

**DENTON COUNTY VETERAN**  
**DEDICATED TO INFORMING THE VETERANS OF DENTON COUNTY**  
**OF ISSUES WHICH CONCERN THEM**

*County Judge Scott Arme, Commissioner Cynthia White Pct. 1, Commissioner Sandy Jacobs Pct. 2,  
Commissioner Bobbie Mitchell Pct. 3, Commissioner Jim Carter Pct. 4*

VOL. V, No. 5

Denton, Texas

MAY 2002



**Cold War Certificate Program**

<http://coldwar.army.mil/>

In accordance with section 1084 of the Fiscal Year 1998 National Defense Authorization Act, the Secretary of Defense approved awarding Cold War Recognition Certificates to all members of the armed forces and qualified federal government civilian personnel who faithfully and honorably served the United States anytime during the Cold War era, which is defined as Sept. 2, 1945 to Dec. 26, 1991.

This is the only official site on which to request Cold War Recognition Certificates. This site is operated by the United States Army, the executive agency for the Cold War Recognition Program.

Cold War Recognition Certificates are available to qualified individuals at no cost. Any other site offering these certificates or replicas for sale or purchase are not official sites and are not approved or endorsed by the US Army.

Due to the remarkable success of this program, turn-around time for mailing certificates will be a **minimum of 6 months**. The CWRS Operations Team is working as fast as possible to clear the backlog. Please do not request feedback prior to 6 months from the request date. This web site was moved into the Army's Adjutant General Directorate website in March 2002. You may continue to access it using <http://coldwar.army.mil/>.

Thank you for your patience and interest in the Cold War Recognition program.

**Who is eligible?** All members of the armed forces and federal government civilian personnel who faithfully served the United States during the Cold War era, Sept. 2, 1945 to Dec. 26, 1991.

**Individuals requesting a certificate will certify that their character of service was honorable.**

[Acceptable supporting document](#) for proof of service is any official government or military document with recipient's name, Social Security Number or Military Service Number or Foreign Service Number, and date of service.

**Certificate Application**

To apply for a certificate you must have been a U.S. government employee during the period of the Cold War. Follow these instructions to submit your application.

Fill out either the [U.S. Resident](#) or [International Resident](#) application depending upon your current mailing address. Required fields are marked with an asterisk.

Print the application. **You must certify your honorable service by signing and dating the application** or your application will be rejected. If you are unable to print the application you may submit a signed and dated letter containing the same information as the application. You must include the phrase "I confirm my faithful and honorable service to the nation during the Cold War Era."

Mail or fax the application to the Cold War Office along with your supporting document to:

CDR, PERSCOM

Cold War Recognition, Hoffman II

Attn: TAPC-CWRS, 3N45

200 Stovall Street

Alexandria, VA 22332-0473

Fax 1-800-723-9262

 **Department of Veterans Affairs**

---

---

<http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/Milsv/Docs/RES-NGFS.doc>

**Benefits for Reservists and National Guard Members**

Is someone with only Reserve or National Guard service eligible for VA benefits?

If the member is called to active duty, then he/she is eligible for the same VA benefits as any other veteran, including those for dependents and survivors. The member must meet the same length of service requirements.

If the member has no active duty service, are any benefits available?

A member who has never served on active duty may still qualify for the following benefits:

**COMPENSATION**

Monthly benefits may be payable if the member has a disability that resulted from a disease or injury incurred while on active duty for training, or an injury, heart attack or stroke incurred during inactive duty for training. Additional benefits for the member and his/her dependents or survivors may also apply.

**MEDICAL CARE**

VA will provide medical care only if the member is found to have a service-connected disability.

**HOME LOAN GUARANTY**

The member must have completed six years in the Guard or Reserve with an honorable discharge. If he/she was discharged due to service-connected disability, then the required service time could be less.

(Note: this eligibility expires on September 30, 2007.)

**BURIAL FLAG**

A member who completes at least one enlistment in the Guard or Reserve, is discharged due to service-connected disability, or whose death is related to his/her service is eligible to receive a flag.

**BURIAL IN A NATIONAL CEMETERY and HEADSTONE/MARKER**

These benefits are available to any member whose death is related to his/her Reserve or National Guard service or who, at the time of death, was eligible for retirement pay based on Reserve or National Guard service, or would have been entitled had the member attained age 60.

**MONTGOMERY GI BILL - SELECTED RESERVE (CHAPTER 1606)**

The member may be entitled to receive up to 36 months of education benefits. Benefit entitlement ends 10 years from the date of eligibility for the program, or on the day the member leaves the Guard or Reserve.

To qualify, one must

    have a six-year obligation to serve in the Selected Reserve. Officers must agree to serve six years in addition to the original obligation.

    complete initial active duty for training (IADT).

    meet the requirements to receive a high school diploma or equivalency certificate before applying for benefits.

    remain in good standing while serving in an active Selected Reserve unit.

