



TEXAS GENERAL LAND OFFICE

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PRESS RELEASE

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Coastal Bend State Veterans Cemetery honors all who served *Corpus Christi's Texas State Veterans Cemetery gets a name*

AUSTIN — Jerry Patterson, Chairman of the Texas Veterans Land Board, today announced the Coastal Bend State Veterans Cemetery will be the name of the hallowed grounds planned for a 54-acre tract of land in Nueces County.

“The Coastal Bend State Veterans Cemetery will honor all who served,” Patterson said. “By naming it after the region, the Texas Veterans Land Board hopes to make each of the 53,000 veterans living in the area know these hallowed grounds will be for them.”

Planning and design work on the site is already under way. The 54-acre site, off Carbon Plant Road, was donated by Flint Hills Resources and submitted by Nueces County. Once the plans are complete, the Texas Veterans Land Board will seek construction bids and then seek final grant approval from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Construction of the Coastal Bend State Veterans Cemetery is expected to take about 18 months once funding is approved.

“The Coastal Bend State Veterans Cemetery will be a superb final resting place for our Texas veterans,” Patterson said. “It will be a lasting memorial to the men and women who serve our nation. We pledge to keep it immaculate, as befits a place of honor.”

Texas State Veterans Cemetery proposals compete with proposals from other states for available funding from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. The construction of State Veterans Cemeteries is funded entirely by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Since taking office in 2003, Patterson has overseen the construction of the state's first three Texas State Veterans Cemeteries, which have been built in Killeen, Mission and Abilene. The Coastal Bend State Veterans Cemetery will be the fourth.

These cemeteries will complement the four U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs national cemeteries in Texas, located in San Antonio, Houston, Dallas-Fort Worth and El Paso. There are no known plans for additional national cemeteries in Texas, and approximately 600,000 of Texas' 1.7 million veterans are 65 or older.

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The Texas Veterans Land Board will own and operates the Coastal Bend State Veterans Cemetery under VA guidelines with continued coordination of VA benefits available to veterans upon death. All burial benefits entitled to eligible veterans, such as a burial flag, grave marker, Presidential Memorial Certificate, or military honors, may be used at Texas State Veterans Cemeteries. The Coastal Bend State Veterans Cemetery will coordinate with U.S. Department of Defense units or Veterans Service Organizations in nearby communities for military honors at burials.

Eligibility for a Texas State Veterans Cemetery is determined by VA regulations based on a variety of qualifying criteria, many of which may apply to a veteran's periods of service on active duty, or while in the Guard or Reserves. Regulations for eligibility can be reviewed at the VA Web site at <http://www.cem.va.gov/eligible.htm>, or by calling the VA's toll-free burial benefits number at (800) 827-1000.

The spouse or unmarried surviving spouse of an eligible veteran is also eligible for the program under current VA regulations.

For additional information on Texas Veterans Land Board programs, such as low-cost home, land and home improvement loans for Texas veterans, and Texas State Veterans Homes for veterans or their spouses who need skilled nursing home care, call (800) 252-VETS, or visit the Web site at www.texasveterans.com.

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