

### TEXAS VETERANS LAND BOARD SERVING TEXAS VETERANS

**GENERAL** INFORMATION 1-800-252-VETS (8387) 512-463-5060

VETERANS HOMES **Ussery-Roan** 

**Texas State Veterans Home** Amarillo, Texas 806-322-VETS (8387)

Lamun-Lusk-Sanchez **Texas State Veterans Home Big Spring, Texas** 432-268-VETS (8387)

Clyde W. Cosper **Texas State Veterans Home Bonham, Texas** 903-640-VETS (8387)

Ambrosio Guillen **Texas State Veterans Home** El Paso, Texas 915-751-0967

Frank M. Tejeda Texas State Veterans Home Floresville, Texas 830-216-9456

Alfredo Gonzalez **Texas State Veterans Home** McAllen, Texas 956-682-4224

William R. Courtney **Texas State Veterans Home** Temple, Texas 254-791-8280

**VETERANS CEMETERIES** Central Texas

**State Veterans Cemetery** Killeen, Texas 254-616-1770

**Rio Grande Valley State Veterans Cemeterv Mission**, Texas 956-583-7227

**Texas State Veterans Cemetery** at Abilene Abilene, Texas 325-673-4446

### **All Eyes on Texas State Veterans Cemeteries**

eterans in West Texas observed Memorial Day 2009 with true meaning at the dedication of the newest Texas State Veterans Cemetery at Abilene. Jerry Patterson, Chairman of the Texas Veterans Land Board, hosted the event and officiated at the ceremony.

"Today is not about a sale at the mall or a day off from work. Today is about honoring the soldiers and sailors who served our country with dignity and courage," Patterson said. "I am proud to

stand among so many fellow Texans who share my commitment to never forget their sacrifices."

Patterson was joined by Congressman Randy Neugebauer; Tavlor County Judge George Newman; Jones County Judge Dale Spurgin; Abilene Mayor Norm Archibald: Col. Robert F. Gass, Commander, 7th Bomb Wing, Dyess Air Force Base and Mrs. Gass: Frank Salvas, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs: Veterans Service Officer Jimmy DeFoor; and Texas Veterans Commissioner John B. McKinney. The invocation was given by Col.

"Today is not about a sale at the mall or a day off from work. Today is about honoring the soldiers and sailors who served our country with dignity and courage. I am proud to stand among so many fellow Texans who share my commitment to never forget their sacrifices." -Jerry Patterson

Commissioner Jerry Patterson opens the dedication ceremony.

II veterans. Patriot Guard Riders flanked the hundreds of veterans at the ceremony while the Abilene Community Band performed

patriotic music. An honor guard from Dyess Air Force Base posted the colors. A lone B-1 bomber from the 7th Bomb Wing at Dyess AFB added to the solemnity of the occasion when it made a fast, low pass over the crowd to honor our fallen heroes.

Shortly after the new cemetery in Abilene was dedicated, Col. Walter P. "Walt" Morton, Jr., was the first veteran laid to rest. Col. Morton told his family that he had always wanted to be buried in a veterans

Bill Libby, U.S. Army (ret.), and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Brooklyn Hill from Girl Scout Troop 7029. The dismissal was offered by Paul and Julianne Ruska, both World War

cemetery, and his daughter, Abilene veterinarian Natalie Matthews, knows that he would have been honored to be the first See All Eyes on Texas State Veterans Cemeteries, Page 5

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### A Message from the Chairman By Veterans Land Board Chairman Jerry Patterson



Fellow Veterans:

I was privileged to participate in the Memorial Day dedication of the third Texas State Veterans Cemetery, located in Abilene. This beautiful facility joins state veterans cemeteries in Killeen and Mission to provide a dignified place of rest for Texas veterans. All three of the current cemeteries have opened since I took office in 2003, and soon

a fourth will serve veterans in the Corpus Christi area.

The Coastal Bend State Veterans Cemetery will serve more than 50,000 veterans who call the area home. The cemetery

will be built on a 54-acre tract of land in Nueces County. Planning and design work is already under way and should be completed by December. Construction is likely to begin next spring.

Like all of our veterans cemeteries, it will be a superb facility—dignified, beautiful and maintained with loving care in perpetuity.

Texas State Veterans Cemeteries complement the VA cemeteries in Houston, the Metroplex, San Antonio and El Paso by making it easier for people in other parts of the state to visit their loved ones.