For More Information Call Toll-Free

1-800-827-1000

# Veterans Cemeteries

Texas Veterans Land Board • David Dewhurst, Chairman

<http://www.glo.state.tx.us/vlb/cemetery/index.html>

In the November 2001 statewide elections voters overwhelmingly approved Proposition 7, a constitutional amendment that authorized the creation of up to seven state cemeteries for veterans and their eligible dependents. Working in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) through its State Cemetery Grants Program, the Texas Veterans Land Board (VLB) will make application for cemetery construction grants beginning next fiscal year.

Prior to July 1, 2002, the Texas State Veterans Cemetery (TSVC) Committee will complete its work of selecting up to seven locations for submission to the VA as proposed TSVC sites. All interested communities in Texas will have the opportunity to submit detailed proposals in response to a Request for Proposals (RFP) that was issued February 1, 2002. The anticipated deadline for a response will be May 1, 2002.

This Web site will serve as a focal point for all information and communications regarding the work of the TSVC Committee and the RFP process. To ensure that all communities have an equal chance of success in their proposals, all communications on substantive issues regarding the RFP process with the TSVC Committee or its staff must be in writing. They will be responded to in writing with copies available to all potential proposers via this Web site.

## Cemetery Locations

### National Veterans Cemeteries

There are currently four communities in Texas served by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs National Cemeteries. These communities are Dallas/Fort Worth, Houston, San Antonio, and El Paso (see [map](#)).

### State Veterans Cemeteries

Once the Request for Proposal process is completed and the selection is made on proposed locations of the Texas State Veterans Cemeteries, the information will be posted on this page. A decision is expected by July 2002.

## Texas Moving Wall Schedule



"The Moving Wall", first built in 1984, is a half-size replica of the Washington, DC Vietnam Veterans Memorial. When John Devitt attended the 1982 dedication in Washington, he felt the healing power of "The Wall". He vowed to take that healing to persons who did not have the opportunity to go to Washington. Three of these Moving Walls now travel the USA spending about a week at each site.

**05/24-05/30 Saginaw, Texas**  
**Chamber of Commerce**  
**P.O. Box 79189**  
**Saginaw, TX 76179**  
**(817) 232-0500 (Brendon Payne)**  
**e-mail:**  
**[info@saginawtxchamber.org](mailto:info@saginawtxchamber.org)**  
**Display Site: Saginaw, TX**

## The Origins of Memorial Day

Three years after the Civil War ended, on May 5, 1868, the head of an organization of Union veterans – the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) – established Decoration Day as a time for the nation to decorate the graves of the war dead with flowers. Maj. Gen. John A. Logan declared it should be May 30<sup>th</sup>. It is believed the date was chosen because flowers would be in bloom all over the country. The first large observance was held that year at Arlington National Cemetery, across the Potomac River from Washington, D.C.

The ceremonies centered around the mourning-draped veranda of the Arlington mansion, one the home of Gen. Robert E. Lee. Various Washington officials, including Gen. and Mrs. Ulysses S. Grant, presided over the ceremonies. After speeches, children from the Soldiers' and Sailors' Orphan Home and members of the GAR made their way through the cemetery, strewing flowers on both Union and Confederate graves, reciting prayers and singing hymns.

Local springtime tributes to the Civil War dead already had been held in various places. One of the first occurred in Columbus, Mississippi, April 25<sup>th</sup>, 1866, when a group of women visited a cemetery to decorate the graves of Confederate soldiers who had fallen in battle at Shiloh. Nearby were the graves of Union soldiers, neglected because there were the enemy. Disturbed at the sight of bare graves, the women placed some of their flowers on those graves, as well.

Today, cities in the North and South claim to be the birthplace of Memorial Day in 1866. Both Macon and Columbus, GA. Claim the title, as well as Richmond, VA. The village of Boalsburg, PA claims it began there two years earlier. A stone in a Carbondale, IL cemetery carries the statement that the first Decoration Day ceremony took place there on April 29<sup>th</sup>, 1866. Carbondale was the wartime home of Gen. Logan. Approximately 25 places have been named in connection with origin of Memorial Day, many of them in the South where most of the war dead were buried.

In 1966, Congress and President Lyndon Johnson declared Waterloo, NY, the “birthplace” of Memorial Day. There, a ceremony on May 5, 1866, honored local veterans who had fought in the Civil War. Businesses closed and residents flew flags at half-staff. Supporters of Waterloo’s claim say earlier observances in other places were wither informal, no community-wide or one-time events.

By the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Memorial Day ceremonies were being held on May 30<sup>th</sup> throughout the nation. State legislatures passed proclamations designating the day, and the Army and Navy adopted regulations for proper observance at their facilities.

It was not until after World War I, however, that the day was expanded to honor those who have died in all American wars. In 1971, Memorial Day was declared a national holiday by an act of Congress, though it is still often called Decoration Day. It was then also placed on the last Monday in May, as were some other federal holidays.



We cherish too, the Poppy red  
that grows on fields where valor led;  
it seems to signal to the skies  
that blood of heroes never dies.

