

# Proclamation

WHEREAS, this year marks the 25th Anniversary of the nation's first Drug Court, and Over the past twenty-five years Drug Courts have served over 1.4 million individuals; and

WHEREAS, 406<sup>th</sup> & 341<sup>st</sup> Drug Court Programs have served over 350 individuals; and

WHEREAS, Drug Courts are now recognized as the most successful criminal justice intervention; and

WHEREAS, 75% of Drug Court graduates will never see another pair of handcuffs; and

WHEREAS, Drug Courts significantly improve substance-abuse treatment outcomes, substantially reduce drug abuse and crime, and do so at less expense than any other justice strategy; and

WHEREAS, Drug Courts facilitate community-wide partnerships, bringing together public safety and public health professionals in the fight against drug abuse and criminality; and

WHEREAS, there are now 2,840 Drug Courts nationwide; and

WHEREAS, Drug Courts are the cornerstone of criminal justice reform sweeping the nation; and

WHEREAS, the extraordinary expansion of Drug Courts and the principles and practices 25 years ago has helped cause 40 years of escalating prison populations to decline; and

WHEREAS, Drug Courts demonstrate that when one person rises out of drugs and crime, we ALL RISE; and

WHEREAS, the time has come to put a Drug Court within reach of every eligible person in need.

**Now, Therefore,** I, Danny Valdez by virtue of the authority vested in me by the State of Texas as Webb County Judge, and on behalf of the Webb County Commissioner's Court, do hereby proclaim May 2014 as:

## “Drug Court Month”

in Webb County and recognize the significant contributions Drug Courts have over the past 25 years toward reducing substance abuse, crime, and recidivism while saving valuable resources

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*In Testimony whereof, I have hereunto signed my name officially and caused the Official Seal of Webb County, Texas to be affixed on this 12th day May, 2014*

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Danny Valdez

Webb County Judge