All VA burial benefits are available to Texans interred at our state veterans cemeteries. For more information, please call our toll free veterans hotline at 1-800-252-VETS (8387).

### VETERANS Land Board Serving Texas Veterans

#### Members

TEXAS

Jerry Patterson, Chairman Alan Johnson, Member Alan K. Sandersen, Member

#### Executive Secretary Paul E. Moore

#### **Texas Veterans Voice**

is published by the Texas Veterans Land Board, a division of the Texas General Land Office. News items, photographs and letters may be submitted to: Jan Rader, Editor P.O. Box 12873, Austin, Texas 78711-2873 Email: vlbinfo@glo.state.tx.us

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## **TVC Assists Texas Veterans**

he Texas Veterans Commission (TVC) is a state agency and an advocate for Texas veterans, their families and survivors. The TVC provides quality service, free of charge, assisting veterans and their families with claims for compensation, pensions, and appeals, and with participation in many other U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) programs.

The TVC has employees in all VA hospitals and VA outpatient clinics in Texas, and at the two VA regional offices in Houston (713-383-2756) and Waco (254-299-9950). Headquarters are in Austin (512-463-5538). For more information and complete listings of locations and phone numbers for TVC staff and county veterans service officers, visit the TVC Web site at www.tvc.state.tx.us or

#### call toll-free at 1-800-252-VETS (8387).

#### Continuing the Tradition —Veterans Benefits Fairs

The TVC partners with the Veterans Land Board to help veterans learn about benefits. This partnership is now hosting veterans benefits fairs around the state, providing veterans with a one-stop-shopping event for information about state and federal programs and benefits and an opportunity to work with a VA counselor on an existing claim or to file a new claim for pensions or other compensation. Information on dates and locations of these new benefits fairs is available in this issue and at the VLB Web site at www.texasveterans.com or by calling toll-free 1-800-252-VETS (8387). ☆

### HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

"They went, they did not ask why—their country called —and they were proud to serve."

### SEPTEMBER 18 National POW/MIA Recognition Day

NOVEMBER 11 Veterans Day DECEMBER 7 National Pearl Harbor Day

The Texas Veterans Land Board respectfully salutes all veterans and active duty service personnel around the world. On behalf of all Texans, thank you for your service and sacrifice.

## **Texas Veteran Shares Her Story ... and Recommends the VLB**

S. Navy veteran Lisa Kay Ewing couldn't be happier with her 14-acre spread in McLennan County that she bought with a Veterans Land Board (VLB) land loan two years ago. Her land in the community of Axtell has beautiful views and a pond. She had just finished mowing all the property with her new riding lawnmower when we visited with her in mid-July. Ewing plans to use green alternatives to maintain and improve her property and will build a dome house and expand the pond. She has been actively researching and learning about green alternative energy sources such as solar and wind power for her environmentally friendly home.

Following the family tradition of military service (she has three brothers who all served in the U.S. Air Force), Ewing entered the U.S. Navy in 1980 and served until 1985. She served as a fuselage technician for the TA-4 aircraft at Virginia Beach and Puerto Rico, where she also trained Active Reserve components of the Naval Air Command on maintenance of the aircraft. She sustained a knee injury

and was not able to return to full active duty and is now rated at 60 percent disabled. While she was in rehab, she used the GI Bill to obtain a certification as a Medical Support Assistant. She was hired by the VA and settled in Waco where, for the past 22 years, she held various positions. Currently, Ewing is working on the project to transfer health transcripts from VA doctors to the health records of veterans. She is working on completing a Masters Degree program at McLennan County College to become a social worker for the VA.

After reading about the VLB loan programs in this newsletter, she was immediately interested in applying for a land loan to begin her dreams of land and home ownership in Texas. She still checks the forfeited land sale listings for potential future purchases. Ewing receives the newsletter electronically and watches the VLB Web site for land sale updates.



Navy veteran Lisa Kay Ewing on land she bought with a VLB loan.

She also regularly reminds her fellow veterans about the loan programs offered by the VLB and how much she has benefited from them. "Owning land and planning for a future to include developing a homestead in Texas is a dream shared by many yet attained by only a few," Ewing said. She would like to see more veterans use their hard-earned benefits to realize their own dreams. As she proudly showed us her new shed and riding lawnmower, she said, "What I used to pay in rent is finally going toward building something for me to be proud of." Ewing extended an invitation to her fellow veterans in McLennan County to stop by for a visit and watch as her plans unfold.

