

## Senate Committee on Veteran Affairs and Military Installations

For Immediate Release

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### **Van de Putte Helps Award Grant to Local Veteran**

**(SAN ANTONIO)**—On Friday, May 28, Senator Leticia Van de Putte was joined by General Karen Rankin, Chair of the Texas Veterans Commission, Jim Neir, Executive Director of the Texas Veterans Commission, and John Spahr, State Junior Vice Commander of the Texas Veterans of Foreign Wars to award \$1,000 in financial assistance to local veteran, Gerardo Gomez.

The \$1,000 was part of the \$1 million grant given to the Texas Veterans of Foreign Wars Foundation by the Texas Veterans Commission from the Fund for Veterans' Assistance in April.

Senator Van de Putte (D-San Antonio) and Representative Chris Turner (D-Burleson) authored legislation to create a veterans-themed lottery scratch-off game which provides a permanent revenue source for the Fund for Veterans' Assistance.

"I am proud that Texans have shown such vigorous support for the *Veterans Winnings* lottery ticket, their support has made it possible for the Texas VFW to assist Mr. Gomez. We owe so much to the brave men and women who generation after generation have left their hometowns and families to serve our country and this check is just one small way to repay that debt," said State Senator Van de Putte.

As of April, the veterans-themed scratch-off game has raised over \$4 million dollars since its inception in November 2009. The Texas Veterans Commission recently opened the next round of Fund for Veterans' Assistance grants. The veterans-themed lottery ticket is estimated to generate approximately \$5 million in fiscal year 2010 and \$9.3 million per fiscal years 2011-2015 for the Fund for Veterans' Assistance.

*Grants from the Fund for Veterans' Assistance are available to veterans' organizations to help them provide more services and create new programs for our veterans and their families. For more information, please visit the Texas Veterans Commission website at [www.fvc.state.tx.us](http://www.fvc.state.tx.us).*