

VETERANS TREATMENT COURT GRAND OPENING NOV. 13

FAYETTEVILLE, NC - The Cumberland County Veterans Treatment Court will host a Grand Opening Ceremony at 2:30 p.m. on Nov. 13 in Courtroom 2B of the Cumberland County Courthouse. Melissa Fitzgerald, senior director of Justice for Vets, a division of the National Association of Drug Court Professionals, will give the keynote address. Fitzgerald appeared on the NBC series "The West Wing." State, regional and local political and community leaders will be invited.

The Veterans Treatment Court is an alternative sentencing program designed specifically to address the veteran's myriad needs. Veterans who have committed misdemeanors and non-violent felonies would be able to engage in a holistic program addressing mental health and substance abuse issues, housing, employment, education and health care.

The veteran must attend counseling, community support meetings, participate in a stringent drug testing program and perform community service. At the end of the year-long program, the successful graduate may be eligible to have his or her original charges dropped or expunged.

District Court Judge Lou Olivera will preside over the Veterans Treatment Court, which is funded by a grant from the Governor's Crime Commission.

For further information, contact Craig Shore, Veterans Treatment Court program coordinator, at 910-475-3243 or Craig.V.Shore@nccourts.org,