For more information about land, housing and home improvement loans, and state veterans homes and state veterans cemeteries available to Texas veterans, visit www.texasveterans.com or call toll-free 1-800-252-VETS (8387).

### VLB Continues to Host Informational Seminars Across the State

osted by the Veterans Land Board and the Texas Veterans Commission, these benefits fairs offer information and assistance on veterans loan programs, state veterans homes and cemeteries, VA benefits and assistance with VA claims. If you want to discuss a VA claim, please bring your file or claim number to the fair. Representatives from the Social Security Administration and the Small Business Administration will also be available at most of the fairs, as well as representatives from veterans organizations and lenders and realtors offering assistance to veterans.

Benefits fairs have already been held in Belton, Abilene, Tyler, Stafford, Odessa and San Antonio, with veterans attending in large numbers. Parking and admission is always free and everyone is welcome to attend. Drawings for door prizes continue throughout the three-hour events.

All the Benefits Fairs are come-and-go with continuous programs, and will begin at 10:00 a.m. and be open through 1:00 p.m. for your convenience.  $\Rightarrow$ 

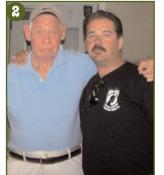
## **Upcoming Benefits Fairs**

OCTOBER 3 Harlingen TSTC October 31 Corpus Christi Solomon Ortiz Center NOVEMBER 7 El Paso EPCC Administration Center

### **Plan to Attend a Benefits Fair Near You!**

### Texas State Veterans Homes News













■ Ray Burchfield, a resident of the Ambrosio Guillen state veterans home in El Paso was interviewed by the El Paso Times for a story on June 6 about veterans who remembered the D-Day invasions. Burchfield, 93, served in the 90th Infantry Division and landed at Utah Beach. ☆

Leroy Sutherland, Jr. (L) served as a sailor in the U.S. Navy on the Destroyer USS Dortch. He participated in battles in the Marshall, Caroline and Admiralty islands, as well as attacks on Iwo Jima. He now lives at the Lamun-Lusk-Sanchez state veterans home in Big Spring where he was recently recognized as Veteran of the Month by REMEMBERAVET.net. A

Flag Day was celebrated at the Alfredo Gonzalez state veterans home in McAllen with a parade and reception. The parade was sponsored by local communities and started in Pharr and ended in San Juan. Residents of the veterans home rode in the parade and later visited with local citizens and Boy Scouts. ☆

**4 5** Residents of the Clyde W. Cosper state veterans home in Bonham traveled to an area gun range to get in some target practice. Dr. David White and Mr. Claude Vaughn enjoyed showing off their marksmanship skills.

**6** Residents Alfred Simpson, Theresa Baccus, and William Childers of the Clyde W. Cosper state veterans home in Bonham and children from a local day care class dyed Easter eggs to assist the Easter bunny with a community egg hunt.  $\Rightarrow$ 

♥ Knights of Columbus President Ramon Ramos (L) of Alice, resident Erasmo Benavidez, and K of C members Carlos Ramirez, Jr., and Manuel Salazar present an oversize thank-you card to the residents of the McAllen veterans home on Flag Day 2009. ☆

8 Memorial Day was observed at the William R. Courtney state veterans home in Temple by the residents, staff, and active duty servicemen and women from nearby Ft. Hood. ☆

Staff and residents of the Lamun-Lusk-Sanchez state veterans home in Big Spring hosted their 6th annual community children's Easter egg hunt in April. Local businesses and schools contribute to the event. This year, over 55,000 plastic eggs with candy were offered for three age groups of over 4,000 children. x

#### More News

Retired Brig. Gen. Ron White, Director of the Texas State Veterans Homes Program, delivered the keynote address at the SPJST Flag Day Celebration on June 14 at the William R. Courtney state veterans home on the grounds of the Olin E. Teague Veterans Center in Temple.

Residents and staff of the Clyde W. Cosper state veterans home in Bonham traveled to Frisco to attend a Rough Riders baseball game. Later, a hamburger cookout was held at the home. The home celebrated birthdays on the Alzheimer's Unit with a visit from the Red Hat Society, VFW representatives, and a performance by Clay Hammond and the Drifters. Ruth Waterman celebrated her 105th birthday with a party at the home. In June, local VFW members escorted residents to an event in Sherman where they were honored for their service. Residents enjoyed their trip to the Choctaw Casino in Durant, Oklahoma. In April, residents attended a BBQ at the Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base in Ft. Worth.

