

# PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Friday, February 17, 2017

## DISABLED VETERANS MAY QUALIFY TO HAVE SOME OR ALL OF THEIR TAXES WAIVED

Veterans with a service connected disability are encouraged to file an exemption form to have their property taxes lowered. Some veterans may even qualify for a 100% exemption of their taxes.

Pursuant to the Texas Property Tax Code, sec. 11.44, the law provides partial exemptions for any property owned by veterans who are disabled, surviving spouses and surviving children of deceased disabled veterans. This includes homesteads donated to disabled veterans by charitable organizations at no cost to the disabled veterans and their surviving spouses. The exemption amount is determined according to the percentage of service-connected disability, from a \$5,000 to a \$12,000 deduction from the veteran's property value.

A disabled veteran who receives 100% disability compensation due to a service connected disability and a rating of 100% disabled or of individual un-employability from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs or its successor is entitled to an exemption from taxation of the appraised value of the veteran's residence homestead. Surviving spouses of veterans who qualified for this exemption or who would have qualified for this exemption if it had been in effect at the time of the veteran's death are also eligible with certain restrictions. The disabled veteran or surviving spouse can apply for this exemption by filing a residence homestead exemption application with the appraisal district. The surviving spouse of a member of the U.S. armed services who is killed in action is allowed a total (100%) property tax exemption on his or her residence homestead if the surviving spouse has not remarried since the death of the armed services member.

**REQUIREMENTS:** An applicant may claim the exemption on only one piece of property, such as a home or any other property the applicant owned on January 1, 2017. The applicant must be a Texas resident and have a current Driver's License or State ID. Any eligible person who has not received this exemption should apply by April 30. You may file a late application if you file it no later than one year after the delinquency date for the taxes on the property. The complete application and all supporting documentation must be filed with the Webb County Appraisal District.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR DISABLED VETERANS AND THEIR SURVIVING SPOUSES OR TO FILE AN EXEMPTION, CONTACT THE CUSTOMER SERVICE DEPARTMENT STAFF AT (956) 718-4091 OPTION 1; OR VISIT OUR OFFICE LOCATED AT 3302 CLARK BOULEVARD, LAREDO, TEXAS 78043. WEBSITE: WWW.WEBBCAD.ORG.**