



The Denton County Veteran

Veterans Cemeteries

Texas Veterans Land Board • Jerry Patterson, Chairman

April 2004

DENTON COUNTY, TEXAS

County Judge Mary Horn, Commissioner Cynthia White, Precinct 1; Commissioner Sandy Jacobs, Precinct 2;

Commissioner Bobbie Mitchell, Precinct 3; Commissioner Jim Carter, Precinct 4

Volume VII Issue 4

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. The cemeteries will be built and operated through a partnership between the Texas Veterans Land Board (VLB) and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA). The USDVA will fund up to 100 percent of the construction and equipment costs. The state will own and operate the cemeteries and fund most of the cost of operations.

Two sites were initially identified for development: Killeen in Bell County and Central Texas; and Mission in Hidalgo County and South Texas. On June 26, 2003, the VLB formally named the Killeen site for the geographic area in which it will honor Texas veterans. The Killeen site will be named the **Central Texas State Veterans Cemetery**.

The construction grant for the Killeen site is expected to be approved in December 2003. Construction should begin within days of grant approval. It is expected to take approximately fifteen months to complete construction, with an anticipated opening date in summer 2005.

The Central Texas State Veterans Cemetery in Killeen is 174 acres and will be capable of providing approximately 50,000 burial places for veterans, their spouses, and eligible dependent children. Construction will be accomplished in phases, with phase I covering approximately 62 acres, including an information center, administration building, committal shelter, columbarium for approximately 1,100 cremated remains, and an assembly area for ceremonies, as well as approximately 6,500 in-ground burial places. Phase II will be implemented when there is a need for additional burial sites.

The Mission site is 75 acres and will provide approximately 26,000 burial places. The initial phase of construction in Mission will cover 28 acres and involve approximately 6,000 total interment sites. The design and development of the Mission site is pending availability of USDVA grant funds.

Future Cemetery Locations

The VLB will solicit proposals for additional cemetery sites for veterans in future years. State Veterans Cemeteries are established to augment the National Cemetery system and cannot be built within 75 miles of existing National Cemeteries or State Veterans Cemeteries. The State of Texas currently has four National Cemeteries located in Dallas, San Antonio, Houston, and El Paso.

Eligibility and Burial Benefits

[Eligibility rules and burial benefits](#) for Texas State Veterans Cemeteries are the same as for National Cemeteries. Please contact the VLB at 1-800-252-VETS (8387) for additional information or monitor this site for future developments.

Inside this issue:

| | |
|---|---|
| Forfeited Land Tracts | 2 |
| VA Launches New Web Site on Hepatitis C | 3 |
| Veterans History Project | 4 |
| Distinguished Service Medal | 5 |
| Veterans History Project | 6 |

Forfeited Land Tracts

Texas Veterans Land Board • Jerry Patterson, Chairman

Forfeited Land Sale Tracts

The Texas Veterans Land Board (VLB) has forfeited tracts available for sale throughout the state of Texas through the Type I Forfeited Land Sale (FLS), for veterans only, and the Tex-Trax II Program, which is open to the general public. **TYPE I Tracts**

Type I Forfeited Land Sales are held in April and October. To participate in a Type I Forfeited Land Sale, you must be a Texas veteran who does not currently have a land loan at the VLB or has successfully paid off any previous VLB land loans.

Attention: See the *What's New* page of the [Type I FLS Handbook](#) for new instructions (Requires the free [Adobe Acrobat reader](#)).

[Search Tracts by County or Tract Number](#)

[Display a Summary of Type I Tracts by County](#)

TYPE II Tracts (Tex-Trax II Program)

Tracts that are not sold at semi-annual forfeited land sales in April and October are available to veterans and the general public. These tracts are sold on a first-come, first-served basis through licensed Texas real estate professionals who are chosen by the buyer.

Qualified Texas veterans may purchase a Type II tract at the [current Land Program interest rate](#). Qualified non-veterans may purchase a tract at one full percentage point higher.

