

Dawn Buckingham, M.D.
Chairwoman
Texas State Veterans Cemetery Committee
Texas Veterans Land Board

Laura Koerner
Chairwoman
Texas Veterans Commission
U.S. Navy Veteran

Kevin Barber
Member
Texas Veterans Commission
U.S. Army Veteran

LTC (Ret.) Kitty Meyers
Citizen Member
U.S. Air Force Veteran

James Rothfelder
Member
Texas Veterans Land Board



Admiral (Ret.) Jud Scott
Member
Texas Veterans Land Board
U.S. Navy Veteran

TEXAS STATE VETERANS CEMETERY COMMITTEE

NOTICE OF SPECIAL CALLED MEETING, TEXAS STATE VETERANS CEMETERY COMMITTEE

The Texas State Veterans Cemetery Committee will conduct a special called meeting to be held in person on June 25, 2024, at 10:00 A.M. at Stephen F. Austin Building, 1700 N. Congress Ave., Room 170, in accordance with the Texas Government Code §551 (Open Meetings Act). Access to the meeting by members of the public will be published in advance in the Texas Register in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act. A link to access the meeting via video conference call will be posted on the Texas General Land Office's website on the morning of the meeting.

Any member of the public who wishes to address the Committee on a matter within the authority of the Texas State Veterans Cemetery Committee should indicate so at the start of the meeting or during any public comment period.

AGENDA

1. Call to order
 - a. Roll call and quorum established
 - b. Invocation
 - c. Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. and Texas flags
2. Approval of minutes from the meeting of October 28, 2021.
3. Citizen communication (Two Minutes each. No deliberations with the Committee. The Committee may respond only with factual statements, recitation of existing policy, and requests for an item to be placed on a future Agenda.)
4. Chair and Committee Member Opening Comments.
5. Overview on statutory authority of the Committee.

6. Consideration and possible action on guidelines related to the location and size of veteran cemeteries and eligibility for burial in veteran cemeteries.
7. Consideration and possible action to designate 100 acres in Lubbock as the location of the fifth Texas State Veterans Cemetery.
8. Chair and Committee Member Closing Comments.
9. Adjournment.

An unscheduled Closed Executive Session may be called to discuss any item on this posted agenda provided it is within one of the permitted categories under Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code.

The above agenda schedule represents an estimate of the order for the indicated items and is subject to change at any time. All agenda items are subject to final action by the Committee. Separate agenda items may be combined and discussed together at the discretion of the Chair. Any final action, decision, or vote on a matter deliberated in Closed Executive Session shall be made in an open meeting pursuant to the Texas Open Meetings Act, Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code. Certain information may be presented to and by the Committee, under the headings of "Citizen Communications", and "Committee Member Comments" however, by law, the Committee shall not discuss, deliberate, or vote upon such matters except that a statement of specific factual information, a recitation of existing policy, and deliberations concerning the placing of the subject on a subsequent agenda may take place.

The meeting room is wheelchair accessible and accessible parking spots are available. Requests for accommodation or interpretive services must be made 48 hours prior to this meeting. Please contact (800)998-4456 for further information.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anthony W. Dale". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "A" and "D".

ANTHONY W. DALE
Executive Secretary
Texas Veterans Land Board



TEXAS STATE VETERANS CEMETERY COMMITTEE
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
Tuesday, October 28, 2021, 10:00 A.M.
1700 N. Congress Avenue, Room 170, Austin, TX 78701

1. Opening

- a. Mark Havens, Acting Chair and General Land Office Chief Clerk called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M.
- b. The Chair declared a quorum present.

