

## Senate Committee on Veteran Affairs and Military Installations

For Immediate Release

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### **Van de Putte Hires New VAMI Committee Director, Clerk**

**(Austin)** — Senator Leticia Van de Putte (District 26, Bexar County) today announced two major changes to her staff: Bill Wilson has been hired to be Director of the Veteran Affairs and Military Installations (VAMI) Committee, which she chairs, and current staffer Heidi Kluber has been given new duties as VAMI Committee Clerk and as a Legislative Assistant.

Wilson has worked at the Texas Veterans Commission for the past six and a half years. Since February 2011, he was the Director of the Fund for Veterans' Assistance (FVA) at the Commission. As the FVA Director, he was responsible for the oversight, administration and payments of more than \$23 million in active grants to over 80 non-profit and local government organizations around the state that provide direct services to Texas Veterans, their dependents and surviving spouses.

For the five years prior that, he was the Director of Veterans Employment Services where he managed a statewide network of 175 staff dedicated to serving Veterans' employment needs. He also served as a Policy Advisor to three different Commissioners during his eight years at the Texas Workforce Commission. Wilson is a graduate of the University of Texas at Austin and is a U.S. Army Veteran serving from 1989-1993 as an Intelligence Analyst, Korean Linguist and Counter-Intelligence Specialist.

Heidi Kluber is a native Texan who graduated with her Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Texas State University-San Marcos in 2008 and her Master of Public Affairs from the LBJ School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas at Austin in 2011. She worked for Senator Van de Putte during the 81st session between undergrad and graduate school. During her time at the LBJ School, she worked as a Graduate Research Assistant for a nonprofit resource center, In the Public Interest, which promotes responsible government contracting. She returned to Van de Putte's staff in September 2011 as an Administrative Assistant. In addition to her duties as Committee Clerk, she will also work as a Legislative Assistant specializing in health care policy.

"I'm really excited about these changes to my team," Senator Van de Putte said. "Bill and Heidi both bring a combination of skills, experience and work ethic that will serve Texas' Veterans and the constituents of District 26 well. I feel very confident in the staff we've put together as we head into the 83rd session -- they're second to none."