

## News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
June 15, 2011

Contact: Anne Atkins  
(804) 371-0441

### *Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery to begin performing interments*

DUBLIN—The Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Dublin, Virginia will begin performing interments effective June 16. Although some construction and landscaping tasks remain, the Virginia Department of Veterans Services will complete these tasks over the summer and fall.

The cemetery was dedicated on May 6, 2011. Adrian Cronauer served as emcee for the event which featured Paul Galanti, Commissioner of the Virginia Department of Veterans Services and a Vietnam prisoner of war and Congressman Morgan Griffith. More than 300 veterans and family members attended the event.

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. Initial construction covers 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 include 5,167 standard burial plots; 2,750 pre-placed outer burial containers; 500 in-ground cremation spaces; and 625 columbarium niches for cremated remains. Additional grave sites will be added as needed.

The Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery is Virginia's third state-operated veterans cemetery. The Albert G. Horton, Jr. Memorial Veterans Cemetery is located in Suffolk and the Virginia Veterans Cemetery 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. 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.

# # #