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SUPPORTING TEXAS EDUCATION
AND VETERANS

TEXAS LOTTERY CELEBRATES 10 YEARS OF SUPPORTING TEXAS VETERANS

**Revenue from scratch ticket games has generated more than \$122 million for
Texas Veterans Commission's Fund for Veterans' Assistance since 2009**

(AUSTIN) – To celebrate a milestone of continued support for Texas veterans, the Texas Lottery Commission and Texas State Representative Chris Turner joined the Texas Veterans Commission (TVC) for a joint press conference at the Texas State Capitol Tuesday morning to commemorate the 10-year anniversary of the Texas Lottery's contributions to TVC's Fund for Veterans' Assistance (FVA). Since the first veterans-dedicated scratch ticket game went on sale in Nov. 2009, the Texas Lottery has contributed **more than \$122 million** to the fund.

“For the past 10 years, supporting Texas veterans has been at the core of the Texas Lottery's mission,” said Gary Grief, executive director of the Texas Lottery. “We will continue to work and collaborate with the TVC to provide support for veterans in our state as we move into the next decade of our partnership.”

During the 81st Legislative Session, Rep. Chris Turner and former Sen. Leticia Van de Putte authored legislation requiring the Texas Lottery create scratch ticket games to benefit the FVA. The bill was passed by the legislature and signed into law by Governor Rick Perry on June 19, 2009.

“The veterans lottery game has been tremendously successful in generating needed funds to support the brave Texans who have worn our nation's uniform,” said Rep. Turner. “When the Legislature passed this law in 2009, it was in recognition that Texas' 1.6 million veterans sometimes need our support in the form of emergency assistance, job placement and training, health care or other needs. This remains especially important today, given that more than 225,000 Texans have now served in the military since 9/11. The \$122 million raised through this game has exceeded my hopes a decade ago and I am very grateful for that. But no matter the dollar amount, it will always remain a small down payment on the tremendous debt we owe our veterans and their families, a debt that we cannot ever fully repay.”

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The Texas Lottery debuted Veterans Cash, the first scratch ticket game designed to support Texas veterans, on Nov. 9, 2009. In total, 40 scratch ticket games have launched, with the proceeds from those tickets supporting the FVA – including the latest version of Veterans Cash, which was released on Oct. 21. During the 2019 fiscal year alone, the Texas Lottery Commission transferred \$19.4 million to the FVA.

“Generating more than \$122 million in revenue for Texas veterans and their families over the last 10 years is an outstanding accomplishment,” said J. Winston Krause, chairman of the Texas Lottery Commission. “This success stems from our players and is a testament to the great work and strategic wisdom of our staff and the strong partnerships the Texas Lottery has established with its retailers, vendors and the Texas Veterans Commission.”

The FVA, which has been administered by the TVC since 2007, makes grants available to eligible charitable organizations, local government agencies and Veterans Service Organizations that provide direct services to Texas veterans and their families. With 1.7 million veterans calling Texas home, these programs provide financial assistance, transportation services, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder counseling and housing assistance.

“We thank the Texas Lottery Commission for their decade of support for Texas veterans, their families, and survivors,” said Chairman Al Cantu of the Texas Veterans Commission. “Through the purchase of these dedicated scratch-off games we are able to award statewide Fund for Veterans’ Assistance grants, which provide our Texas veterans with vital services.”

To date, the TVC has awarded \$137 million in FVA grant funds to hundreds of organizations that have assisted over 311,000 veterans across the state. During the last grant cycle, TVC awarded \$23 million to 102 organizations.

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 \$61 billion in prizes to lottery players. Since 1997, the Texas Lottery has contributed \$24.1 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 \$122 million for programs supporting Texas veterans.

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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 new Veterans Cash scratch ticket game is attached in JPEG format.

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