

# Texas Workforce Press Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **TWC Chairman Announces Returning Veterans Initiative**

AUSTIN — Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) Chairman Tom Pauken announced today that TWC has approved \$2.25 million to fund a comprehensive program to assist returning veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan as they resume civilian life in Texas. Pauken thanked Gov. Rick Perry for his strong support of this important initiative.

The Texas Veterans Leadership Program will be modeled on the successful Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program which Pauken, himself a Vietnam Veteran, established during the Reagan administration. The program will enlist Texas veterans who served in Iraq and Afghanistan to lead this initiative to help their fellow veterans throughout our state.

“Gov. Perry and I want Texas to serve as the model for the nation in welcoming our veterans home as they return to civilian life,” said Chairman Pauken. “The best means of thanking them for the sacrifices they have made for our state and nation is to put in place a road map for their successful re-integration into civilian life.

“Returning veterans deserve our utmost appreciation, and we must honor their service by easing their reentry into the Texas workforce,” said Gov. Perry. “The military provided them training and leadership experience in high-pressure situations and taught them devotion to unit integrity. Now the state of Texas will ensure that their unique skills are applied and further developed within our economy, helping them to succeed in the next phase of their lives.”

Pauken also announced that retired U.S. Marine Corps Gunnery Sgt. Jason K. Doran has been selected to lead the Texas Veterans Leadership Program. During his 20-year career, Doran earned the Silver Star, Navy Commendation Medal, Navy Achievement Medal with Combat “V”, and two Combat Action Ribbons. His service included Operation Iraqi Freedom, Desert Shield/Storm in the Middle East, and Operation Noble Obelisk and Guardian Retrieval in Africa, JTF-6 Counter Drug Operations, and service in the Philippines and Korea.

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Download video of TWC Chairman Tom Pauken during the announcement of the Texas Veterans Leadership Program at the following link: <http://www.twc.state.tx.us/news/press/2008/praudio08.html>

*The Texas Workforce Commission is a state agency dedicated to helping Texas employers, workers and communities prosper economically. For details on TWC and the programs it offers in unison with its network of local workforce development boards, call (512) 463-8556 or visit [www.texasworkforce.org](http://www.texasworkforce.org).*