



City of McKinney Press Release
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Free concert benefits Veterans Memorial Park in McKinney

McKINNEY, TEXAS (Aug. 3, 2009) – The more than 300 Collin County servicemen who have lost their lives in the line of duty will soon have a place of honor in McKinney. The McKinney Parks, Recreation and Open Space Department is planning the Veterans Memorial Park in McKinney on land at Craig Ranch.

The park got a generous start with a \$350,000 grant from the McKinney Community Development Corporation, and many private and public donations have followed. However, additional financial support from the community is needed to complete the \$1.1 million park. To raise more funds, a free benefit concert has been planned, raising money with raffle drawings and donations. The concert kicks off a four-band line-up on Thursday, Aug. 6 at 7 p.m. at Towne Lake Park in McKinney.

“The purpose of the McKinney Veterans Memorial Park is to recognize the service of all veterans. By having their names engraved on a wall within the park, we will give special recognition to those from Collin County who lost their lives defending our country,” said Director of Parks, Recreation and Open Space Lemuel Randolph. “With local support through events like this, our community can really take pride and ownership in this special park.”

Ronnie Foster, a Marine Corps Vietnam veteran from McKinney, has gathered 326 names of servicemen and women from across Collin County who died in every war or conflict beginning with World War I. His band, the Dog Town Honky-Tonk Blues Band, will perform at the concert.

“I began researching the names after a former high school classmate asked about my friend and fellow Marine, Bill Bryan. Bill died in Vietnam. I want Bill and every Veteran to be remembered for their service,” said Foster.

Concert attendees are encouraged to bring lawn chairs, blankets and picnics. Free parking will be available. For a complete list of raffle items, visit the Collin County Freedom Fighters Web site at www.ccfreedomfighters.com. All proceeds will go to the construction of the Veterans Memorial Park in McKinney.

For more about the park plans, to view an artist rendering or find out how to donate, visit www.mckinneytexas.org. To submit the name of a veteran from Collin County who has died in the line of service, contact Foster at rdfooster66@msn.com. If you wish to make a donation, please make checks payable to the City of McKinney and mail to the following address:

City of McKinney
Veterans Memorial
P.O. Box 517
McKinney, TX 75070

Contributions are deductible under the Internal Revenue Code. A letter will be mailed to you documenting your donation for tax deduction purposes.

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About McKinney

McKinney, Texas, is unique by nature. As one of the fastest-growing cities in the U.S., McKinney has a current population of 122,000. Incorporated in 1848, the city is located 30 miles north of Dallas and is the county seat of Collin County. McKinney offers rolling hills, lush trees, a historic downtown square and unique neighborhoods and developments. Visit the city's Web site at www.mckinneytexas.org.

Media contact: Anna Folmsbee, 972-547-7525, afolmsb@mckinneytexas.org