The Alfredo Gonzalez state veterans home in McAllen is pleased to announce that Christine Daniel, RN/BSN, Director of Nursing for the home, was presented with the 2009 TAHSA Nurse of the Year Award. Ms. Daniel has served the home since it opened in 2005.  $\Rightarrow$ 

### **All Eyes on Texas State Veterans Cemeteries**

**Continued from Page 1** 



Colonel Bill Libby offers the invocation.

interment at the new cemetery. Col. Morton flew missions in World War II and spent 30 years in military service; he had flight experience in almost every plane on display at Dyess Air Force Base. Col. Morton spent the rest of his life practicing law and serving the Abilene community with the Chamber of Commerce, the local Military Affairs Committee, and the Abilene Southwest Rotary Club. His final military assignment was deputy base commander at Dyess AFB. He received his military honors at a memorial about six years ago, but the family waited for the new cemetery to open for his final graveside service.

#### **Central Texas State Veterans Cemetery**

A ceremonial flag retirement facility was dedicated at the Central Texas State Veterans Cemetery at Killeen on June 23, 2009. The site was built and funded by Boy Scout Troop #287 in association with local businesses. The U.S. Flag Code (U.S.C. Title 10, Chapter 36) states: "The flag, when it is in such condition that it is no longer a fit-



Granite bench at flag retirement site.

ting emblem for display, should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning." For many years, Boy Scout Troop #287 in Killeen had gathered damaged and worn flags from the Central Texas State Veterans Cemetery and other sites and retired them in formal ceremonies in earthen burn pits located in a corner of the cemetery. Sean Cook, a member of Troop #287, chose to create a formal flag retirement site at the cemetery as his Eagle Scout project. Sean worked with his Scoutmaster, Gordon Plumlee, and other members of his troop to create a design for the facility. He estimated a cost of \$6,500 and made presentations to civic and veterans groups to raise funding. Sean and his fellow scouts set forms and laid concrete for the sidewalk, burn pit and bench foundations. They wrote the bench inscriptions and contracted for the benches to be manufactured. On June 27, 2009, Sean hosted the dedication ceremony to commemorate the completion of the flag retirement facility at the veterans cemetery. In the highest tradition of Scouting, Sean and the leaders and members of Troop #287 honored both our nation's flag and the fallen heroes buried at the Central Texas State Veterans Cemetery.



Eagle Scout Sean Cook and Scoutmaster Gordon Plumlee of Troop #287.

#### **Rio Grande Valley State Veterans Cemetery**

Vietnam veteran Eliu Rodriguez, who served in the U.S. Army from 1965 to 1968, was awarded the Purple Heart for injuries suffered during the Tet Offensive. After his military service, he returned to his hometown in the Rio Grande Valley at La Grulla, where he recuperated from his injuries and then attended Pan American University. Rodriguez worked for the Texas Department of Human Services, the U.S. Postal Service, and retired from the Social Security Administration. When he and his wife of 33 years, Maria Magdalena, attended the dedication ceremony for the Rio Grande Valley State Veterans Cemetery in Mission, Rodriguez commented that he thought the cemetery was so beautiful and peaceful that he wanted to be buried there with his fellow veterans. He said he had immediately felt a sense of respect and honor for all the servicemen and women that would one day be laid to rest on the grounds. When he passed away on March 19, 2009, Mrs. Rodriguez respected his wishes even though they had owned burial plots at another cemetery for many years. She wanted to be sure that her husband's fellow veterans were aware of the veterans cemetery in the Valley and that it is a wonderful and dignified place of rest. She knows her husband was right about his decision and she encourages other veterans to visit the cemetery. "They will feel a sense of peace and honor to know this special place is available for them," she said.

The Texas State Veterans Cemeteries are located at Killeen, Mission and Abilene, with a fourth under construction at Corpus Christi. For information about these cemeteries, please call toll free 1-800-252-VETS (8387) or visit our Web site at www.texasveterans.com.

## **Disabled Veterans Get Tax Break in 2009**

exas veterans with 100 percent V.A. compensated, serviceconnected disabilities or are considered by the V.A. to be individually unemployable got a well-deserved boost from the last legislative session with the passage of House Bill 3613. This bill provides for an exemption of the total appraised value of a veteran resident's homestead. The new law became effective on June 26 and is applicable to the current 2009 tax year for veterans who owned their homes on January 1, 2009. If a veteran did not own the home until after January 1, 2009, the exemption will be effective in the 2010 tax year.

