



# The Denton County Veteran

## In the News: News Releases

*Department of Veterans Affairs*

MAY 2004

DENTON COUNTY, TEXAS

County Judge Mary Horn, Commissioner Cynthia White, Precinct 1; Commissioner Sandy Jacobs, Precinct 2;

Commissioner Bobbie Mitchell, Precinct 3; Commissioner Jim Carter, Precinct 4

Volume VII Issue 5

### VA Announces 80 Per Diem Awards for Homeless Assistance

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has made 80 new awards to public and private nonprofit organizations to support their efforts to assist homeless veterans.

"VA continues to play -- and must play -- a key role in providing health care to homeless veterans, through its own facilities and programs and through partnerships with community-based providers," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Anthony J. Principi.

Currently, an estimated 6,000 veterans sleep each night in beds already funded under VA's Homeless Providers Grants and Per Diem Program. Over 1,580 community-based beds, provided by public and private nonprofit organizations in 29 states and the District of Columbia, will be available with this new round of per diem awards.

"These are the men and women who served our nation during its greatest times of need and who now live without shelter or food or medical care," Principi added. "They are our country's forgotten heroes, who have every right to live the American dream."

While there is no definite measure of the number of homeless veterans, it has been estimated that approximately 200,000 veterans may be homeless on any given night and twice as many veterans experience homelessness over the course of a year. It is estimated that one-third of the adult homeless male population and nearly one-quarter of all homeless adults have served in the armed forces.

"We want to take the lead in providing health care and benefits for homeless veterans," said Pete Dougherty, who serves as VA's homeless coordinator.

"Throughout my travels I have seen firsthand programs that are helping in a meaningful way to reconstruct veterans' lives and reunite families. It takes a network of partnerships to provide a full range of services."

To combat veterans' homelessness, VA initiated the Grants and Per Diem Program in 1994, and since then has provided more than \$171 million in grants and per diem payments. More than 180 organizations applied this year for VA's per diem funding.

VA has the largest integrated network of homeless assistance programs in the country and is the only federal agency that provides substantial one-on-one contact with the homeless. In many cities and rural areas, VA social workers and other clinicians conduct extensive outreach programs, clinical assessments, medical treatment, alcohol and drug abuse counseling and employment assistance.

### Locations in Texas receiving the awards are:

Dallas -- Salvation Army, A Georgia Corporation  
Fort Worth -- Presbyterian Night Shelter of Tarrant County  
Houston -- Salvation Army, A Georgia Corporation

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## AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION

### Dedication

<http://www.washington.org/amicacelebrates/>

#### **Smithsonian Institution, Washington National Cathedral, Military Performing Units Join With ABMC to Produce a Four-Day “Tribute to a Generation” Celebration**

The four-day Tribute to a Generation dedication celebration planned by the American Battle Monuments Commission continues to take shape. The calendar of events, highlighted by the memorial’s formal dedication ceremony on Saturday, May 29, will run over Memorial Day weekend 2004 from May 27 through May 30.

Events will celebrate the memorial and its placement on the National Mall. They will also pay tribute to the service and sacrifice of America’s World War II generation, many of whom are making plans to be in Washington to see their memorial dedicated. The Tribute to a Generation will appeal to a wide variety of interests, with the WWII generation being the central focus for each. Activities include wartime reminiscences, reunions, big band and swing music, WWII memorabilia and equipment displays, a religious service, military ceremonial units, and educational opportunities for all ages.

The memorial will be dedicated on Saturday afternoon, May 29, at 2 p.m. Gates will open in the morning sometime between 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.; the exact time will be announced at a later date. Beginning at noon, two hours of lively pre-ceremony entertainment will take attendees back to the wartime era through music, video images, newsreel clips, and reminiscences of the time. Big band and swing music will be highlighted along with a patriotic finale. Musical groups from the armed forces will entertain. Tickets are required for seating at this event, however, ABMC is working to identify standing-room areas so that those who do not have tickets may also view the event.