[Search Tracts by County or Tract Number](#)

[Display a Summary of Type II Tracts by County](#)

In the News: News Releases

Department of Veterans Affairs

VA Launches New Web Site on Hepatitis C

WASHINGTON -- A new, comprehensive Web site on hepatitis C -- www.hepatitis.va.gov -- will be formally launched Feb. 25 through a collaboration between the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the University of California at San Francisco's Center for HIV Information (CHI).

"Hepatitis C is another reminder that veterans rely on VA to care for a wide variety of illnesses and battlefield injuries," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Anthony J. Principi. "This Web site will help both veterans and medical practitioners to understand this complex, long-term illness."

Hepatitis C is the most common blood borne infection in the United States, affecting 2 percent of the population. VA cares for more hepatitis C patients than any other medical system, with more than 200,000 patients since 1996. The department has the largest screening, testing and care program for hepatitis C in the nation.

The new hepatitis C Web site has a section for veterans and non-medical employees that includes general information and links to other Web sites. It also offers information for health care providers that is searchable by topic and includes best practices, guidelines and slides.

"Hepatitis C is an important public health issue for our nation," said Dr. Lawrence Deyton, VA's chief consultant for public health, who oversees VA's hepatitis C programs. "VA is pleased to join with CHI, a world-class medical Web site developer, to provide a user-friendly resource on hepatitis C for providers, patients and public health authorities."

CHI, based at the San Francisco VAMC, is directed by Dr. Laurence Peiperl, a medical staff member of both the university and the San Francisco VAMC. Dr. Paul A. Volberding, chief of the medical service at the San Francisco VAMC, chairs the CHI Advisory Board.



What You Can Do (continued from March issue)

All Americans are encouraged to participate. By interviewing a veteran or war worker as part of the Veterans History Project, you honor those who served our nation during difficult and dangerous periods in our history. You are participating in a national project initiated by Congress to promote public learning and to encourage discussion across the generations about our nation's wartime activities. Interviewers might be veterans comparing their experiences with fellow veterans who fought in previous wars. They may be students talking with veterans and home front supporters within their local communities as part of school projects. Or they may be grandsons and granddaughters coaxing grandparents to share their memories of America at war.

Sharing stories and gathering reminiscences will have an immediate impact on both you and the narrators who participate in your interviews. Even if you should forget your tape recorder, video camera, or notebook, you and the men and women with whom you speak would not leave the interviews empty-handed. Veterans and war workers will take away a sense of pride in their contributions to America's war efforts. They will gain the satisfaction of knowing that they are passing on to you firsthand knowledge about the realities of war and the everyday acts of sacrifice and heroism that accompany it. You and others who conduct the interviews or who collect wartime letters, diaries, photographs, and other materials will also be enriched. You will leave with a better understanding of our nation's past and a newfound respect for the men and women who served their nation during wartime.



Please Help Us Preserve the Nation's Memory

The immediate personal benefits of interviewing a war veteran should not be underestimated. But don't let your involvement end there. It is essential to recognize, as Congress did, the importance of preserving a permanent record of your interviews for future generations of Americans to consult. Please follow carefully the instructions in the [Project Kit](#) to ensure that your recording lasts and will be accessible to researchers and the public, both now and in the future. Plan to donate your interview to the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress or to one of our Official Partner organizations in your area who will help us preserve the National Veterans History Collection. Your cooperation will greatly assist the Library of Congress and the American Folklife Center in organizing and making publicly available this large and important collection.

The Library of Congress will create a catalog of all oral histories and other documentation collected as a result of the Veterans History Project, including those items preserved at other sites by participating partners. The names of all veterans and civilians who are interviewed or whose letters, diaries, and other documents are donated to the National Veterans History Collection will appear on this Web site in the future. The Library will also develop online presentations of selected portions of the collection for its popular [American Memory](#) Web site as an educational resource for the American people.

