



Press Release

Tom Henry, Public Affairs Director, Office of County Judge
publicaffairs.director@mississippicountyar.org
870-763-3212 (office), 870-740-2514 (cell)

For Immediate Release:

June 21, 2021

Dickerson Named Mississippi County Veteran Services Officer (VSO)

MISSISSIPPI COUNTY, AR – Mississippi County veterans are extremely important and so are their families, therefore County Judge John Alan Nelson is proud to announce that Dale Dickerson of Manila has been named the county's new certified Veteran Service Officer (VSO).

Mr. Dickerson is a lifelong resident of Mississippi County and a wounded veteran of the United States Infantry, serving during Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. He is also the father of nine-year-old Evan and six-year-old Ally. His intense love for veterans comes not only from his time serving in the military, but also from having grown up in a military family.

"I want to be the best I can for ALL veteran families. I want them to leave happy and I want them to get everything they deserve...every veteran..." Dickerson said. "I just want people to know that I'm here and that they have someone that has their back and that is willing to help them out."

Being an active member of the American Legion, Dickerson explained that taking the job as Mississippi County VSO is a continuation of work he was already doing.

"My entire time with the American Legion has been about trying to help all veterans," he explained.

The Mississippi County VSO advises and performs administrative work for veterans and their families, including searching and applying for benefits available to them under federal, state and local laws. The Mississippi County VSO also assists with the completion and submission of required forms, obtaining necessary legal documents, medical records, service records and other documents required by law or in support of a claim.

The VSO also connects veterans and their family members with services available at local, state and federal levels. When possible, the VSO also visits veterans and/or dependents in their homes or institutions for claim assistance if they are unable to visit the office in person.

Other outreach and services offered include:

- Advocating for veterans and their family with the Veterans Administration (VA);
- performs benefit searches and aids with the application process;
- assists with military funeral arrangements;
- guides veterans to available support groups or assistance when needed;
- files and processes veterans claims, ensuring that all paperwork is completed and properly submitted;
- counsels veterans and makes referral to available services at all levels of government;
- responds to Veteran Administration (VA) letters as necessary;
- attends community events and shares information on various veteran programs in Mississippi County;

- assists pensioned veterans and widows completing their annual income and medical expense reporting requirements;
- visits social/human services offices, law enforcement agencies, regional Veterans Administration offices and state institutions to render advice and assistance to veterans;
- assists widows/widowers of veterans in securing Department of Veterans Affairs death benefits;
- advises veterans on home loans and assists them in obtaining letters of eligibility; and
- confers with Quorum Court and County Judge in developing progressive plans for the division.

Office hours for the Blytheville office, 500 Chickasawba Street, is 8:30 a.m. until 5 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays and from 1:30 p.m. until 5 p.m. on Tuesdays unless he is out visiting with a veteran out in the county. The Blytheville VSO phone office number is 870-763-0509.

Office hours for the Osceola office, located upstairs in the Osceola Courthouse at 200 West Hale, is 8:30 a.m. until noon on Tuesdays unless he is out visiting with a veteran out in the county. The Osceola VSO office phone number is 870-563-1308.

It is always best to make an appointment first by calling Mr. Dickerson on his cell phone at 870-278-9295 or by emailing him at vsorepdaled@gmail.com

###