The dignified dedication that follows will recognize the important addition of the memorial to the National Mall and pay tribute to the service and sacrifice of the WWII generation. President Bush has been invited to receive the memorial on behalf of the nation. Other dignitaries will participate in the ceremony, including former Senator Bob Dole, who served as the voluntary national chairman of the memorial fund-raising campaign.

There has been strong, nationwide interest in attending the dedication ceremony, particularly by members of the WWII generation and due to overwhelming demand, ticket requests are no longer being accepted. We expect tens of thousands of those who lived and served during the war to attend with their family members.



**MEMORIAL DAY  
TRADITIONAL: MAY 30  
OBSERVED:  
LAST MONDAY OF MAY**

*In Memory of our Honored Dead*



<http://www.washington.org/americancelebrates/>

The dedication of Washington, DC's newest national treasure on Memorial Day weekend 2004 will launch an unprecedented region-wide salute to the men and women who served in World War II. Community and military leaders gathered at the site of the World War II Memorial on Veterans Day to announce America Celebrates the Greatest Generation, an array of more than 140 World War II-themed exhibitions, performances, walking tours, and hotel packages in Washington, DC and the Capital Region. Running from Memorial Day to Labor Day 2004, the 100-day celebration will invite travelers to visit the newest national memorial in the nation's capital and to honor the contributions of the World War II generation. From themed walking tours to patriotic hotel packages, America Celebrates the Greatest Generation highlights the impact and influence of the generation on art, music, history and culture on Washington, DC and on the United States.



"The opening of the World War II Memorial is an important event for Washington, DC as well as for the world. As visitors come to the nation's capital to pay their respects to World War II veterans, we invite them to join in *America Celebrates the Greatest Generation*—a much-deserved salute to the men and women who defended the symbols of democracy we proudly display here in the nation's capital," said William A. Hanbury, president & CEO of the Washington, DC Convention & Tourism Corporation.



The celebration begins with the American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC)'s official dedication events, May 27-May 30. Scheduled official events include the Dedication Ceremony on Saturday, May 29, a four-day National World War II Reunion on the National Mall, produced in conjunction with the Smithsonian Institution's Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage, and an entertainment salute to World War II Veterans. America Celebrates the Greatest Generation

expands the tribute beyond the official events and invites visitors from around the world to come to the nation's capital during the summer to visit the new memorial and take advantage of themed programming.

## Armed Forces Day Third Saturday in May

Originally, each branch of the armed forces set aside a date to honor the founding of their particular service.

**Army Day - April 6**

**Air Force Day - August 1**

**Coast Guard Day - August 4**

**Navy Day - October 27**

**Marine Corps Day - November 10**

**On August 31, 1949, Secretary of Defense Louis Johnson announced the creation of an Armed Forces Day to replace separate Army, Navy and Air Force Days. The single-day celebration, Third Saturday in May, was a result of the unification of the Armed Forces under one department -- the Department of Defense.**

## Silver Star Medal

(All Services)

*For distinguished gallantry in action against an enemy of the United States or while serving with friendly forces against an opposing enemy force.*

The Silver Star is the third highest military award designated solely for heroism in combat. Established in 1918 as the *Citation Star*, in 1932 it was redesignated as a medal with a retroactive provision that allowed servicemen as far back as the Spanish-American War (1898) to receive it for gallant actions.



Army & AF wear a Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster for subsequent awards.



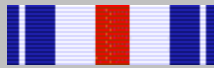
Navy, USMC & CG wear a Gold Star for each subsequent award.



A silver Oak Leaf Cluster is worn in lieu of 5 Bronze OLCs.



A Silver Star is worn in lieu of 5 Gold Stars.