Members present were:

General Land Office Chief Clerk Mark Havens
Texas Veterans Commission Chairwoman Laura Koerner
Texas Veterans Land Board Member Judson Scott
Texas Veterans Land Board Member Grant Moody
Committee Member Kevin Barber

Also, in attendance were:

Texas State Senator Charles Perry
General Land Office General Counsel Jeff Gordon
Rusty Martin, Chief Investment Officer, Texas General Land Office
Eric Brown, Deputy Director Texas State Veterans Cemeteries, Texas Veterans Land Board
Cory Wilburn, CIO, General Land Office

2. The Chair recognized Texas General Land Office General Counsel Jeff Gordon to explain the purpose of the meeting and the statutory jurisdiction of the committee.
3. The Chair called agenda item 1. *Discussion of the guidelines for determining the location and size of Veterans Cemeteries, including related funding issues.* A general discussion was conducted amongst the committee members and others in attendance. No action required; therefore, no action was taken by the committee.
4. Adjournment. 10:55 A.M.

ATTEST:

Jeff Gordon
General Counsel

APPROVED:

Laura Koerner
Committee Member

Dawn Buckingham, M.D.
Chairwoman
Texas State Veterans Cemetery Committee
Texas Veterans Land Board

Laura Koerner
Chairwoman
Texas Veterans Commission
U.S. Navy Veteran

Kevin Barber
Member
Texas Veterans Commission
U.S. Army Veteran

LTC (Ret.) Kitty Meyers
Citizen Member
U.S. Air Force Veteran

James Rothfelder
Member
Texas Veterans Land Board



Admiral (Ret.) Jud Scott
Member
Texas Veterans Land Board
U.S. Navy Veteran

TEXAS STATE VETERANS CEMETERY COMMITTEE

Date: June 25, 2024

To: Dawn Buckingham, M.D., Chairwoman
Members of the Texas State Veterans Cemetery Committee

From: Morris Karam, Office of General Counsel, Texas General Land Office

Subject: Agenda item 5 – Overview of statutory authority of the Committee

Recommendation: This agenda item requires no action from the Committee.

Background

The Texas State Veterans Cemetery Committee (“Committee”) was created by the Texas Legislature in 2001. The Committee is composed of the three members of the Veterans Land Board (“VLB”), the Chairwoman of the Texas Veterans Commission, and two representatives of the State’s veterans’ community. The creation of the Committee pre-dates the establishment of the first Texas State Veterans Cemetery (“Cemetery”).

Pursuant to the Texas Natural Resources Code (“Code”), §164.005(f), the Committee establishes guidelines for the location and size of Texas State Veterans Cemeteries and eligibility requirements for burial in them and selects up to seven locations for them. The Committee meets as necessary at the call of the chair.

Site Selection Criteria and Considerations

Site selection is governed by several factors.

1. Land must be donated to the State of Texas. The Code, §164.005(h), precludes the VLB from using funds from the Veterans Land Fund and the Housing Assistance Funds to “acquire land to be used for a veterans cemetery.”

2. The VLB must have sufficient funds to operate and maintain the cemetery. The VLB must have sufficient funds to support perpetual care and operations and maintenance at the Cemeteries. The Code, § 164.005(h), caps expenditures to operate Cemeteries at \$7 million per fiscal year. The \$7 million cap is not adjusted for inflation.
3. The National Cemetery Administration must provide grant funding to establish or expand a cemetery. The National Cemetery Administration (NCA), a division of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs funds the establishment and expansion of state cemeteries through grants. ~~(OBJ)~~ The NCA funds 100% of the costs for establishing or expanding the Cemeteries. The VLB employs a grant writer to assist in grant applications. The VLB does not fund the establishment or expansion of the Cemeteries.
4. The NCA uses specific criteria to make grant funding decisions. Funding decisions for grants and site selection by the NCA include:
 - a. Ensuring there is no significant overlap in service between existing national or state cemeteries;
 - b. Ensuring there is a utilization rate that is consistently above the national average;
 - c. Maintaining an average of 50 or more interments per year for a cemetery;
 - d. Ensuring the is available of land to support a new cemetery or expand an existing cemetery;
 - e. Evaluating of the number of the unserved veteran population. An unserved Veteran is defined as one who lives more than 75 miles from a national or state VA grant-funded state cemetery; and
 - f. Having available funds appropriated by the U.S. Congress.