How You Can Begin

We invite veterans, active military personnel, and civilians to join our Volunteer Corps. Volunteers are the individuals who interview war veterans and identify documents to donate. If you are a veteran, you possess a valuable resource in your war memories and military knowledge, and we especially encourage you to participate as both an interviewer and an interviewee. Our [Project Kit](#) contains all the information and forms you need to participate as a volunteer interviewer.

(continued in May issue)

Distinguished Service Medal



Army

For exceptionally meritorious service to the government in a duty of great responsibility.

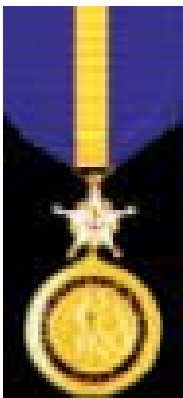
Authorized in 1918 in the legislation authorizing the Distinguished Service Cross and Silver Star Citation, the Distinguished Service Medal is awarded for both combat valor and non-combat services of exceptionally meritorious service to the government in a position of great responsibility. It is our fourth highest military award and shares this level of prominence with the Navy/Marine Corps DSM, the Coast Guard DSM and the Air Force DSM, each of which has its own unique design.



A Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster is worn for each subsequent award



A Silver Oak Leaf Cluster is worn in lieu of 5 Bronze



Navy and Marine Corps

For exceptionally meritorious service to the government in a duty of great responsibility.

Authorized in 1919, the Distinguished Service Medal is awarded for both combat valor and non-combat services of exceptionally meritorious service to the government in a position of great responsibility. It is our fourth highest military award and shares this level of prominence with the Army DSM, the Coast Guard DSM and the Air Force DSM, each of which has its own unique design.



A Gold Star is worn for each subsequent award of the DSM.



A Silver Star is worn in lieu of 5 Gold Stars.



Coast Guard

For exceptionally meritorious service to the government in a duty of great responsibility.

Authorized in 1949, the Distinguished Service Medal is awarded for both combat valor and non-combat services of exceptionally meritorious service to the government in a position of great responsibility. It is our fourth highest military award and shares this level of prominence with the Navy/Marine Corps DSM, the Army DSM and the Air Force DSM, each of which has its own unique design.



A Gold Star is worn for each subsequent award of the DSM.



Air Force

For exceptionally meritorious service to the government in a duty of great responsibility.

The Air Force Distinguished Service Medal is awarded for both combat valor and non-combat services of exceptionally meritorious service to the government in a position of great responsibility. It is our fourth highest military award and shares this level of prominence with the Navy/Marine Corps DSM, the Coast Guard DSM and the Army DSM, each of which has its own unique design.



A Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster is worn for each subsequent award.



A Silver Oak Leaf Cluster is worn in lieu of 5 Bronze.

Denton County Veterans Service Office
306 N. Loop 288, Suite 146
Denton, TX 76209
Monday through Friday
8:00 am—Noon & 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm



(continued from page 4)

Become An Official Partner

Groups are also encouraged to participate in the Veterans History Project. Libraries, museums, and civic groups can start their own local projects. Veterans associations, military and history organizations, institutions of higher education, and ongoing veterans oral history projects can become Official Partners of the Veterans History Project, at which point their names and addresses are added to our List of Official Partners. Teachers and students, participants in after-school programs, and youth groups may become Official Youth Partners. Please see our [Partner Information](#) page for further details, or contact us to learn more about how your group can become a Partner or Youth Partner of the Veterans History Project.

Training Workshops for Official Partners

Official Partner organizations are eligible for free training workshops on conducting oral history interviews. Folklorists and oral historians provided by the American Folklore Society and the Oral History Association will lead these workshops, which will be designed to increase participants' understanding of the personal aspects of oral interviewing and the technical aspects of audio and video documentation. Please see our [Training Workshop Information](#) page for further details.

The Veterans History Project is made possible by the generous support of the [United States Congress](#), [AARP](#) (*Founding Corporate Sponsor*), and the [Disabled American Veterans \(DAV\) Charitable Service Trust](#).

