

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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McGuire VA Medical Center director to speak at Memorial Day Ceremony

RICHMOND—Charles E. Sepich, FACHE will be the guest speaker for the Memorial Day Ceremony at the Virginia Veterans Cemetery, Amelia. The ceremony will begin at 10 a.m., May 30, 2011. The cemetery is located at 10300 Pridesville Road in Amelia.

Sepich serves as the Director of the McGuire VA Medical Center (VAMC), located in Richmond, Virginia. He assumed this post in 2009 after serving as director of the Veterans Affairs Gulf Coast Health Care System in Biloxi, Mississippi. He began his career with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs as a recreation therapist more than 30 years ago. Annually, the McGuire VAMC serves more than 220,000 veterans in Virginia and neighboring states.

Delegate Thomas C. Wright, Jr. will be the honorary guest speaker. Wright has represented the 61st district since 2001.

The Memorial Day Ceremony is sponsored by American Legion Post 354, Bon Air and the Virginia Mid-Atlantic Chapter, Paralyzed Veterans of America, Richmond. As part of the ceremony, representatives from veteran service and other organizations will place wreaths at the Committal Shelter to honor the Commonwealth's veterans.

American flags will be placed on all grave sites. Weather permitting, 75 flags will be erected along the perimeter road, creating the Avenue of Flags. Cemetery staff will be available to help visitors locate grave sites, and military service members and veterans may file pre-applications for future burial in the cemeteries.

Service members who were honorably discharged qualify for burial in one of Virginia's veterans cemeteries. 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. Veterans' spouses and eligible dependent children may be interred for a small fee, currently \$300. Veterans and family members being interred in the cemetery may also purchase outer burial containers (burial vaults) at cost (\$400) from the cemetery.

The Virginia Veterans Cemetery, Amelia is one of three state-operated veterans cemeteries. Other state veterans cemeteries include the Albert G. Horton, Jr. Memorial Veterans Cemetery, located in Suffolk, and the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery, located in Dublin. The cemeteries are operated by the Virginia Department of Veterans Services.

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