The effect of the combination of state law, VLB funding, and federal NCA laws and regulations is that the VLB is dependent on donations of land. A selected location must be sufficient to operate as an active cemetery accepting interments for a minimum of 20 years. It must be in an area that is not serviced by an existing state or national cemetery and will have a sufficient number of unserved Veterans in the area. Because the VLB does not fund the establishment or expansion of Cemeteries, if a potential location does not meet the NCA criteria, the VLB will not be eligible for federal funding.

Burial Eligibility Criteria and Considerations

As mentioned, the Code, § 164.005(f), states that the Committee shall establish guidelines for the “eligibility for burial in a veterans cemetery.” The eligibility rules for the Cemeteries mirror those of

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) National Cemeteries. The NCA reimburses the VLB a plot allowance of \$893.00 per eligible interment. States have limited flexibility to amend eligibility, but certain state-level changes to burial services are not reimbursed by the NCA. For example, under NCA rules, spouses of Veterans are eligible for burial, but the NCA does not reimburse the VLB for that plot allowance. As a benefit to Texas Veterans and their families the VLB provides this benefit at no cost to the spouse. Some states charge for spouses to be interred in their state veteran cemeteries. Burial benefits include military honors, grave plots, opening and closing of graves, headstones or markers, burial flags, and perpetual care of the graves.

Current eligibility for burial includes:

1. **Honorably Discharged Veterans and Active Duty Service Members:** Veterans who were honorably discharged from the U.S. Armed Forces, including active duty service members who die while on duty, are eligible.
2. **Reserve Components and ROTC Members:** Certain members of reserve components and Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) qualify.
3. **National Guard Members:** Eligibility extends to retired National Guard members.
4. **Commissioned Officers of NOAA and U.S. Public Health Service:** Certain commissioned officers of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the U.S. Public Health Service are eligible.
5. **World War II Merchant Marines:** Qualifying World War II Merchant Marines are eligible.
6. **Philippines Armed Forces Members:** Certain members of the Philippines Armed Forces may qualify.
7. **Spouses and Dependents:** Spouses and certain of Veterans dependents are also eligible.

Dawn Buckingham, M.D.
Chairwoman
Texas State Veterans Cemetery Committee
Texas Veterans Land Board

Laura Koerner
Chairwoman
Texas Veterans Commission
U.S. Navy Veteran

Kevin Barber
Member
Texas Veterans Commission
U.S. Army Veteran

LTC (Ret.) Kitty Meyers
Citizen Member
U.S. Air Force Veteran

James Rothfelder
Member
Texas Veterans Land Board



Admiral (Ret.) Jud Scott
Member
Texas Veterans Land Board
U.S. Navy Veteran

TEXAS STATE VETERANS CEMETERY COMMITTEE

Date: June 25, 2024

To: Dawn Buckingham, M.D., Chairwoman
Members of the Texas State Veterans Cemetery Committee

From: Tony Dale, Executive Secretary, Texas Veterans Land Board

Subject: Agenda item 6 - Consideration and possible action on guidelines related to the location and size of veteran cemeteries and eligibility for burial in veteran cemeteries.

Recommendation: Staff recommends the Committee establish the proposed Guidelines in accordance with Chapter 164 of the Texas Natural Resources Code §164.005 (f) (1) (b) & (b).

Background: The Texas Natural Resources Code (Code), §164.005 (f) (1), states that the Texas State Veterans Cemetery Committee (Committee) shall establish the guidelines for determining: (A) the location and size of veterans cemeteries; and (B) the eligibility for burial in a veterans cemetery.”

Staff conducted a search of records in the custody of the Texas Veterans Land Board (VLB) and the Texas General Land Office (GLO) and is unable to determine if the Committee ever established these guidelines. This agenda item is intended to ensure that the Committee establishes the guidelines so that staff may carry out its duties in accordance with the law.

The proposed guidelines ensure that all decisions related to the location and size of cemeteries and the eligibility for burial comply with state law and the National Cemetery Administration’s laws and regulations.

The Code, §164.005 (f)(2), states that the Committee must, “select up to seven locations across the state for veterans cemeteries.” The proposed Guidelines accompanying this memo do not pertain to this duty. Site selection is determined through a vote of the Committee.



