

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 6, 2011

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Blue Star Memorial By-Way Marker to be dedicated at Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery September 10, 2011

PULASKI— The Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery, located in Dublin, Virginia, is the latest location to receive a Blue Star Memorial By-Way Marker. The dedication ceremony will be held at the cemetery, 5550 Bagging Plant Road, on September 10 at 10 a.m.

This Blue Star Memorial marker is being placed by the Blue Ridge District and Southwest District Garden Clubs. Approved in 1945, the Memorial Marker program pays tribute to the nation's Armed Forces through state-approved markers placed in veterans facilities, parks, historic sites, civic areas, and along major highways across the nation. Each memorial marker bears the words, "A Tribute to the Armed Forces of America."

"This marker is in recognition of the men and women who have served in the Armed Forces as well as those who are currently serving and will serve," noted Marty Bowers, President of the Blue Ridge District Garden Clubs. "The new Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery is an ideal location to for this memorial recognizing their service."

Gloria Crump, Blue Star Memorial Chairman of the Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs (VFGC), Inc. will welcome guests and will be followed by Presentation of the Colors, the invocation, Pledge of Allegiance, National Anthem, and introduction of guests. Elene Combs, VFGC Past President will present the history of Blue Star Memorial Markers. CSM Dennis Green, VaANG, will deliver a military tribute, and Nancy Hargroves, National Garden Clubs, Inc. will present the Certificate from the National Garden Clubs. Judy Binns, VFGC President, and Elene Combs will unveil the marker. Patrick Green, LTC U.S. Army, Ret. will dedicate the marker. The program will end with a benediction and Taps. Refreshments will be available following the ceremony.

“This is a memorial event for all of Southwest Virginia—military, veterans and their families, garden club members, and the public,” said Bowers. “Everyone is welcome.”

The Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery was dedicated on May 6, 2011. The cemetery is located on an 80-acre parcel of land transferred from the Department of the Army, Radford Army Ammunition Plant to the Commonwealth of Virginia in 2008. This is Virginia’s third state-operated veterans cemetery. The Virginia Veterans Cemetery is located in Amelia and the Albert G. Horton, Jr. Memorial Veterans Cemetery is located in Suffolk. The cemeteries are operated by the Virginia Department of Veterans Services.

Service members who were honorably discharged qualify for burial in one of Virginia’s veterans cemeteries. Members of the National Guard/Reserves who served on federal active duty may also qualify. A grave site, opening and closing of the grave for the veteran, placement of a government grave marker, and perpetual care of the site are provided to the veteran at no charge. Additionally, in most cases, outer burial containers are provided at the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery at no charge. Veterans’ spouses and eligible dependent children may be interred for a small fee, currently \$300.

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