Veterans who own and live in their homes and are receiving the 100 percent V.A. compensation for a service-connected disability, or are considered individually unemployable may apply for the new tax exemption through their county appraisal districts.

### IN MEMORIAM

Exemptions will not be given automatically. Eligible veterans must fill out an appropriate application form for the residential homestead exemption. The exemption applies to the veteran only and does not pass to the surviving spouse after the veteran's death. The exemption application form can be found at: http://www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/taxforms/vetexempt.pdf.

Eligible veterans must print and complete the application form (form cannot be completed on-line) and attach a copy of the V.A. letter documenting the 100 percent disability rating or unemployability status and mail or take to the veteran's tax appraisal district office. Applying for the disabled veteran property tax exemption should be much easier with a new certification letter created by the V.A. in anticipation of this bill passing the Texas Legislature. To get V. A. documentation of disability, call 1-800-827-1000 or visit their Web site at www.va.gov

Veterans who receive property tax exemptions on their residential homesteads must still pay property taxes on other properties and businesses they own; however, these properties may be taxed on a sliding scale based on the veteran's disability ratings.

## Robert William Keifer Marshall, III

FRIEND OF TEXAS VETERANS Beloved son and father

September 24, 1950 - July 12, 2009

REST IN PEACE

### Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act and the VLB

The VLB offers financial peace of mind to Texas Reservists and National Guard troops called to active duty who are eligible for protection under federal law known as Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA). The VLB will waive interest payments on all VLB home and home improvement loans for these Texans as long as they are on active duty. This program also lets many Reservists and National Guard members defer their entire monthly payments on land loans funded by the VLB, as long as they're on active duty. Call 1-800-252-VETS (8387) for information.

# **Veterans Day for Those Who Chose Service**

Veterans Day commentary by VLB Chairman Jerry Patterson

With five generations of my family serving in time of war, including my son, a Marine attack helicopter pilot who has now served two tours in Iraq, for me, Veterans Day has a deep significance. On this day, we stop and celebrate the courage of those who have given so much in service to our country.

For me—and millions of veterans and their families—it's more than a day at the park, a chance to sell toasters, or a day off from work. Enjoy the holiday, but remember its purpose is to honor the sacrifice made by so many to protect the freedoms that are too often taken for granted.

The honor we bestow on Veterans Day is meant for all those who sacrificed their time, their youth, and in some cases their innocence, in defense of our freedoms—regardless of their path to service. Not all men who died for their country chose their path—this does not diminish their sacrifice. Involuntary soldiers have died in every war—from the War Between the States to Operation Iraqi Freedom. Their sacrifice is not measured by whether or not they volunteered. War memorials everywhere are filled with names of reluctant participants.

Veterans Day is for the men and women who chose to serve others when life in America offers so many other less difficult paths.

It was during Vietnam that many Americans questioned our participation in a conflict that seemed to some to have nothing to do with preserving our freedoms. As a Vietnam Veteran, I harbor no animosity toward those who disagreed with the war—there was plenty to disagree about.

As we withdraw troops from Iraq and ramp up our efforts in Afghanistan, it is important to remember that whether the conflict is a popular one or not, Americans must support Americans in uniform.

We cannot allow opinion or political grandstanding to overshadow the realities of the war or our Armed Forces.

This Veterans Day, as we remember all those who represent the finest this country has to offer, let us recommit ourselves to electing leaders whose actions will honor rather than diminish their sacrifice.

Jerry Patterson is a former State Senator, Vietnam Veteran and retired Marine Lt. Colonel.

# From the Editor

**CORRECTION:** Eldon Armstrong is the Department Adjutant/Treasurer of the DAV Department of Texas, not State Commander as was reported. Also, the DAV donated 1,000 state flags to the Texas State Veterans Homes, not U.S. flags. ☆

The Texas Legislature passed a new law (HB

3613) allowing veterans with 100 percent disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to apply for an exemption from 100 percent of their local property taxes. The exemption applies to the veteran's residential homestead property. To apply, veterans must complete the State Comptroller's Form 50-764 and submit it to their appraisal district office along with a copy of their driver's license or ID card and a current copy of the VA Disability Award Letter showing the 100 percent serviceconnected disability OR individual unemployability. The form is available at www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/taxforms/vetex empt.pdf. See details in this issue. 🖈

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has launched a new "Returning Veterans" Web site at www.oefoif.va.gov to welcome home veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts with a social, veteran-related Web site focusing on their needs and questions. The site will feature videos, veterans' stories, and a blog for veterans to post feedback. ☆

# **VLB Thanks the Texas VFW**

special thanks from the Veterans Land Board to the Texas Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) for their generous donation to the Texas General Land Office Voices of Veterans Program. This donation helped purchase recording equipment to expand the program at the Houston Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) offices, allowing more veterans' oral histories to be recorded in a convenient location and central to the services they are receiving.

