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### Grand Opening held at new Veterans' Services Office

A number of officials were on hand to celebrate the grand opening of a new Veterans' Services office in Ferris on Wednesday, August 13, 2008. The office, located in the Ferris City Hall at 100 Town Plaza, will be open to serve veterans the second Wednesday of each month from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. or longer if needed.

"We have a caring County Judge and Commissioners' Court that supports veterans," said Veterans' Service Officer James Wilhoite. "Everyone in the county government has been supportive and offered to help in any way they can. Commissioner Robinson was very instrumental in driving the opening of this office. He continually asked me when we were going to have an office in Ferris for the veterans. I appreciate his constant concern."

County Judge Chad Adams agreed. "This has been a long term project to connect the over 13,000 veterans from all corners of Ellis County with the Veterans Administration. Commissioner Robinson has been involved all along, and led the charge to get the office in Ferris open."

"I'd like to say thank you to the City of Ferris for allowing us to use this space and to James Wilhoite and Charles Kelker for working to make services available," said Commissioner Dennis Robinson, Precinct 1. "Opening this office should make it more convenient for veterans and their widows to get the information they need and to receive the services available to them."

Charles Kelker, Assistant Service Officer, noted that veterans and their family members often have to locate service papers and other documents required for the services they need. "We want to let the veterans know that we are here to assist them in getting the correct documentation and to help them solve their problem one way or the other," he said.

Thanks were also due, Wilhoite said, to the City of Ferris, Mayor Jim Parks, City Manager David Chavez, City Secretary Alice Holloway and the City Council. "They have all welcomed us with open arms."

Maureen Garcia, the first citizen to be served at the Ferris office, joined in the celebration.

"Ellis County is sensitive to veterans that are coming back from overseas," said Adams. "And we want to reach out to them through the completion of this project."

"The veterans appreciate the support we have in Ellis County," said Wilhoite. "It is not something that they have in other counties. The veterans are our priority, and we feel that if they have a problem, we have a problem."

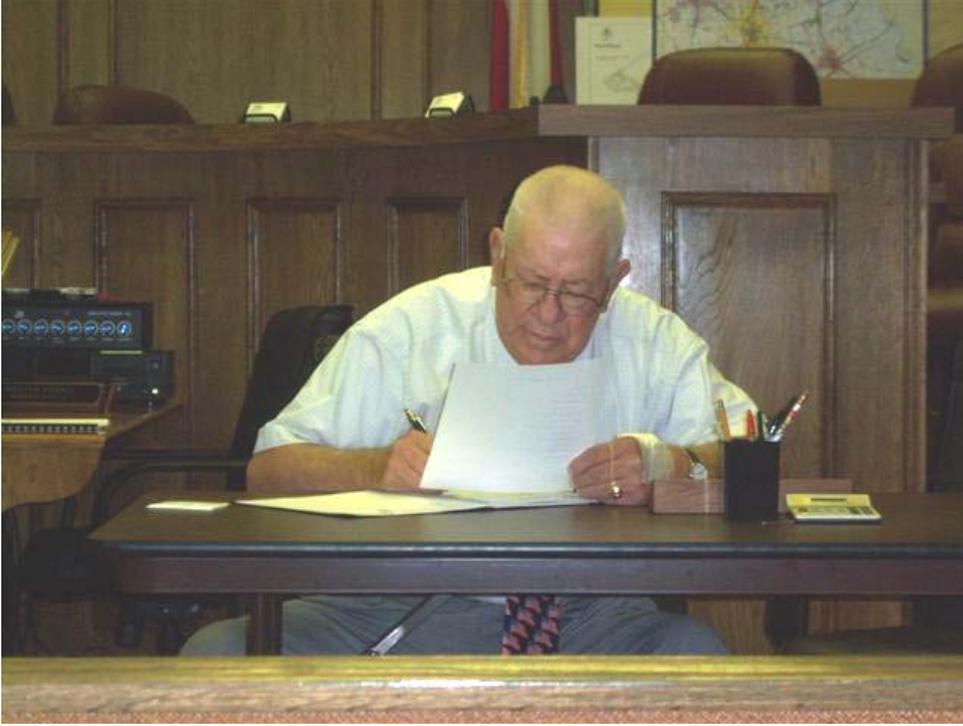
Other Veterans' Services office locations are the Historic Courthouse in downtown Waxahachie, with office hours from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Monday and Tuesday; 116 W. Ennis Avenue in Ennis, with office hours from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Thursday and Friday; room 205 of the old Red Oak Elementary school building at 100 N. Methodist, with office hours from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month; 101 W. Main in Italy with office hours from 9 a.m. to 1

p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month; and 1150 N. Highway 67 in Midlothian, with office hours from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the last Wednesday of each month.

The service officers can be reached by telephone at 972-825-5099 or 972-875-4531.



Grand opening of Ferris office for Veterans' Services. Left to right Commissioner Dennis Robinson, pct. 1; Maureen Garcia; Veterans' Services Officer James Wilhoite; County Judge Chad Adams; Assistant Veterans' Services Officer Charles Kelker.



Wilhoite at his desk in the new Ferris office for Veterans' Services.