



# TEXAS GENERAL LAND OFFICE

## JERRY PATTERSON, COMMISSIONER

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## NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**May 13, 2009**

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### Decoration Day dedication for Texas State Veterans Cemetery at Abilene

ABILENE — The Texas State Veterans Cemetery at Abilene will be dedicated at 10:30 a.m. on Memorial Day, Monday, May 25. Jerry Patterson, Chairman of the Texas Veterans Land Board, will host the event and hundreds of Texas veterans are expected to attend the ceremony.

“The Texas State Veterans Cemetery at Abilene is a dignified place of honor,” Patterson said. “Dedicating it on May 25 will remind everyone about the true meaning of Memorial Day, a day of remembrance for fallen heroes.”

Congressman Randy Neugebauer, Taylor County Judge George Newman, Jones County Judge Dale Spurgin, Colonel Robert F. Gass, Commander, 7th Bomb Wing, Dyess Air Force Base and Texas Veterans Commission Chairwoman Karen Rankin, will all speak at the dedication.

The opening of the Texas State Veterans Cemetery at Abilene has been a much-anticipated event for residents in and around Abilene, home to approximately 31,000 veterans. The Texas State Veterans Cemetery at Abilene is four miles north of Interstate 20, just east of Farm-to-Market Road 600.

The 63-acre cemetery has the ultimate capacity for up to 20,000 burials. Among the features: a covered, open-air structure for committal services; a visitors center; a computer system for locating specific graves or interments; an assembly area for special occasions, such as Memorial Day observances; an avenue of flags; and a memorial walkway for future monuments. Construction will be in two or more phases.

The first interments are expected to take place in June.

The new cemetery will join Texas State Veterans Cemeteries built in Killeen and Mission. The cemeteries complement the states' four national veterans cemeteries in Houston, Dallas-Fort Worth, San Antonio and El Paso.

For additional information on Texas State Veterans Cemeteries and other veterans programs offered by the Texas Veterans Land Board, call 1-800-252-VETS (1-800-252-8387), or visit the Veterans Land Board Web site at [www.texasveterans.com](http://www.texasveterans.com).

**WHO:** Jerry Patterson, Chairman of the Texas Veterans Land Board  
**WHAT:** Dedication of the Texas State Veterans Cemetery at Abilene  
**WHEN:** 10:30 a.m. Monday, May 25  
**WHERE:** 7457 West Lake Road (FM 600)  
**WHY:** To dedicate a place of honor for Texas veterans.

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