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**SUPPORTING TEXAS EDUCATION
AND VETERANS**

INAUGURAL LOTTERY WEEK KICKS OFF JULY 15

Texas Lottery to highlight its impact on public education and veterans' services

(AUSTIN) – For the first time ever, the Texas Lottery, in collaboration with lotteries across North America, has declared the week of July 15 as the inaugural observance of Lottery Week.

Lottery Week is a celebration of lotteries across the United States and Canada, in acknowledgement of their collective contributions to the communities they serve.

“We are thrilled to join lotteries across the continent in celebrating the first-ever Lottery Week,” said Gary Grief, executive director of the Texas Lottery. “Throughout the week on our social media channels, we will highlight the positive impacts the Texas Lottery has had on our beneficiaries – public education and programs for veterans in the state of Texas.”

As much as 96 percent of funds generated from traditional U.S. lottery games goes directly back into the economy through prizes, public beneficiaries and retailer commissions. Lottery proceeds fund different programs according to each jurisdiction’s guidelines and are dedicated to a variety of important causes, including education, environmental conservation, elderly care, tourism, economic development and more.

In fiscal year 2018 alone, U.S. lotteries generated \$23.4 billion for good causes and transferred \$4.8 billion to their retailer partners. Of that total, the Texas Lottery transferred record funds to the Foundation School Fund (\$1.432 billion) and to the Fund for Veterans’ Assistance (\$18.1 million). It also paid out \$281.5 million in retailer commissions, which was the highest commission paid out to retailers in Texas Lottery history. To date, the Texas Lottery has contributed more than \$23 billion to Texas public education and more than \$115 million to Texas veterans since the dedication of such funds by the Texas Legislature.

While individual jurisdictions vary, the Texas Lottery’s financial breakdown is in line with industry averages. During the 2018 fiscal year, the Texas Lottery returned 65.1 percent in prizes to players, 25.8 percent to Texas education and Texas veterans and 5.4 percent to its retailer partners. The remaining 3.7 percent that was directed to supporting lottery administration is one of the lowest administrative expenditure rates in the country.

(more)

About the Texas Lottery

Beginning with the first ticket sold in 1992, the Texas Lottery has generated \$29 billion in revenue for the state and distributed \$60 billion in prizes to lottery players. Since 1997, the Texas Lottery has contributed \$23 billion to the Foundation School Fund, which supports public education in Texas. As authorized by the Texas Legislature, certain Texas Lottery revenues benefit state programs including the Fund for Veterans' Assistance. Since the first veterans' themed scratch ticket game was launched in 2009, the Texas Lottery has contributed more than \$115 million for programs supporting Texas veterans.

The Texas Lottery provides several entertaining games for lottery players including Powerball®, Mega Millions®, Lotto Texas®, All or Nothing™, Texas Two Step®, Pick 3™, Daily 4™, Cash Five® and scratch ticket games. For more information visit us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube or at www.txlottery.org. PLAY RESPONSIBLY.

Editors/News Directors, note: An image of the Lottery Week logo is attached in JPEG format.

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