TEXAS STATE VETERANS CEMETERY COMMITTEE

GUIDELINE 1

June 25, 2024

GUIDELINES FOR TEXAS STATE VETERANS CEMETERIES

1. REASON FOR ISSUE: These Guidelines provide for the determination of the location and size of Texas State Veterans Cemeteries (Cemeteries) and the eligibility for burial in them. These Guidelines supersede any previous guidelines pertaining to these duties of the Texas State Veterans Cemetery Committee (Committee).
2. SUMMARY OF CONTENTS:
 - a. Guidelines for determining the location and size of Cemeteries.
 - b. Guidelines for determining the eligibility for burial in a Cemetery.
3. PURPOSE/AUTHORITY:
 - a. These Guidelines are established in accordance with the Texas Natural Resources Code (Code) §164.005(f)(1).
4. BACKGROUND:
 - a. The Code, §164.005 (f) (1), states that the Committee shall, “establish the guidelines for determining: (A) the location and size of a veterans cemetery; and (B) -the eligibility for burial in a veterans cemetery.”
5. GUIDELINES:
 - a. Guidelines for determining the location and size of the Cemeteries.
 - i. The Veterans Land Board (VLB) shall follow state law regarding solicitation and acceptance of donations of land for the purpose of establishing and expanding the Cemeteries.
 - ii. The VLB shall determine if any potential donation of land is in the best interest of the Texas State Veterans Cemetery Program. Factors here may include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Potential eligibility of the location and size to receive federal grants from the National Cemetery Administration (NCA).
 - b. Any relevant guidance provided by the NCA.
 - c. Environmental considerations.
 - d. Zoning designations.



TEXAS STATE VETERANS CEMETERY COMMITTEE

GUIDELINE 1

June 25, 2024

- e. The ability of the VLB to fund maintenance and operations and perpetual care based upon projected expenses and available funds; and
 - f. Community support.
 - iii. The Committee reserves the authority to select the location of seven Cemeteries across the state.
- b. Guidelines for determining the eligibility for burial in a Cemetery.
 - i. The VLB shall ensure that individuals eligible for burial under the NCA are eligible for burial in Cemeteries.
 - ii. The VLB may vote to extend burial eligibility to individuals not provided for in NCA laws and regulations if such eligibility does not violate state law or NCA laws and regulations, or if such eligibility does not jeopardize future NCA grant funding or burial allowances from the NCA.
 - iii. The VLB is responsible for conducting all rule making and publication of proposed and final rules in the Texas Register.

5. REFERENCES:

- a. Texas Natural Resource Code, Title 7 - Resources Programs, Chapter 164 - Veterans' Financial Assistance Program, Section 164.005. Rights and Powers of Board¹
- b. National Cemetery Directive 3211, Eligibility Authorities and Administration of Memorialization Benefits²
- c. National Cemetery Directive 3001, Department of Veterans Affairs National Cemetery Establishment, Expansion, and Replacement³

¹ State of Texas, Texas Natural Resources Code, accessed May 30, 2024, <https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/docs/NR/htm/NR.164.htm>

² Department Veterans Affairs, NCA Directive 3211, accessed May 30, 2024, <https://www.cem.va.gov/docs/wcag/policies/directives/Directive-3211.pdf>

³ Department of Veterans Affairs, NCA Directive 3001, accessed May 30, 2024, <https://www.cem.va.gov/docs/wcag/policies/directives/Directive-3001.pdf>

Dawn Buckingham, M.D.
Chairwoman
Texas State Veterans Cemetery Committee
Texas Veterans Land Board

Laura Koerner
Chairwoman
Texas Veterans Commission
U.S. Navy Veteran

Kevin Barber
Member
Texas Veterans Commission
U.S. Army Veteran

LTC (Ret.) Kitty Meyers
Citizen Member
U.S. Air Force Veteran

James Rothfelder
Member
Texas Veterans Land Board



Admiral (Ret.) Jud Scott
Member
Texas Veterans Land Board
U.S. Navy Veteran

TEXAS STATE VETERANS CEMETERY COMMITTEE

Date: June 25, 2024

To: Dawn Buckingham, M.D., Chairwoman
Members of the Texas State Veterans Cemetery Committee

From: Dr. John Kelley, Director, Texas State Veterans Cemeteries

Subject: Agenda item 7 – Consideration and possible action to designate 100 acres in Lubbock as the location of the fifth Texas State Veterans Cemetery.