Poem by Moina Michael

“..Let us, then, at the time appointed gather around their sacred remains and garland the passionless mounds above them with the choicest flowers of spring-time; let us raise above them the dear old flag they saved from dishonor; let us in this solemn presence renew our pledges to aid and assist those whom they have left among us a sacred charge upon a nation's gratitude, the soldier's and sailor's widow and orphan,” – From General Order Number 11, 5 May 1868, General John Logan.



<http://www.pbs.org/kaze/memorialdayconcert/memhtml/concert.html>

"From these honored dead, we take increased devotion to that cause for which they here gave the last full measure of devotion -- that we here highly resolve these dead shall not have died in vain..."

Abraham Lincoln, *Gettysburg Address*

The Washington Post has called it "music for the soul" ... "an impressive and moving assembly that unfolds with military precision." Since its debut in 1990, public television's *National Memorial Day Concert* has touched the hearts and minds of millions of Americans seeking to honor those who served the nation in times of war.

One of PBS's top-rated performance programs, this year's National Memorial Day Concert will offer a moment of remembrance, honoring the men and women serving on the frontlines in the war on terrorism, with a special segment honoring the victims and heroes of September 11. The program also marks the 60th anniversary of World War II's Bataan Death March.

Joining host and distinguished actor Ossie Davis are actor and decorated veteran Charles Durning, and an array of guest artists in performance with the National Symphony Orchestra under the direction of premier pops conductor Erich Kunzel.

**Broadcast live from the West Lawn of the U.S. Capitol, the *National Memorial Day Concert* airs Sunday, May 26, 2002 from 8:00 to 9:30 p.m. on PBS stations nationwide (check local listings)**

<http://www.pbs.org/whatson/index.html>.

### **Memorial Day National Moment of Remembrance at 3PM.**

**"On May 27th, 2002, pause at 3:00pm local time for a minute of respectful silence for those who have died in the service of our nation. During that minute, television and radio stations throughout America will air simultaneously a 60-second spot which includes "Taps". Turn on your radio or television to join your fellow Americans in putting Memorial back in Memorial Day."**

**Visit the organizers: [No Greater Love Web Page](#)**



**FROM THE STAFF OF THE VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE**

## Education Benefits

*Veterans Benefits & Services*

<http://www.gibill.va.gov/>

### LICENSING AND CERTIFICATION TESTS

#### Can I use my G.I. Bill for licensing and certification tests?

Yes. You can receive reimbursement for licensing and certification tests you take on or after March 1, 2001. These tests must be specifically approved for the G.I. Bill. VA can pay only for the cost of the tests and not other fees connected with obtaining a license or certification.

#### Who is eligible for this benefit?

You may receive this benefit if you are eligible for

The Montgomery G.I. Bill (also called the MGIB or Chapter 30)  
VEAP (also called Chapter 32), or

Dependents Educational Assistance (also called DEA or Chapter 35) (DEA is a benefit for children, spouses, and surviving spouses of veterans with 100% service-connected disability or who died in service or due to service-connected disability.)

For more information on the licensing and certification benefit, or on applying for benefits please check out the following Internet sites:

<http://www.gibill.va.gov/Education/LCweb.htm>

<http://www.gibill.va.gov/Education/LCVets.htm>

## Housing Assistance

Texas Veterans Land Board • David Dewhurst, Chairman

<http://www.glo.state.tx.us/vlb/vhap/index.html>

The Veterans Housing Assistance Program (VHAP) provides financing up to \$200,000 toward the purchase of a home to qualified Texas veterans. Loans for \$45,000 or less may be originated through the Texas Veterans Land Board's (VLB) [direct loan](#) program.

There is no maximum sales price with the VHAP; however, the VLB can only loan up to \$200,000 towards the purchase. If the purchase price is more than \$200,000, the VHAP can be used in conjunction with Federal Housing Administration (FHA), Veterans Administration (VA) or conventional financing. This is known as a "two-note loan" and must be originated by a participating lender (see [lender originated](#) loans). The two notes are underwritten as co-first liens using one Deed of Trust to secure them. **Note:** Two-note conventional loans over \$200,000 are subject to specific requirements.

The VHAP is not a refinancing program. If you have an existing loan on your home, you cannot use the VHAP to lower your interest rate, nor can the VHAP be used as a down payment on a home. It can only be used as a first lien on your primary residence. The term of the loan can be 15, 20, 25 or 30 years.

All VLB loans require an escrow account be set up for taxes and insurance. Cosigners and guarantors may be accepted on the veteran's behalf if the veteran has sufficient income to qualify for at least 60 percent of the monthly payments on the mortgage loan, including taxes and insurance. **All VLB loans are subject to credit approval.**

For Local Help Contact  
Denton County Veterans Service Office  
306 N. Loop 288, Suite 146  
Denton, TX 76209  
940-349-2950  
Monday – Friday 8:00 am to noon  
1:00 – 5:00 pm  
[hank.scheible@dentoncounty.com](mailto:hank.scheible@dentoncounty.com)  
[james.wheeler@dentoncounty.com](mailto:james.wheeler@dentoncounty.com)  
[barbara.nance@dentoncountv.com](mailto:barbara.nance@dentoncountv.com)