



# Press Release

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## **Program through Register of Deeds encourages veterans to record discharge papers**

JONESBOROUGH – A program designed to encourage veterans to record their DD214 papers with the Register of Deeds is picking up steam in Washington County.

Teresa Bowman, Register of Deeds for Washington County, began the Thank a Vet Program back in March with a two-fold purpose – recording DD214, or discharge papers, and giving veterans a photo identification card to use for local discounts.

“When a veteran brings us their DD214, we record it just like we would record any other document such as a deed,” Bowman said. “If they need a copy in the future, we can provide an official copy.”

Once recorded, the document will not be public record, so no one but the veteran or their surviving next of kin can view the record or receive a copy.

Commonly referred to as discharge papers, a veteran’s DD214 is the touchstone for proving a military service record. It lists the years of service, rank, awards, deployment and other pertinent details relating to military service. Discharge papers are a necessary component to receive medical benefits from the VA; access burial services such as a spot in a National Cemetery or an official marker; and GI Bill educational benefits, just to name a few.

“I implemented this program through the Register of Deeds office to first and foremost get our local veterans to record their DD214, or discharge papers,” Bowman said. “This insures that important document is recorded and always available when needed.”

Veterans who recorded their DD214 papers prior to the introduction of this program are eligible to receive the cards as well.

“While in our office to record the document, we issue a photo identification card to the veteran, at no charge. This photo ID allows them to receive special discounts with area businesses,” Bowman explained. “It is all a free service and part of the Thank a Vet program.”

Local businesses can register for the program through Bowman’s office. Offers range from a set discount to special perks, like a free cup of coffee. A full list of participating local businesses is available at [www.veteranshonors.com/washington/business\\_list.php](http://www.veteranshonors.com/washington/business_list.php).

For additional information regarding the program, or to sign up to offer discounts, please contact Bowman at 753-1644.