Recommendation: Staff recommends the Texas State Veterans Cemetery Committee designate 100 acres in the City of Lubbock as the site of the West Texas State Veterans Cemetery.

Background

The Texas Natural Resources Code, §164.005(f)(2) gives the Texas State Cemetery Committee the authority to, “select up to seven locations across the state for veterans cemeteries.”

As of June 24, 2024, the Veterans Land Board (VLB) operates four Texas State Veterans Cemeteries to include:

- Central Texas State Veterans Cemetery in Killeen
- Texas State Veterans Cemetery at Abilene
- Coastal Bend Texas State Veterans Cemetery in Corpus Christi
- Rio Grande Valley Texas State Cemetery in Mission

In May 2022, the City of Lubbock unanimously approved a donation of 100 acres to the Texas General Land Office (GLO) and the VLB to establish a State Veterans Cemetery. Based on National Cemetery Administration (NCA) guidance and an examination of the unserved Veteran population, VLB staff prepared a grant application for a medium size cemetery.

On June 28, 2022, the VLB applied for a cemetery establishment grant from the NCA.

On October 1, 2022, the NCA notified the VLB that the grant application was not awarded due to insufficient federal funds.

In January 2023, the NCA informed the VLB that limited funds were available for the proposed Lubbock grant. The NCA directed the VLB to modify the initial grant application to reduce the dollar amount requested. VLB staff executed a scope reduction and submitted the revised grant application to the NCA.

On February 23, 2023, the NCA awarded an establishment grant of \$15.9 million for the Cemetery. The GLO approved an additional \$638,400 to cover the reduced federal grant amount. The GLO-funded portion includes paying for completion of a loop road, 2,000 extra in-ground plots for cremated remains and automatic gates. The combined federal and state funds allow for 21,546 interments.

To secure the federal grant prior to the end of the federal fiscal year (September 30, 2023), VLB staff immediately started the engineering design and statewide procurement process for the Cemetery's construction.

On July 24, 2023, following community input, the VLB Board voted unanimously approved the proposed Cemetery name as the West Texas State Veterans Cemetery. The VLB also voted to authorize the staff to execute a contract to construct the Cemetery.

On November 20, 2023, the VLB initiated the construction process, and the cemetery is scheduled for completion in November or December 2025.

Dawn Buckingham, M.D.
Chairwoman
Texas State Veterans Cemetery Committee
Texas Veterans Land Board

Laura Koerner
Chairwoman
Texas Veterans Commission
U.S. Navy Veteran

Kevin Barber
Member
Texas Veterans Commission
U.S. Army Veteran

LTC (Ret.) Kitty Meyers
Citizen Member
U.S. Air Force Veteran

James Rothfelder
Member
Texas Veterans Land Board



Admiral (Ret.) Jud Scott
Member
Texas Veterans Land Board
U.S. Navy Veteran

TEXAS STATE VETERANS CEMETERY COMMITTEE



Dawn Buckingham, M.D.

Commissioner of the Texas General Land Office
Chairwoman of the Texas Veterans Land Board
Chairwoman of the Texas State Veterans Cemetery Committee

Commissioner Buckingham’s family were among the first settlers to Texas seven generations ago, and that tough, independent, pioneer spirit is deeply rooted in her personality. True to her Texas roots, her commitment to service began early, serving as a volunteer firefighter, and attending the Texas A&M Fire School. She is also an avid hunter, outdoorswoman, and steward of the land. She made history in 2016 as the first woman elected to the Texas State Senate from Travis County and she made history again in 2022 when elected as this state’s first female Land Commissioner.

