



## Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs

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# 1,200 Interments Completed at Kentucky's First State Veterans Cemetery

*Total Includes 937 Veterans, 12 KIA from Iraq/Afghanistan*

(HOPKINSVILLE, KY, August 26, 2009) Yesterday, Robert Lee Simonds, a U.S. Navy veteran, became the 1,200<sup>th</sup> person interred at Kentucky Veterans Cemetery West (KVCW) since opening in March 2004. Robert joins 936 veterans, 233 dependent spouses and 30 dependent children at the cemetery.

“We are honored to provide a final resting place of honor and dignity for veterans and their families,” said Ken Lucas, Commissioner of the Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs (KDVA).

The cemetery is the final resting place for twelve active duty soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice during the war in Iraq and Afghanistan, seven active duty soldiers who were not deployed at the time of their passing, one who died while serving in World War II and was later moved to KVCW, one who died while serving in Vietnam and was later moved to KVCW, and one who died in the 1985 Air Arrow crash in Gander, Newfoundland after completing a peacekeeping mission in the Sinai Desert and was later moved to KVCW.

When fully developed, the cemetery will contain more than 28,500 burial plots and columbarium wall niches for cremated remains. KDVA has planned the cemetery to continue interring veterans for approximately 80 years. Cemetery services include a furnished grave or columbarium space, an optional grave liner, opening and closing of gravesites, supply and installation of suitable headstones or markers, and perpetual care for the entire facility. These services are provided at no cost to veterans as a benefit that is well earned.

KVCW is located just south of Hopkinsville at 5817 Fort Campbell Boulevard (US Highway 41A) at mile marker 11. KVCW mainly serves veterans from a 75-mile radius of the cemetery, including parts of Kentucky, Tennessee, Illinois and Indiana. KVCW also serves as the Active Duty cemetery for soldiers and their dependents serving at nearby Fort Campbell. It is Kentucky's first state veterans' cemetery. Kentucky Veterans Cemetery Central, in Radcliff, opened June 1, 2007. Kentucky Veterans Cemetery North, in Williamstown, opened on August 22, 2008. KDVA is currently planning the design and construction of Kentucky Veterans Cemetery North East in Greenup County.

For more information about interment at KVCW, including eligibility and services, call the cemetery at (270) 889-6106.