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Gov. Perry Launches Texas Veterans Leadership Program

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DALLAS – Gov. Rick Perry today announced the creation of the Texas Veterans Leadership Program (TVLP), a resource to help veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan assimilate to civilian life in Texas by providing employment and training services, resources and referrals.

“Americans owe these men and women a debt of gratitude for their brave and selfless service to our country,” Gov. Perry said. “While we can never thank them enough for protecting our freedom and the livelihood we hold dear, our

veterans deserve the best support we can give them as they transition from military culture and the chaos of the battlefield, to the civilian workplace.”

TVLP is headed by Texas Workforce Commissioner (TWC) Tom Pauken, and is modeled after the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program. TVLP will be overseen by a state director, and will recruit 28 veterans to serve as local Veterans Resource and Referral Specialists, or liaisons in workforce centers across the state.

“Veterans have made tremendous sacrifices during their service to our country, and the Texas Veterans Leadership Program is our opportunity to welcome veterans home in the right way and assist them with a successful transition,” Pauken said.

Providing services to reintegrate the men and women returning from combat in Iraq and Afghanistan into civilian life is a priority for Gov. Perry. In August, he called on the Texas Legislature to provide in-state tuition to all qualified veterans, their spouses and dependents as gratitude for their service and sacrifice to our state and country. The tuition waiver could save veterans and their families up to \$8,100 a year if they take 30 semester credit hours at a Texas public university.

For more information on TVLP, please visit <http://www.twc.state.tx.us/tvlp/tvlp.html>.

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