

# Texas Workforce Press Release

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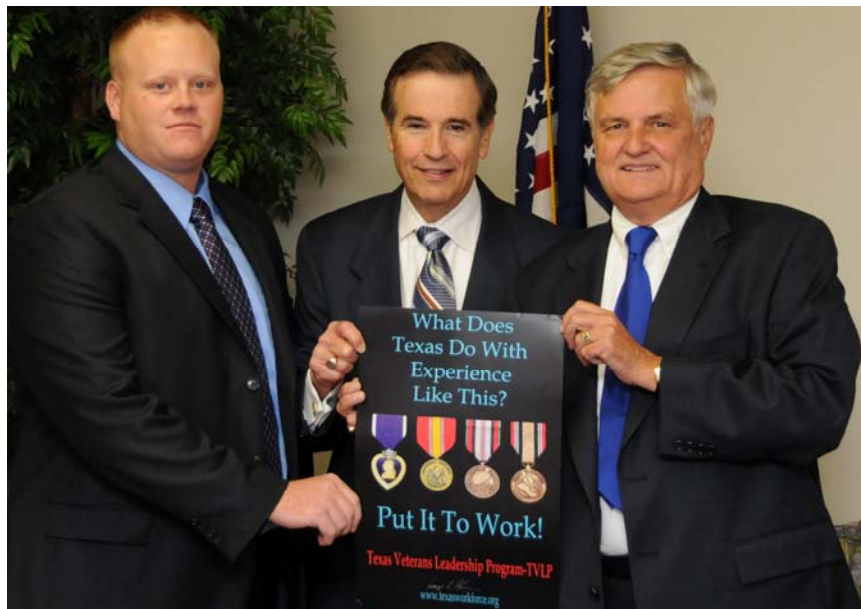
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## **TWC's Texas Veterans Leadership Program Receives Support from State Rep. Zedler**

ARLINGTON – A new state program to help Texas veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan transition into the civilian workplace is getting a strong boost from state Rep. Bill Zedler (R-Arlington).

Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) Chairman Tom Pauken presented the lawmaker with a poster publicizing the Commission's Texas Veterans Leadership Program (TVLP), which is designed to help returning veterans find work and achieve a successful re-entry into civilian life.



TWC Chairman Tom Pauken (right) receives support from (l to r) Workforce Solutions North Central Texas Veterans Resource and Referral Specialist Robert Kelley and state Rep. Bill Zedler for TWC's Texas Veterans Leadership Program (TVLP), which officially launches September 1, 2008. TVLP is a new state program designed to assist Texas veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars with the transition to civilian life. *Texas Workforce Commission photo.*

“Whatever we can do to help, we’ll do,” said Zedler, a Vietnam veteran. “I’ve always felt that we have to support those who put their lives on the line to protect our country. This program is one aspect of that. I want to help make TVLP a success.”

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TVLP, which officially launches September 1, 2008, is based on a program that Pauken, as head of the federal agency ACTION during the Reagan administration, initiated to support Vietnam veterans.

Leading the new program is retired Marine Corps Gunnery Sgt. Jason K. Doran, who was awarded the Silver Star for service in Iraq.

“We want to say a very hearty thank you to Rep. Bill Zedler for his enthusiastic support of this vital and patriotic program,” Pauken said of the three-term legislator who is vice chairman of the House Public Education Committee and is a member of the Business and Industry Committee.

“We are encouraged to see so many legislators on both sides of the political aisle support this important initiative to help our returning veterans make a successful transition into civilian life,” added Pauken.

Pauken noted that 28 Veterans Resource and Referral Specialists, each a veteran of the Iraq or Afghanistan wars, are in place in every one of the state’s workforce board areas to provide the personal help that the \$2.25 million TVLP grant will offer. Participants will receive assistance at one of TWC’s regional workforce centers.

“These returning veterans have answered our country’s call during difficult times,” Pauken noted. “They have special skills and experience that we need to put back to work here in Texas.”

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*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).*