With about 1,000 World War II veterans dying every day, time is growing short to save their remembrances. The Voices of Veterans Program records and captures these compelling and inspirational stories so that they may be shared with future generations. These interviews offer an illuminating glimpse into the service and sacrifices of our nation's heroes.

# Participate in Voices of Veterans Oral History Program

undreds of Texas veterans have already participated in the Voices of Veterans Oral History Program, sharing their vivid memories of the roles they played in past conflicts.

The Voices of Veterans Oral History Program seeks to record the stories of Texas veterans and archive the transcripts in the Office of Veterans Records for future researchers, historians, genealogists and the general public. Every veteran has a story to tell, and this program will ensure these stories of courage and service can inspire Texans for generations to come.

Any veteran interested in including his or her story in the Voices of Veterans Program should contact the Veterans Land Board at 1-800-252-VETS (8387), or send an e-mail to vlbinfo@glo.state.tx.us.

Oral history interviews can be conducted in person at the Veterans Land Board in Austin, at field offices, or by telephone from anywhere in Texas. Interviews usually last from one to two hours. A



#### www.voicesofveterans.org

### **VLB Offers Wide Range of Veterans Benefits**

# Low-interest, long-term loans for land, homes and home improvements:

- ★ \$80,000 land loans, 30-year fixed-rate terms, minimum one acre
- ★ Up to \$325,000 for purchase of primary residence, 15- or 30-year fixed-rate terms
- ★ Up to \$25,000 for 20-year term for home improvement, no down payment

Dignified places of rest for Texas veterans, their spouses and dependent children at Texas State Veterans Cemeteries

- ★ Killeen
- ★ Mission
- ★ Abilene
- ★ Design work for Corpus Christi is underway

### Affordable, long-term nursing care facilities exclusively for Texas veterans, their spouses and Gold Star parents at Texas State Veterans Homes

- ★ Amarillo
- ★ Big Spring

★ Bonham
★ El Paso

- ★ McAllen
- ★ Temple

★ Floresville

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TEXAS VETERANS LAND BOARD JERRY PATTERSON, CHAIRMAN P.O. BOX 12873 AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711-2873 PRSRT STD US POSTAGE PAID AUSTIN TX PERMIT NO. 1753



## **Next VLB Forfeited Land Sale**

Tuesday, October 27, 2009 9:30 a.m.

Bids must be received no later than 4:30 p.m. on Monday, October 26, 2009. A bid may not be presented on the day of the sale. No funds should be submitted prior to the sale.

#### Open to the public at the Stephen F. Austin Building 1700 N. Congress, Room 940A, Austin, Texas

At the last sale on April 28, 2009, the VLB offered 46 tracts for sale and sold 32 of them for more than \$1.25 million. Any unsold tracts from prior sales are available for sale to the general public on a first come, first served basis. Listings of tracts available from all previous sales are posted on our Web site at www.texasveterans.com. Tracts offered at the next sale on October 27, 2009 are listed at that same Web site. For a printed copy of the listings for the October 2009 sale or for any other information, call toll-free at 1-800-252-VETS (8387).

NEW: There is a limit on the number of bids you may submit. You may bid on a total of six tracts. You must indicate a bid preference on each bid or the bid will be rejected. All bids must have original signatures. See the instructions included in the listings book or at the Web site at www.texasveterans.com.  $\Im$ 

ARE YOU CURRENTLY ON ACTIVE DUTY? SERVED IN THE NATIONAL GUARD? Please check our eligibility requirements in the forfeited land sale listings book or at the Web site or call toll free 1-800-252-VETS (8387).

### WANT A VETERANS LAND BOARD SPEAKER?

If you would like to feature a VLB speaker at your organization's next meeting, call toll-free 1-800-252-VETS (8387) or contact a VLB representative near you. To find a representative in your area, visit our Web site at www.texasveterans.com and click on "General Information," then select "Outreach Marketing Offices."