Dawn came from humble roots—growing up on a ranch near the Texas coast and then moved to Central Texas. She has never settled for less than her dreams. Wanting to attend college, but without the money to do so, Dawn lived at home, working two jobs to pay her own way through college at the University of Texas at Austin. With endurance of spirit, she graduated Magna Cum Laude and debt-free. It was during college that she met the love of her life and husband of 31 years, Ed Buckingham. Dawn and Ed both received their medical degrees from the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, and they have two children. Her commitment to service and recognition for her work has allowed her to hold leadership positions in local, state, and national medical organizations.

Dawn embodies the American Dream. Through hard work, a “never-quit” attitude, and perseverance, she has risen above her circumstances. Becoming a self-made small business owner employing Texans, serving others in her profession and as an elected official, she has always given back to her community.

As your Land Commissioner, Dr. Dawn Buckingham brings a lifetime of experience to the office. She is totally committed to helping Texans after a disaster, supporting Texas energy, ensuring that every child in Texas receives a high-quality public education, and securing the border to keep our communities safe.

1700 North Congress Avenue ♦ Austin ♦ Texas 78701-1496
P.O. Box 12873 ♦ Austin, Texas 78711-2873
800-252-8387

Dawn Buckingham, M.D.
Chairwoman
Texas State Veterans Cemetery Committee
Texas Veterans Land Board

Laura Koerner
Chairwoman
Texas Veterans Commission
U.S. Navy Veteran

Kevin Barber
Member
Texas Veterans Commission
U.S. Army Veteran

LTC (Ret.) Kitty Meyers
Citizen Member
U.S. Air Force Veteran

James Rothfelder
Member
Texas Veterans Land Board



Admiral (Ret.) Jud Scott
Member
Texas Veterans Land Board
U.S. Navy Veteran

TEXAS STATE VETERANS CEMETERY COMMITTEE



James Rothfelder
Member
Texas Veterans Land Board

James Rothfelder is a proud New Braunfelser and native Texan. Mr. Rothfelder earned a Bachelor of Arts from The University of Kansas and a master's in finance and management from the University of Illinois.

Mr. Rothfelder works with his family-owned business building custom homes across the great state of Texas. He is honored to be a member and contributor to several of community driven organizations including The Rotary Club of New Braunfels, New Braunfels Chamber of Commerce, The Texas Elks Association, The New Braunfels Jaycees, The New Braunfels Noon Lions Club, The Greater New Braunfels Economic Development Foundation, The 100 Club of Comal County, The Coastal Conservation Association, The National Association of Realtors, Texas Realtors, The National Association of Home Builders, The Texas Association of Home Builders, The Greater New Braunfels Home Builders Association, The Salvation Army, The Comal County Education Foundation, The Comal County Conservation Alliance, The New Braunfels Circle Arts Theatre, The Hill Country Alliance, The New Braunfels Astronomy Club, The Humane Society of the New Braunfels Area, Friends of the New Braunfels Public Library & New Braunfels Conservation Association.

Mr. Rothfelder is an honored member of the Board of Directors of CASA of Central Texas, the Comal County Conservation Alliance, and appointed by Governor Abbott, to the Veterans Land Board for the State of Texas.

1700 North Congress Avenue ♦ Austin ♦ Texas 78701-1496
P.O. Box 12873 ♦ Austin, Texas 78711-2873
800-252-8387

Dawn Buckingham, M.D.
Chairwoman
Texas State Veterans Cemetery Committee
Texas Veterans Land Board

Laura Koerner
Chairwoman
Texas Veterans Commission
U.S. Navy Veteran

Kevin Barber
Member
Texas Veterans Commission
U.S. Army Veteran

LTC (Ret.) Kitty Meyers
Citizen Member
U.S. Air Force Veteran

James Rothfelder
Member
Texas Veterans Land Board



Admiral (Ret.) Jud Scott
Member
Texas Veterans Land Board
U.S. Navy Veteran

TEXAS STATE VETERANS CEMETERY COMMITTEE



Admiral Judson Scott, U.S. Navy (Ret.)
Member
Texas Veterans Land Board

Judson Scott of Bee Cave is a retired attorney, judge, and rear admiral. He was appointed as a Federal Administrative Law Judge, ruling on cases for the Social Security Administration in their San Francisco, California hearing office. Prior to that, he was a civil litigation attorney in private practice.

