

# Hibbs Brief: Special Edition

*Hibbs Institute for Business & Economic Research*

## Tyler, Texas: Becoming More Military & Veteran Friendly - July 4, 2022



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Tyler is becoming increasingly friendly to our Veterans with continuous community support. On this Independence Day, we thank all who have served our country. Studies show the importance of community engagement as Veterans transition into civilian life. This special Hibbs Brief discusses just some of the support systems, employment and education opportunities, health care, and Veteran-specific activities in Tyler, Texas.

### Resources, Peer Groups and Support

[CampV](#) opened in 2021 and provides resources and support for Veterans, active duty, reserves, and guards and their families in a 14-county area. Its women's center provides and connects women to services and resources to help them transition from military to civilian life. CampV has recreation programs, peer group support, service dog training, and activities to assist Veterans as they transition into civilian life. They support various activities, such as the annual Rose City Airfest. Other organizations that coordinate and provide services to our military residents are:

- East Texas Veteran's Resource Center
- East Texas Veterans Community Council (ETVCC)
- Veteran and Community Roundtable

### Employment Opportunities

Tyler's outlook for employment is strong as the unemployment for April 2022 was 3.3%, and [employment increased by 4.1%](#) in the region at the end of 2021. The website at Texas Workforce

Commission (TWC) has an office "Just for Veterans". Also, several agencies and CampV support Veterans in employment opportunities. Tyler offers job opportunities with major industries and employers that are interested in hiring Veterans.

### Assistance in Starting and Growing a Business

[Research shows that Veterans are entrepreneurial](#) and twice as likely to be self-employed as non-veterans. However, they may have challenges in starting a business, such as securing start-up capital, marketing, and growing the business. Here are some of the Tyler agencies which assist Veterans in their entrepreneurial efforts:

- Veteran Entrepreneurial Bootcamp
- UT Tyler Soules College of Business—Business and Entrepreneurship classes
- UT Tyler Center for Family & Small Enterprises
- UT Tyler East Texas Entrepreneurship Center
- Tyler Small Business Development Center (SBDC)
- Innovation Pipeline
- Tyler Economic Development Corp.

### Health Care

[Tyler Centennial VA Clinic](#) opened in 2021 and offers primary care and specialty health services. Also, Tyler has a Veterans' long-term care facility. The Watkins-Logan Texas State Veterans Home opened in 2012 and has 10 individual cottages with 10 private rooms per cottage to accommodate 100 Texas Veterans.

## Education Opportunities

The University of Texas at Tyler, Tyler Junior College, and Texas College have military and Veteran centers that support and provide assistance with their educational success. TJC received a “military-friendly school “ status in 2016 and UT Tyler in 2021. UT Tyler’s Military and Veterans Success Center provides support and advocacy to the military-affiliated student community.

## Purple Heart Designation

Tyler was officially designated as a [Purple Heart City](#) in 2014 in recognition of its involvement and honoring and support of Veterans. This status was accomplished through the roundtable and the Veteran and the Military Growth Initiative (VMGI).



## Veteran-Specific Programs & Support Groups

Some of the many activities to recognize Veterans are:

- [R.O.S.E. discounts](#)
- [Brookshire Grocery Co. Heroes Flight](#)
- Outdoor adventures
- Camp Freedom
- Adventures for Vets
- Outward Bound
- Veteran Outdoors
- East Texas Veteran Association of Warriors

Many Veterans and their families have retired or work in the Tyler area and counties within a 30-mile radius (See [Table 1](#)). The Veteran population in Tyler MSA /Smith and surrounding counties is estimated to be 47,974 with 4,839 Veteran businesses. In summary, the Veteran community is important to our economic development while Tyler continues to recognize and support our military residents.

**Table 1: Veteran Population & Businesses in Tyler MSA & Nine-County Area**

Total Veteran Population 9/30/22 estimates*	No.
9-county area	47,974
Tyler MSA/Smith County	14,011
Employed Veterans**	No.
9-county (age 18-64)	21,420
Labor Participation Rate=67.6%	
Tyler MSA Smith County (Age 18-64)	5,464
Labor Participation Rate=71.7%	
Veteran-owned Businesses***	No.
9-County Area	4,839
Tyler MSA/Smith County	1,801

Note: Counties within a 30-mile radius of Tyler are Anderson, Cherokee, Gregg, Henderson, Rusk, Smith, Upshur, Wood, & Van Zandt.

\*Texas Veteran Population by County, provided by the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics.

\*\*U.S. Census Bureau, QuickFacts estimates. U. S. Census, Sex by Age by Veteran Status for the Civilian Population 18 Years and Over, Table B21001, 2018 ACS 5-year Estimates.

\*\*\*Quick Facts Veterans 2014-2018 QuickFacts data are derived from: Population Estimates, American Community Survey, Census of Population and Housing, and Current Population Survey.

# Many thanks to our supporters & advocates.

## Resources, Support, and Advocates



Tyler Area Veterans Chamber Committee

Smith County Veteran Services Office

## Employment Opportunities



Just for Veterans

## Educational Assistance



Veteran Affairs



Veteran Affairs

## Entrepreneurial Assistance



## Other Resources

