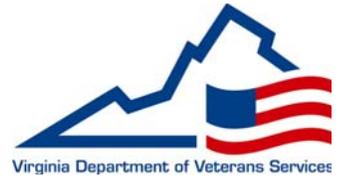


# The Virginia Department of Veterans Services



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## News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
September 17, 2009

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### *Virginia receives \$7.2 million in funding for third veterans cemetery*

RICHMOND—Residents of Southwest Virginia will soon have a cemetery dedicated exclusively to veterans and their family members thanks to \$7.2 million in federal funding awarded to the Commonwealth. Frank K. Salvas, Sr., Director, State Cemetery Grants Service, National Cemetery Administration will present John W. Marshall, Secretary of Public Safety with a ceremonial check on October 19, 2009 at the groundbreaking ceremony.

“The residents of Southwest Virginia have consistently stepped forward to defend our nation in all wars,” said Secretary Marshall. “The Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery will be a fitting tribute to their valor and an enduring memorial to their service and sacrifice.” The new cemetery will serve roughly 60,000 veterans and family members living in Southwest Virginia.

The grant will fund construction of the first phase of the cemetery. The cemetery is located on an 80-acre parcel of land transferred from the Department of the Army, Radford Arsenal to the Commonwealth of Virginia in 2008. The cemetery will be developed in four phases as grave sites are needed. Phase 1 construction will cover 24 acres and includes the main entrance area, full casketed and cremation burial areas, a columbarium, a memorial garden and scatter garden areas, roads, an assembly area, committal shelter, cemetery office, maintenance complex, and supporting infrastructure. Interment areas will include 5,167 standard burial plots; 2,750 pre-placed crypts; 500 in-ground cremation spaces, and 625 columbarium niches. Completion is slated for fall 2010.

The groundbreaking ceremony will take place at noon in the Lions Club, 1 Lions Club Road, Dublin, Virginia. The ceremony will conclude at the edge of the cemetery property directly across the street from the Lions Club.

The Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery will be Virginia’s third state-operated veterans cemetery. A second cemetery, the Albert G. Horton, Jr. Memorial Veterans Cemetery, is located in

*Serving those who served.*

Suffolk. The third cemetery, the Virginia Veterans Cemetery, Amelia, is located in Amelia. 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. 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.

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