He served in the U.S. Navy on active duty with the Submarine Force, then in the Navy Reserve. During his time as a drilling Navy reservist, he had four commands before he was selected as Rear Admiral. His flag assignments include being selected as Deputy Commander of the U.S. Atlantic Fleet Submarine Force and concurrent duties as Director of the Submarine Reserve before he retired.

He is a past chair of the National Conference of the Administrative Law Judiciary for the American Bar Association, which represents the state and federal administrative adjudicators across the country, and a past elected board member of the Cliffs at Princeville resort on Kauai. Previously, he was a member of the State Bar of California and President of the Alameda County Bar Association.

He is the National Judge Advocate General of the Naval Order of the United States and an active member of the Texas chapter for Mission Readiness – Council for a Strong America. Scott received a Bachelor of Arts in psychology from the University of California at Santa Barbara and a Juris Doctor degree Cum Laude from the University of Santa Clara School of Law.

1700 North Congress Avenue ♦ Austin ♦ Texas 78701-1496
P.O. Box 12873 ♦ Austin, Texas 78711-2873
800-252-8387

Dawn Buckingham, M.D.
Chairwoman
Texas State Veterans Cemetery Committee
Texas Veterans Land Board

Laura Koerner
Chairwoman
Texas Veterans Commission
U.S. Navy Veteran

Kevin Barber
Member
Texas Veterans Commission
U.S. Army Veteran

LTC (Ret.) Kitty Meyers
Citizen Member
U.S. Air Force Veteran

James Rothfelder
Member
Texas Veterans Land Board



Admiral (Ret.) Jud Scott
Member
Texas Veterans Land Board
U.S. Navy Veteran

TEXAS STATE VETERANS CEMETERY COMMITTEE



Kevin Barber
Secretary
Texas Veterans Commission

Kevin Barber of Houston is the founder of Veteran Energy, LLC, 95 Bravo Resources, and the Power to Give Back Program, an initiative created to provide resources to military veterans and their families. Leveraging his background in energy trading and risk management, Mr. Barber has spent over 25 years in energy commodity trading and banking while holding positions with increasing responsibility at Duke Energy, Integrys Energy (Wisconsin Public Service), Southwest Energy, Silvergate Bank, Panhandle Eastern Trading Company, and Associated Natural Gas.

Over the years he has served on multiple philanthropic boards of directors for veteran services organizations in Texas. He is a recipient of The Chapel of Four Chaplains Legion of Honor Humanitarian Award. Barber served in the US Army's 1st Military Police Company of the 1st Infantry Division as a Military Police K-9 patrol dog handler. Barber received a Bachelor of Arts in political science from the State University of New York (SUNY) at Albany and an Associate degree in Criminal Justice from SUNY-Adirondack. He resides in Houston with his wife and two daughters.

Kevin Barber is also the recipient of The American Legion National 2014 Winner of the Year for Small Employer of Veterans. The American Legion Texas 2014 Winner of the Year for Small Employer of Veterans. Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Small Business National Employer of the Year recipient. Texas Veterans Commission Small Business Employer of the Year recipient. Rice University's Veterans in Business Association and Entrepreneurs Organization Veteran 2015 Entrepreneur of the Year Finalist. Recipient of Leadership Houston's Leadership in Action Award. Mr. Barber has been recognized by the Houston Business Journals 2014/2015 Who's Who in Energy for Houston, Dallas, Pittsburgh, San Antonio, Columbus, and St. Louis. Winner of the Better Business Bureau's (BBB) Distinction Award for Excellence. Commemorative Partner with the United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration's 50th Anniversary Initiative. Mental Health of America for Excellence in Veterans Assistance Award.