American Legion Boys State is among the most respected and selective educational programs of government instruction for high school students. It is a participatory program where each participant becomes a part of the operation of his local, county and state government. Boys State has been a program of The American Legion since 1935 when it organized to counter the Fascist inspired Young Pioneer Camps. The program was the idea of two Illinois Legionnaires, Hayes Kennedy and Harold Card, who organized the first Boys State at the Illinois State Fairgrounds in Springfield. The American Legion Auxiliary sponsors a similar program for young ladies called Girls State. At American Legion Boys State, participants are exposed to the rights and privileges, the duties and the responsibilities of a franchised citizen. The training is objective and practical with city, county and state governments operated by the students elected to the various offices. Activities include legislative sessions, court proceedings, law enforcement presentations, assemblies, bands, chorus and recreational programs. High school juniors are selected by local American Le-

gion Posts to attend the program. In most cases, expenses associated with attending this program are paid by a sponsoring American Legion Post, a local business or another community-based organization.

American Legion Boys State is currently conducted in 49 Departments of The American Le-

gion. Hawaii does not conduct a program. As separate corporations, Boys States vary in content and method of procedure, but each and every Boys State adheres to the basic concept of the program - that of teaching government from the township to the state level.

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[http://www.txlegion.org/boys\\_state.htm](http://www.txlegion.org/boys_state.htm)



THE OFFICIAL SITE OF VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES

### **Voice of Democracy**

The Voice of Democracy is an annual national audio essay contest that is designed to foster patriotism by giving high school students in grades 9 through 12 the opportunity to voice their opinion about their personal obligations as an American and address their responsibility to our country. Created in 1947, the scholarship program annually provides more than \$3 million in scholarships. Contestants write and record a three to five minute essay on an annual theme. Each Department's first-place winner receives an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., plus the opportunity to compete for national scholarships. The first-place national winner receives a \$25,000 scholarship. All national scholarships are paid directly to the American university, college or vocational/technical school as selected by the recipient.

All scholarship funding is held at National Headquarters in escrow for 10 years from high school graduation. The funds, which are disbursed as needed, may be used for tuition, books, laboratory fees or other items relating specifically to the student's formal education. Clothing, room and board and pocket money are not considered authorized expenditures.

The 2004-2005 theme is "Celebrating Our Veterans' Service" **Deadline for entries is November 1, 2004.**

### **Patriot's Pen**

Patriot's Pen, a youth essay writing contest, is a nationwide competition that gives students in grades 6,7 and 8 the opportunity to write essays expressing their views on democracy. This year, more than 116,000 students participated in the annual contest.

Contestants write a 300-400 word essay based on an annual patriotic theme. The first place winner receives a \$10,000 savings bond and an all-expense-paid trip to Washington D.C. The top national winners each receive a savings bond anywhere from \$1,000 to \$10,000.

The 2004-2005 theme is "What Service to Our Country Means to Me." **The deadline is November 1, 2004.**

For more information contact [VFW National Headquarters](#) or [your local VFW Post](#).

<http://www.vfw.org>

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The American Legion has established certain qualifications for prospective Boys State citizens. Following are the recommended guidelines that are employed by most American Legion Boys State programs.

- Only males who have successfully completed their junior year of high school and have at least one more semester of high school remaining are considered eligible to participate.
- Any boy who has previously attended an American Legion Boys State is not eligible to attend a second session.
- Only boys with outstanding qualities of leadership, character, scholarship, loyalty and service to their schools and community should be considered.

In the actual selection of boys as citizens of Boys State, merit and ability alone are the basis for selection.

American Legion Boys States are in compliance with federal handicap laws. Most programs require a medical/parental consent certificate signed by a parent and a registered doctor.

The selection process often differs in the various Departments of The American Legion.

The recommended method is for the school to recommend a list of eligible candidates to the local American Legion Post. The Post would then conduct interviews and selects their representative(s) to the program.

**BOYS STATE 2004 WILL BE  
JUNE 5, 2004 - JUNE 11, 2004 in AUSTIN, TEXAS  
LEGION NIGHT AT BOYS STATE WILL BE  
TUESDAY JUNE 8, 2004 6:00 PM  
[http://www.txlegion.org/boys\\_state.htm](http://www.txlegion.org/boys_state.htm)**

