

Mr. Terry Tottenham, Past-President of the State Bar of Texas

Texas Lawyers for Texas Veterans 10th Anniversary

[Link to Video](#)

“American Soldier” Music Playing (16 sec)

Lyrics:

“I’m just trying to be a father  
Raise a daughter and a son  
Be a lover to their mother  
Everything to every o-o-ne  
Up and at ‘em eyed bright and early  
I’m all business in my suit  
Yeah, I’m dressed up for success  
from my head down to my boots  
And I don’t do it.... (Music fades out)”

00:45

Terry Tottenham speaking:

Our military servicemen and women have made great sacrifices in duty to their country. As lawyers, we can make a difference in the lives of a great many veterans and in the families of those who did not return. Texas has the second highest population of veterans in the nation and an alarming number of Texas veterans are living in poverty or without homes.

The State Bar of Texas created Texas Lawyers For Texas Veterans with these needs in mind. TLTV equips local bars and other organizations with resources to host legal advice clinics throughout the state providing pro-bono civil legal help to brave veterans and their families who otherwise cannot afford legal services. Our “Clinic In A Box” contains everything you need to host a clinic, including a how-to guide, intake forms, substantive law questionnaires, office supplies, and more - and our marketing tool kit offers helpful tools for publicizing your clinic to veterans and potential volunteers.

*2:01 Traffic noise*

Doug Lawrence, Austin Bar Association:

It isn’t really difficult to get a lot of people that as soon as we call them they say, “Yes, we’re in,” as soon as they hear the word veterans. We get a lot of people that come to the clinics, where we want to expand is to get more people to take some cases. We’re seeing a lot of credit-debtor issues, a lot of--a lot of scam issues, some identity theft, a lot of veterans getting taken over the phone when people call them up saying they’re with an agency or charity that helps veterans, but actually they’re not. And they

get the veteran's information and they use that and run up bills and stuff. We're seeing a lot of that, we're seeing a lot of landlord-tenant issues.

2:35 David Jimenez, US Coast Guard Veteran:

Just getting back to Texas I needed some quick answers. This was a-a clinic that that was responsive and really helped me out and I appreciate it.

2:45 Melissa Stone Meyers, Attorney Volunteer

Our veterans have served us, they've served our country. I'm not going to fight in battle, but they are and if they need help and there's help I can provide, that's why I want to be here so that's why I've been coming.

(Chattering)

2:55 John Harryman, US Marine Corps Veteran

If they hadn't served themselves, they probably don't realize what just the-the psychological impact of the of-the act is. It just means so much that anyone would volunteer their time. What you do may not be a big deal, but the fact that you offered is tremendous.

3:14 Andrew Lehmann, US Army Veteran, Houston Bar Association's Veterans Legal Initiative

I think for most volunteers, it's a pretty humbling experience, that they understand they're sitting across from someone that that (click) chose to make a sacrifice and is now dealing with that in their everyday life and that that's the-a impetuous that gets the volunteer to come out to say I want to help people that that's why they're here because of their service. And now they need help and volunteers and attorneys are positioned to do something about that.

3:40 Terry Tottenham

I commend the thousands of volunteer attorneys who've stepped up to serve our veterans since we launched TLTV in 2010. Yet, a great need remains for our volunteers. In his immortal second inaugural address, President Abraham Lincoln promised to "care for him who shall have born the battle and for his widow and his orphan." Please join me in fulfilling Lincoln's promise (guitar strumming music begins) for our needing men and women who have honored us by wearing the uniform. Thank you.

Music increases

Lyrics:

"Yeah, an American soldier, an American  
Beside my brothers and my sisters  
I will proudly take a stand  
When liberty's in jeopardy  
I will always do what's right

I'm out here on the front lines  
so sleep in peace tonight  
American soldier, I'm an American

an American  
an American soldier”

*Strumming fades as jet engine takes off.*

Music Source: LyricFind

Songwriters: Chuck Cannon / Toby Keith

American Soldier lyrics © Tokeco Tunes