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PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SUPERIOR COURT OF SANTA BARBARA COUNTY HONORS GRADUATES OF THE SANTA MARIA VETERANS TREATMENT COURT

Santa Maria – On Friday, May 11, 2018, the Honorable Kay Kuns will host a commencement ceremony to honor military veterans who have successfully completed the Veterans Treatment Court program. The graduation will begin at 2:00 pm at the Santa Maria Public Library – Shepard Hall. A reception hosted by the Veterans Treatment Court Foundation will immediately follow the ceremony. This graduation marks the 12th commencement ceremony of the Santa Maria Veterans Treatment Court program; 11 veterans are scheduled to graduate. This graduation will also celebrate National Drug Court Month and Memorial Day. Fifth District Supervisor Steve Lavagnino will be in attendance, along with representatives from the offices of Congressman Salud Carbajal and Senator Hannah Beth Jackson. The keynote speaker will be Colonel Bruce J. Porter, U.S. Army Retired; he served in operation Desert Storm and is a graduate of West Point Military Academy. The graduates will receive certificates of completion and will be given the opportunity to speak about their experience in the VTC program.

The Veterans Treatment Court of Santa Maria was established in November 2011 with the goal of serving justice-involved veterans who may be struggling with substance abuse, addiction, serious mental illness, and/or co-occurring disorders. Veterans Treatment Court is collaboration amongst the Superior Court, Probation, the Offices of the Public Defender and District Attorney, the Department of Behavioral Wellness, University of California Santa Barbara, and the Veterans Administration. The 12-month program promotes sobriety, recovery and stability, and provides assistance with accessing VA services and benefits. The graduates of the Veterans Treatment Court have successfully completed their treatment program and have maintained sobriety.

To learn more about Veterans Treatment Courts including resources, legislation, and statistics, visit www.justiceforvets.org.

To learn more about National Drug Court Month visit www.nadcp.org.

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