

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
JULY 18, 2018

**\*\*\*MEDIA ADVISORY\*\*\***

## **THURSDAY: National Commission To Meet with Local Faith Leaders & Host Public Meeting on the Role of the Faith Community in Meeting Critical Service Needs**

WACO, T.X. – The [National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service](#) will on Thursday meet with faith leaders from small community religious organizations in Bosque County to learn more about the opportunities and challenges of public-private partnerships and to better understand the relationship between faith communities and service. Waco has over 20 religious organizations, including Baylor University, a private Baptist university. The meeting will also feature the United Way of Waco-McLennan County, an organization focused on strengthening the community and creating opportunity for residents through philanthropy and partnerships.

In the evening, the Commission will host a public meeting at the Dewey Community Center. The public meeting will explore the ways in which the faith community of Waco meets critical community needs, particularly focusing on issue areas of food, disaster, and long-term civic engagement. The panel will include Jimmy Dorrell, former president and co-founder of [Mission Waco](#), Sean Jones, the youth pastor at [Antioch Community Church](#) and Elizabeth Darling, president and CEO of the [OneStar Foundation](#).

The meeting will also feature [Senator Brian Birdwell](#) (District 22), a retired Army Lieutenant Colonel and decorated military veteran, who will provide opening remarks.

The trip to Texas is the sixth stop in the commission's [two-year effort](#) to increase participation in national, public, and military service by all Americans and to review the military selective service process. During their two-day visit to Texas on July 19-20, the Commission will highlight the state's long history of faith-based service to the community and country through a series of meetings with faith, business and philanthropic leaders, and servicemembers. Commissioners will also be meeting with rural faith leaders in Clifton, visit Cranfills Gap, and Fort Hood.

The bipartisan, [11-member](#) commission was created by Congress last year to develop recommendations to encourage and inspire more Americans—specifically young people—to serve their country and strengthen democracy, and consider the need for a military draft. The Commission on Military, National, and Public Service is igniting a national conversation about the importance of service as it develops recommendations for the American public, Congress, and the President by March 2020. The Commission is working to increase participation in national, public, and military service by all Americans and review the military selective service process. The Commission will gather recommendations by holding public meetings, visiting service sites, talking with young people, and meeting with government, nonprofit, civic and for-profit leaders. The Commission invites the public to share comments on its website [www.inspire2serve.gov](http://www.inspire2serve.gov) or [via its request for comments published in the Federal Register](#). Please join the digital conversation on service by following the commission on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#) or by following the hashtag #Inspire2Serve.

**These events are open to the press. Please RSVP to Erin Schneider at [Erin.A.Schneider@Inspire2Serve.gov](mailto:Erin.A.Schneider@Inspire2Serve.gov) or [REDACTED]**

[REDACTED].

**Thursday, July 19, 2018**

**National Commission will meet with local faith leaders**

3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. CDT  
Greater Waco Chamber of Commerce  
101 South 3<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Waco, TX  
76701

**National Commission will host a public meeting**

6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. CDT  
Dewey Community Center  
925 North 9<sup>th</sup> Street  
Waco, TX  
76707

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