1700 North Congress Avenue ♦ Austin ♦ Texas 78701-1496
P.O. Box 12873 ♦ Austin, Texas 78711-2873
800-252-8387

Dawn Buckingham, M.D.
Chairwoman
Texas State Veterans Cemetery Committee
Texas Veterans Land Board

Laura Koerner
Chairwoman
Texas Veterans Commission
U.S. Navy Veteran

Kevin Barber
Member
Texas Veterans Commission
U.S. Army Veteran

LTC (Ret.) Kitty Meyers
Citizen Member
U.S. Air Force Veteran

James Rothfelder
Member
Texas Veterans Land Board



Admiral (Ret.) Jud Scott
Member
Texas Veterans Land Board
U.S. Navy Veteran

TEXAS STATE VETERANS CEMETERY COMMITTEE



Lt. Col. Kitty Meyers, USAF (Ret.)
Citizen Member
President, MOAA Alamo Chapter

Kitty graduated from the University of Maryland-College Park, and served 23 ½ years with tours in New Hampshire, Germany, and Arizona. She was called up for Operation Desert Storm with the assignment of mortuary officer. Her final reserve assignment was as an individual mobilization augmentee (IMA) to the Chief of Air Force Mortuary Affairs at Randolph AFB, Texas.

Kitty retired in 2014 from a career in human resources, where she held executive-level positions in hospitality, government, health care, and nonprofit businesses. Her professional career also includes restaurant management. She has a Master of Arts in Human Resources from Webster University. Her eclectic career also includes adjunct faculty positions at local colleges and universities. Her retirement career has focused on volunteering in a variety of initiatives, organizations, and government agencies focusing on transitioning military and spouses to civilian employment.

Kitty is a certified Senior Professional in Human Resources (SPHR) with the Human Resources Certification Institute and a Senior Certified Professional with the Society of Human Resources Management (SHRM-SCP). Her community involvement includes several board and committee positions to include chambers of commerce and professional organizations.

Kitty is president of the Alamo Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), one of the largest chapters in MOAA. She is active in the San Antonio community and Texas, advocating for the military community. She is a member of the Texas Veterans Commission's Veteran Services Advisory Committee and MOAA's Texas Council of Chapters. With her focus on transitioning, she is a member of the San Antonio Military Spouse Economic Empowerment Zone (MSEEZ) and the JBSA Transition Alliance, and an adviser to the San Antonio Military Spouse Professional Network (MSPN).

1700 North Congress Avenue ♦ Austin ♦ Texas 78701-1496
P.O. Box 12873 ♦ Austin, Texas 78711-2873
800-252-8387

Dawn Buckingham, M.D.
Chairwoman
Texas State Veterans Cemetery Committee
Texas Veterans Land Board

Laura Koerner
Chairwoman
Texas Veterans Commission
U.S. Navy Veteran

Kevin Barber
Member
Texas Veterans Commission
U.S. Army Veteran

LTC (Ret.) Kitty Meyers
Citizen Member
U.S. Air Force Veteran

James Rothfelder
Member
Texas Veterans Land Board



Admiral (Ret.) Jud Scott
Member
Texas Veterans Land Board
U.S. Navy Veteran

TEXAS STATE VETERANS CEMETERY COMMITTEE



Laura Koerner
Chairwoman
Texas Veterans Commission

Laura Koerner of Fair Oaks Ranch is a project manager, engineer, and Councilwoman for the City of Fair Oaks Ranch.

She served in the United States Navy as a Surface Warfare (Nuclear) Officer onboard USS MAHAN (DDG 72) and USS ENTERPRISE (CVN 65), earning 2 Navy Commendation Medals and a Navy Achievement Medal.

She is a Blue & Gold Officer with the Admissions Department of the United States Naval Academy and a member of the Project Management Institute, United States Naval Academy Alumni Association, and the Navy Officer Spouses Club of Greater San Antonio.

Koerner received a Bachelor of Science in systems engineering from the United States Naval Academy and a Master of Science in nuclear engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and was qualified as a Nuclear Propulsion Plant Operator at the Naval Nuclear Power School.