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*Office of the Assessor*

GRANT EDWARDS 315 SW 5<sup>th</sup> Street · Suite 301 Lawton, Oklahoma 73501 580.355.1052 · 580.585.6752 fax

Dear Comanche County Military Veteran:

Thank you for your service to the United States and to the State of Oklahoma and congratulations, because total property tax relief is now a reality for qualified military veterans. Oklahoma voters overwhelmingly approved State Question 715 which allows 100% disabled veterans honorably discharged from the United States Armed Services a total exemption on their homestead property taxes.

As a veteran myself of United States Army Reserve, I will do everything in my authority to ensure my brothers and sisters in arms who qualify for this property tax saving plan get this benefit they deserve for their service and sacrifice for our nation.

Anyone with internet access can obtain the form from the County Assessor's website and send the form with the original embossed eligibility letter to our office and we can get them signed up for the tax break. The original letter will be returned to you.

The Oklahoma Department of Veteran Affairs (ODVA) has sent a letter to every veteran who qualifies for this property tax break. Providing this letter to the Assessor's office with the application is required and will help streamline the process. If a 100% disabled veteran needs a copy of the letter, they can contact the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs toll free number of (800) 827-1000. If you need to contact the ODVA in Muskogee call toll free at (888) 655-2838.

If you wish to discuss how this benefit plan works please contact any member of my staff at 580-355-1052. It is very important every qualified veteran understands they can only benefit from this exemption on the home they OWN and OCCUPY on January 1

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of any given year. If the qualified veteran moves to another home the exemption is lost until those qualifications of OWNING and OCCUPYING the property are met. That means there could be a property tax burden on the purchase of a new home by a qualified veteran, unless other arrangements are made between the qualified veteran and the previous owner.

In order to ensure all veterans and their surviving spouses get the property tax breaks they deserve, the Assessor's staff is ready and willing to do anything possible to complete the applications for our veterans. If you are an area member of a community or civic group which would like someone to explain the program to help our veterans get this property tax break, it would be my pleasure to schedule a short presentation.

Sincerely,

Grant Edwards Comanche County Assessor